

PARALYSIS EPIDEMIC CHECKED BY SERUM, REPORT REVEALS

"Experience Warrants Its Continued Use in Province"

OTHER DISEASE CONTROL

The annual report of the Ontario Department of Health, which has just been made public by Hon. Dr. J. M. Robb, reveals, officially, for the first time, the enormity of the infantile paralysis epidemic with which this Province had to battle last summer and last fall.

Although 1929 saw an epidemic of 558 cases and 46 deaths, the year 1930, contrary to expectations, gave even a greater number of cases and deaths from this disease. All told, 661 cases and 61 deaths were reported to the departmental offices at Queen's Park.

September was the high month for both years, and in 1930 the number of cases in August and October were equal. The last nine years in Ontario have always shown the peak of the outbreak to occur in September.

Highest Incidence 5 to 9.

As in previous years, males were more frequently attacked than females, the former being 63.3 per cent. and the latter, 36.7 per cent. of the total. As in 1929 there was a slightly higher percentage of urban cases than rural, the ratio being 52.7 per cent. to 47.3 per cent. respectively. A further analysis shows the age group with the highest incidence as in 1929 to be that from 5 to 9 years. This age group accounted for more than one-third of the cases. There was a slightly lower percentage in the 0-4 age group, with a corresponding increase in cases over 15 years of age.

With regard to distribution of the cases, the report states that only a few scattered cases developed in the area west of Lake Superior. Kirkland Lake had seven. Parry Sound district had 15, and Muskoka "a sprinkling." Some counties reported no cases, namely, Kent, Lambton, Oxford, Lincoln, Peel, Hastings, Lennox and Addington, Lanark, Leeds, Grenville, Dundas and Russell. The counties which bore the brunt of the outbreak were Dufferin, York, Ontario, Victoria, Peterborough, Northumberland and Durham. The City of Toronto suffered severely with 263 of the Province's total.

"Results from the use of convalescent serum in the light of the experience gained in the epidemics of 1929 and 1930 should," reads the report, "warrant its continued use in the Province."

As in previous years, the report stresses, the early administration of the serum gave by far the better results. Although the number of cases is small the results from serum given after the fifth day would seem to show that serum had no effect in preventing paralysis at that stage of the disease. Whether or not the serum given at this late date acted in a measure by preventing extension of paralysis could not be ascertained, but was suggested in a few

cases."

High Recovery Rate.

Taking a total of 532 cases, which were analyzed by the department as to result of serum therapy, and the 40 deaths reported on data sheets, making a grand total of 572, there was complete recovery without any paralysis in 396 patients who received serum, regardless of what stage of the disease. This gives a recovery rate of 69.2 per cent. The recovery rate for cases treated on the 1929 epidemic was 67.1 per cent.

With respect to other communicable disease control, the report, in part, further states:

"The incidence of typhoid fever throughout the year was below the average for the previous six years. Only one outbreak (at Belleville) occurred which assumed epidemic proportions.

"The number of cases of diphtheria throughout the year was very close to the average for the previous six years. There was a slight increase in cases during November, but a return to the average in the following months. In municipalities where immunization campaigns had been carried out in the schools and among the pre-school children few cases and deaths were reported and those occurring were found to be among the non-immunized groups. The use of toxoid over a period of six years in Ontario has well exemplified its efficiency and safety as a prophylactic agent. With the majority of diphtheria deaths occurring in the first few years of life its use is especially urgent among pre-school children.

No Smallpox Epidemic.

"Smallpox did not reach epidemic proportions at any time of the year, the incidence being within the limits of the endemic index of the disease. The greatest number of cases were reported from Sudbury and surrounding districts, and Ottawa and adjoining municipalities in Carleton County.

"During the year there was a marked increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever, occurring especially in the months of March, April and May. During the remaining months of the year the incidence was commensurate with the average for the previous six years. In the larger cities this increase was particularly noticeable in Toronto and Ottawa, but there was also a general increase in many of the smaller municipalities during these months. Despite the increased incidence, the death rate remained low, as in the previous year.

"For the first seven months whooping cough was consistently lower than the average, with only a slight increase in later months of October, November and December."

GRAINS FROM WEST SOUGHT FOR FEED OF ONTARIO CATTLE

Government Appoints Howard Fraleigh to Make Inquiry

MAY HIT U.S. PRODUCTS

Special Legislation Is Forecast for Next Year

With a view to replacing with Western Canada grains the feeds which Ontario is now importing from the United States, the Department of Agriculture, under Hon. Thomas L. Kennedy, has launched a campaign of investigation that is likely to culminate, at the 1932 session of the Legislature, in special legislation binding grain pools, elevators and feeders of this Province in a co-operative arrangement along the lines of the goal which the department now contemplates.

Howard Fraleigh, Conservative member of the Legislature for Lambton East, has been asked by Colonel Kennedy to undertake the investigation, and he will, it is understood, commence his duties immediately on the close of the present session of the House.

Interviewed by The Globe yesterday, Mr. Fraleigh said: "There is no legitimate reason why Ontario live stock should not be fed wholly upon Canadian grains, except the reason offered by feeders, that they do not care to risk pollution of their farms by Western stuff, in that it contains too great a quantity of weed seeds and wild oats. It is an accepted fact that farmers here would use Western grains in preference to American feeds were it possible to have them delivered in a condition whereby danger of seeding their farms with noxious weeds and wild oats would be eliminated."

This elimination is one of the questions which Mr. Fraleigh will study during the interim, and he is confident that it can be accomplished.

Ontario farmers, it was said, imported some 6,000,000 bushels of corn from the United States in 1930. While it is true that a large quantity of grain comes into the Province each year from the West, it is felt, in view of the fact that barley can be used to replace corn, that a great deal more grain should be handled. Western oats, similarly, it is argued, could be used here to a greater extent than obtains at the present time.