GROWTH OF EPIDEMIC PROMPTS DRASTIC ORDER BY DR. ROYER

Health Officials Throughout Pennsylvania Told to Enforce Edict to Letter.

ALL AMUSEMENTS HIT

Closing of Schools and Churches Left to Discretion of Local Boards.

OTHER CITIES ACT

(By Associated Press to Gazette Times.)

HARRISBURG, PA., Oct. 3.—Every place of public amusement and every saloon in Pennsylvania was ordered closed forthwith by Dr. B. F. Royer, state commissioner of health, tonight, as a means of preventing further spread of influenza. This action, which was taken under the acts of Assembly creating the State Department of Health, is the most drastic exercise of powers of the commissioner since the establishment of that branch of the government in 1902 and failure to obey the order is a misdemeanor.

"This action was ordered tonight as the best means of safguarding the people of the state," said Dr. Royer tonight. "I have just returned from Bethlehem, which is badly infected, and the reports I have had from Philadelphia, Chester and other places indicate that the disease is spreading. Reports have come here from Butler and other places today telling of the appearance of the disease."

Schools Up to Local Boards.

Dr. Royer said that the order would be sent to over 900 local boards of healthe throughout Pennsylvania and to more than 500 health officers with instructions to enforce it.

"For the present it has been decided to leave to the discretion of local health authorities whether churches and schools should be closed," said Dr. Royer. "Where children are under medical supervision they can be left in school. By public amusement places are meant theaters, poolrooms, dance halls, saloons and the like. The telegraphic instructions sent to local health officers will fully cover the

INFLUENZA VACCINE WILL GET SEVERE TEST; DOCTORS TO BE MASKED

NEW YORK, Oct. 3.—(A. P.)—Widespread tests to determine the efficiency of the Spanish influenza vaccine will be begun tomorrow, Health Commissioner Copeland said tonight. He declared that the vaccine already had proved successful in some cases.

Tomorrow enough of it will be available to treat 15,000 persons. Results of the test will not be made known for some time, as the vaccine is not expected to produce immunity in less than a week, and it is possible from two to three weeks will be necessary to produce full results.

An order for 15,000 masks to be used by physicians and nurses treating influenza patients will be completed tomorrow by the New York Chapter of the Red Cross.

CLOSING ORDER WILL BE OBEYED IN PITTSBURGH

Managers of Theaters Act Promptly — No Performances Today.

NURSES CALLED FOR

Pittsburgh theaters, poolrooms, moving picture shows, other places of amusement and saloons will be closed today, in accordance with orders issued last night by the health department at Harrisburg, resulting from the prevalence in the state of Spanish influenza. Pittsburgh theater managers, apprised of the order, acted promptly last night and provided for closing today and tonight. The orders, promulgated in Harrisburg, will reach Pittsburgh this morning but last night indications

Growth of Infuenza Epidemic Prompts Drastic Orders by Dr. Royer

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fluenza in other states has shown that public gathering places where large numbers of people are likely to congregate may play important parts in the spread of disease. This is especially the case in poorly lighted and badly ventilated rooms. As the disease at this time shows definite signs of assuming proportions, drastic measures must be taken at once.

By the authority of the powers vested in me as commissioner of health, and as authorized in the act of April 22, 1905, your board of health is directed to close all public places of entertainment, including theaters, moving picture establishments, saloons and dance halls, and to prohibit all meetings of every description until further notice from this department.

If necessary placard all doors leading to places enumerated "Closed by Order of the State Commissioner of Health." I will, for the present, and subject to further orders from this department, leave to the judgment of local health authorities as to whether or not the public schools, Sunday schools and churches be closed. If, in the case of schools, children are under medical attention and supervision and those having coughs and colds are excluded from the attendance there would not appear to be the same necessity for directing the closure of such places.

Prohibit visiting of the sick, except to those who are desperately ill; then admit near relatives only. Make funerals private.

Penalty for Violation.

The orders were issued to the 920 boards of health and 670 health department officers in charge of townships of the second class.

A statement issued regarding the penalty for violating says the law provides:

Every person who violates any order of the Department of Health shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor and shall upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine of not more than $100 or by imprisonment not exceeding one month, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Philadelphia Closes Schools.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 3.—The most sweeping closing order issued by the Philadelphia Board of Health in many years was decided upon today in an effort to check the epidemic of Spanish influenza and pneumonia which is growing more serious here each day.

