SCHOOLS CLOSED ON ACCOUNT OF INFLUENZA MENACE

Board Viewed Yesterday's Big Increase in Cases With Alarm and Adopts Medical Inspector Weaber's Recommendation

The public schools of the city will not be opened this morning, the school board at its meeting last night having decided in view of the seriousness of the influenza menace to close them at once.

Dr. Thomas H. Weaber, the chief medical inspector, outlined the situation in this city in a short, pithy address to the board and then recommended that no chances be taken but that all the schools be closed at once.

The board members apparently had been thinking along the same lines, for almost every one gave some reason that had impressed him lately as sufficient to cause the schools to be closed and then there was a unanimous vote endorsing the medical inspector's recommendation.

Dr. Weaber pointed out that where there has been an average of but 30 cases reported per day last week, yesterday's figures were 116, bringing the total reported in the city to date to 286. He pointed out that the teachers and medical inspectors do not have any absolute power to exclude children coming from families in which there are known cases of the disease. He told of the large number of absentee in the schools yesterday, most of whom, of course, he feared to contact and contaminate the disease, but he also told of schools that had been almost emptied of pupils.

He urged that in the interest of the thousands of children and the army camps in this city that every possible precaution be taken and he urged the closing of the schools as being of the utmost importance precaution to take.

Mr. Lobst, who presided, said that he had been of the opinion for some time that a quarantine of the city and of the schools would be unnecessary but that he had changed his mind yesterday when he learned of the great increase in the number of cases.

Mr. Good said that he did not dare to take a chance and keep the schools open any longer as the loss of one life, if due to lack of precautions, would never be forgiven.

Mr. Weaber told of the conditions at Camp Crane, where the men are wearing masks when in contact with patients sick with the disease.

Mr. Good emphasized that the closing of the schools does not mean a vacation for the children but a period during which parents will be expected to keep their children away from others. They are not to congregate in stores and commenting on this, Mr. Dietrich said that there are many stores that daily are visited by more people than the entire school population of the city and that they are as dangerous as the schools.

It was suggested that while children are to be kept out of crowds they should be in the open air as much as possible. "Fresh air and play will be good for them," said Dr. Weaber.

The board was in the right humor to close the schools. With Rev. Raushenbuhl with the disease and Mr. Good apparently ready to be taken down with it, and after hearing the reports of the medical officers there was no hesitancy in taking action.

(Continued on Page 17.)

SCHOOLS CLOSED ON ACCOUNT OF INFLUENZA

(Continued from Page Five)

Sanitary Survey Made

A complete survey of the sanitary conditions of the schools was reported yesterday by Dr. Thomas H. Weaber, the chief medical inspector.

As a preventative of grippe, all teachers were instructed to keep school rooms as much as possible as sunlight and air kill the grippe germ. Shades were kept high and windows open. Several sick teachers were excluded as were sick pupils and their rooms fumigated.

The survey indicated inadequate toilets in the Harrison-Morton and Sheridan buildings.

Unsanitary toilets were noted in the Central, Junior High, Hunsicker, Herball, Hall and Stevens buildings.

More Cloak Rooms Urged

Cloak rooms are urged for the Harrison-Morton buildings, where clothes are stored in the school room. Cloak rooms were added to first grade rooms in the Wolfe and McKinley buildings.

Better lighting is urged in the rooms of Miss Heckman and Miss Bachman, also in the first grade rooms in Wolfe building.

Insufficient Air Space is Noted

Insufficient air space is noted in some rooms in the Wolfe and Sheridan buildings.

Standard Drinking Fountains

The new type of drinking fountain in the Franklin building is praised and sanction is made that the fountain be adopted as the schools' standard.

Dr. Weaber recommended that all doors leading to toilets should have facilities and that the "boy's" or "girl's" toilets.

A common roller towel found in the Hunter building was condemned.

Report of the Secretary

Secretary Wenner's report on the collection of taxes showed that a total of $67,969.80 was collected through the mail last year. The balance uncollected is $68,338.18. A penalty of 10 per cent. is imposed on this unpaid balance.

The report showed that the Collector of Taxes, Adam A. Bitterman, took $63,308.59 in the current year and a grand total of $174,861.79 in the past years.

Many Pupils Examined

Reports on health conditions show a total of 1725 examinations by Dr. Weaber and Boyer in the two districts. One hundred and forty cases were treated, 25 being treated with a total of 71 fillings and 43 extractions.

No Money for Principals

A group of principals, to whose duties were added the work of the school principal, were paid $1,200 monthly. A group of principals, to whose duties were added the work of the school principal, were paid $1,200 monthly.

Two thousand dollars worth of bonds were offered to the board and ordered purchased.

Truant Report

The attendance report showed that the attendance report for the month of July was reported to be 36,498, a decrease of 764 from the previous month. The summary shows the following general purposes: Instruction, $10,106.04; maintenance, $4,383.31; conducting, $4,403.48; school plant, $130.34; interest, $4,584.54; miscellaneous, $56.54.

Twenty-five residents of Allentown asked that a teacher in physical training be able to handle classes for girls in the high school. Action was deferred on account of the closing of the school.

All teachers were directed to spend two days per week in visiting other schools under the direction of the school board.

Principal Tinker was granted 1000 stamped envelopes for the High School correspondents.

Action on requests for use of the High School auditorium by the Stenger and Red Cross were deferred on account of the quarantine.

Also requests from the National Guard and the Motor Messenger Service.

A hot water regulator for the High School was offered by the American Construction Co. for $120.

Mrs. Emily K. Hackett, for her son Prof. Martin Fetterolf, a teacher, was lost in the mails in January. The case of the board for the use of the Administration Building for its work.