ALL PLACES OF AMUSEMENTS
AND SALOONS MUST BE CLOSED

State Health Commissioner Royer Has So
Declared As a Protection For Workers in
Munition Plants Especially.

With stunning effect the order of
State Health Commissioner Royer
directing the closing of all places of
amusement and saloons was received in
this city and vicinity last night and
while the order was not welcome by
any means either to the owners of
these places or to the patrons, steps
were taken to put the order into oper-
ation at once.

The order was not unexpected in
high official circles in this city for the
drift of things had been that way for
several days, but that the order should
be made state-wide came as the big-
gest surprise.

It has been known that government
officials who are assigned to duty at
the Bethlehem Steel Works have been
strong in their demand that a quar-
tine be established in this section for
the protection of the workers at the
Bethlehem Steel Company plants and
the steady influx of Spanish
Influenza.

There have been many conferences
recently of officials both in this city
and Bethlehem relative to the matter.
At one of those on Tuesday, Dr. A.
Lanza, now attached to the U. S.
Public Health Service, met with city
council and announced the desire that
Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton, be
quarantined in the interest of the
Bethlehem Steel workers and the
check of any possible spread of Spa-
tish Influenza. No action was taken
by the Allentown council and Mayor
Reichenbach was decidedly opposed to
the move, claiming that the situation
here did not warrant such drastic
measures.

There were further conferences in
Bethlehem on Tuesday and Wednes-
day and yesterday afternoon there was
a meeting in Bethlehem attended by
Mayor Johnston of Bethlehem, Dr.
Lanza, Brig. General T. C. Dickson, in
charge of government work at Beth-
lehem, and other state and govern-
ment officials. Dr. J. T. Butz, health
officer of this city, represented Allentown.

The meeting yesterday was attended
by Dr. B. F. Royer, the state health
commissioner. The entire question
was carefully gone over. The govern-
ment officials were strongly for clos-
ing up everything, including schools
and churches. Dr. Royer opposed the
latter unless local health boards so
decided. He contended that with
small supplies of coal on hand in most
homes it is better to have the children
attending school than housed in
camp homes.

Just what would be done had not
been decided when the conference ad-
Journed. Dr. Royer hurried back to
Harrisburg and the order issued last
night, was quickly formulated.

When arrival of this order in this
city, it was quickly spread and the
newspaper offices were importuned for
the text of the order.

The Orpheum Theatre management
received word from its Harrisburg
office ordering the closing of the theatre
until further notice and the sending
away of all acts. All moving picture
theatres closed their doors with the
last show last night.

The hotel and saloon keepers were
in a quandary as to the meaning of
the word "forthwith." Some of them
interpreted it to mean that when they
closed up last night their places of
business should not again be reopened.
Others contended that until they re-
ceive official notice the order is not
effective. Many consulted their attor-
neys and it is probable that some will
oppose this order.

The proprietors of soda fountains
were much worried but it does not
appear that this group of business
is included.

The Liberty Loan drive committees
were dazed by the order. It means
that all elaborate plans for meetings
to be conducted in the interest of the
loan will have to be abandoned and
the canvass be conducted in a differ-
ent manner. All plans virtually will
have to be rearranged.

As to the meaning of the word
"forthwith," as applying to this case,
Dr. J. T. Butz would not be quoted
last evening. He came back from the
readings, saying that the matter was
entirely in the hands of the national
meeting very ignorant about the pro-
as and the authorities.

Up to a late hour last night he had
not yet received a telegram, such as
the telegraphic report stated had been
sent to every board of health in the
state. He announced that he will sub-
mitt such order at once to a meeting of
city council, which body is the health
board of this city.

The health board will be expected
to carry out the order at once.