All schools, churches, Sunday schools, theaters, motion picture places and concert halls were ordered closed for an indefinite period. The order includes public and private halls, billiard and poolrooms, bowling alleys, skating rinks, boxing exhibitions and banquets and public gatherings in hotels and prohibit the gathering of crowds even at football games.

The drastic action is due to an effort to prevent any serious curtailment of war materials.

Saloon proprietors were warned not to let patrons congregate or remain long in the premises, funerals of influenza or pneumonia victims must be private and employes in hotels, barbershops, restaurants and stores are not to be permitted to remain at work if they find any indications of these diseases.

Hits Indoor Loan Meetings.

The order also applies to all indoor Liberty Loan meetings and it may have a serious effect upon the city's plans to fill its quota.

There were 894 new cases of influenza reported and the Health Department expects a big jump in figures tomorrow, as orders were sent out to physicians to report all cases.

It is estimated that there are more than 50,000 cases in the city. The number of deaths reported today was 123. At Hog Island shipyards alone over 4,000 workers are sick.

There is a shortage of doctors, due in part to the fact that 58 per cent of the city's physicians are in the war service and appeals have been sent out for medical assistance.

In nearly every hospital a certain proportion of the staff of doctors and nurses have fallen victim to the disease.

In Camden and Gloucester, N. J., and Chester, Pa., and many other small towns within the metropolitan district of Philadelphia closing orders are in effect.

Death Rate Increases.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3.—Further spread of Spanish influenza over the country and in Army camps, with an increasing death rate, was indicated today in reports received by the Public Health Service and at the office of the surgeon general of the Army.

New cases developing in Army camps totaled 12,904, with reports lacking from Camps Sherman, O., Taylor, Ky., and Jackson, S. C., where the disease has reached epidemic proportions. This total was a decrease over that of yesterday, but 930 new cases of pneumonia were reported, and deaths were 331, compared with 271 yesterday. The total number of influenza cases reported in the camps since the epidemic began, September 30, is 112,737. Pneumonia cases total 4,573 and deaths 2,479.

Pneumonia Also Increases.

Ten camps reported a greater increase in influenza today than yesterday and others reported a decrease. Camp Grant, Ill., reported the highest, 903. The greatest increase in pneumonia was also reported at Camp Grant, with 112 new cases and 21 deaths. Pneumonia cases at Camp Lee, Va., were 84, with 35 deaths, and at Camp Humphries, Va., 63, with 20 deaths.

As a further step in the campaign to prevent an epidemic in Washington, which is crowded with war workers, the commissioners of the District of Columbia today ordered all theaters and motion picture houses closed after tonight until the disease is stamped out. Thus far only a comparatively few cases have been reported here, but extraordinary precautions are being taken so as to keep influenza away from the employes of government bureaus whose work is vital.

Many Points Hard Hit.

Reports regarding the spread of influenza came to the public health service today from many states. A number of outbreaks were reported in Indiana, including 22 cases at Hammond, with nine deaths, several hundred cases at Noblesville, many cases, with five deaths, at Lafayette, 100 cases at New Castle and several hundred cases at Indianapolis.

From Oswego, N. Y., came a report of 2,000 cases, while 161 cases were reported at Chillicothe, O. New Mexico and Arizona also reported a few cases, the first from those states. In Arizona there were 60 cases in a normal school at Flagstaff and 200 cases at Winslow. Forty cases were reported at Gallup, N. M.

Many Deaths in New York.

NEW YORK, Oct. 3.—With 999 new cases and 43 deaths reported since yesterday Spanish influenza continued its grip on the metropolis today. Spread of the malady showed a 7 per cent increase over the previous 24 hours, while deaths were 10 fewer. The health department reported 126 new cases of pneumonia, many of them an aftermath of influenza, and deaths during the day numbered 67.

Malady Shows Increase.

BOSTON, Oct. 3.—Pneumonia and influenza are on the increase in Lowell, Fall River and other industrial cities in this state, while the number of cases within the Boston metropolitan district has remained virtually stationary during the last few days. This is the conclusion of the State Department of Health based on reports from all sections of the commonwealth today.

