

“The epidemic struck Toronto almost like a cyclone, assuming epidemic proportions on or about October 9th, and continued until November 2nd, when it subsided almost as rapidly as it began.” Dr.

Charles Hastings, Medical Officer of Health

CONDITIONS IN INDUSTRY

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CONDITIONS IN INDUSTRY

Production has been curtailed in many lines during the last week on account of the prevalence of **influenza** throughout the Province. In some cases efficiency has been cut down by 25 to 30 per cent., and instances have been very frequent where production has fallen off 15 per cent. Manufacturers working on urgent war business have been affected with the rest, and the drop in the output of munitions occurred just when a maximum production of shell was being attained for the American orders. At the close of the week conditions were improved as compared with seven days previous, with prospects that the **influenza** conditions would be entirely overcome within the next fortnight.

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Electrical power troubles have been uppermost in the consideration of manufacturers, and attention is being directed toward a solution of the difficulties. While rationing of power has not been openly suggested, in some quarters it is felt that such a plan is the only practicable solution of the difficulties that are expected until after the turn of the year. The return to standard time at the beginning of this week will have the effect of increasing the peak load between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Conditions at Niagara Falls have been investigated by officials interested in the maintenance of full speed in industrial production, and it has been stated by one such investigator that conditions will be worse before they are better, and that December and the early part of January are likely to be trying times for users of electrical power.

Closing down of plants for one day a week has been suggested as a means of effecting a saving of power in certain municipalities. This is a possible solution in case of extreme necessity, but for certain plants that need to be kept in operation continuously such a plan would be disastrous. Under these conditions the cutting off of one-sixth of the load would be the most feasible method of effecting the economy. Manufacturers are considering all contingencies that may arise, and careful study is being made of the situation from all angles.

Businessmen lent their cars to volunteers to enable them to get around the city more easily.