Reports received at the State House today from 83 cities and towns outside of Boston listed 7,824 new cases of influenza and 151 deaths. New Bedford reported 1,034 new cases since yesterday noon Bridgewater 930, Fall River 907, Lawrence 283 and Lowell 140.

Smith College sent a hurried call to the State Health Department today for more nurses. "Sudden increase here demands the presence of a larger force of workers," the telegram said.

Even King Not Immune.

MADRID, Oct. 3.—The health of King Alfonso, who is ill with influenza, continues poor today.

36 Deaths at Camp Sherman.

CAMP SHERMAN, CHILLICOTHE, O., Oct. 3.—Medical officers at Camp Sherman were encouraged today for the first time since the influenza epidemic hit the camp. They are now certain that they have the situation well under control. While 36 more deaths were reported up to noon today there was a decrease of 75 per cent in the number of new cases reported in the 24 hours ending at noon.

The total number of deaths since Sunday night now totals 81 and the total number of cases 3,962.

Delaware Schools Closed.

WILMINGTON, DEL., Oct. 3.—Closing of schools, churches, motion picture houses and forbidding of assemblies was made state-wide by an order issued tonight by the State Board of Health. Fifteen physicians have been sent here from Washington by order of the Federal Public Health Service to combat Spanish influenza.

Cases in the city are estimated at more than 10,000, and deaths since Saturday from influenza and pneumonia officially reported number 114.

Bradford Man Victim.

BRADFORD, PA., Oct. 3.—Mr. and Mrs. George W. Double of 19 Pleasant street, this city, today received word from Philadelphia announcing the death at Hog Island of their son, Leonard E. Double, aged 25, who was employed at the government shipyard. He was a victim of Spanish influenza.

This city found its first case of Spanish influenza today, when P. C. Freedman of 130 Seward avenue, developed the disease. Health Officer Roedel placed the house under quarantine. Mr. Freedman a few days ago returned from Camp Merritt, N. J., with the body of his son, Sergt. Edmond Freedman.

Nurses' Graduating Exercises Off.

BUTLER, Oct. 3.—The graduating exercises of the Nurses' Training School of the Butler County General Hospital, scheduled for this evening, were postponed indefinitely because six of the graduates have Spanish influenza.

Many cases of the disease have been reported the past few days and city council has authorized Health Officer H. M. Stapley to quarantine cases. The only death reported in the county so far is that of Mrs. Margaret Bellis, aged 77, of Franklin township, who died yesterday.

Illness Bars from Y. M. C. A. Job.

STEUBENVILLE, O., Oct. 3.—The Rev. D. W. Morrill of Toronto, O., who has been at Quebec awaiting transport to France, where he was to engage in Y. M. C. A. work, is ill with Spanish influenza, according to a message received by his wife here. The message says Mr. Morrill will recover, but has been declared unfit for overseas duty. He is pastor of the Toronto Methodist Church.

Closing Order Obeyed Here

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Pittsburgh met at the close of last evening's performances.

Every theater in the city was represented by its manager, and at the conclusion of the meeting President John P. Harris issued the following statement:

The theater managers of Pittsburgh are anxious to do everything in their power to conserve the health of the community and to protect the public in any way that the state authorities deem advisable. In accordance with this spirit and in compliance with the order of the State Board of Health every place of amusement in Pittsburgh will, therefore, be closed until further notice.

For the information of the public it should be stated that the ticket offices at all the theaters will be open as usual for the refunding of moneys that have been paid in advance for performances at future dates.

Emergency Call for Nurses.

An emergency call for nurses to help in fighting the spread of Spanish influenza was received last night by A. K. Oliver, chairman of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Red Cross, from Charles Scott, Jr., of Philadelphia, division manager. Mr. Scott asked that all graduate nurses, practical nurses and nurses' aids be requested to register at once with the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Red Cross, thus indicating their readiness for service in stamping out the influenza epidemic.

Acting upon the call from division headquarters, the Pittsburgh Chapter last night arranged for all available nurses to register at the headquarters of the chapter today and tomorrow. The registration will be in charge of Miss Katherine Dempster, director of nursing service of the Pittsburgh Chapter. The nurses who register will be expected to be ready for service wherever the division headquarters of the Red Cross may find it needful to send them.