

# Babcock Asks State to Lift Influenza Ban

Letter to Commissioner  
Royer States Unnecessary  
Pall Hangs Over City.

## DEATH LIST LARGER

A telegram requesting the lifting of the influenza ban on business and social activities in Pittsburgh yesterday was addressed by Mayor E. V. Babcock to Commissioner of Health B. F. Royer. Mr. Babcock desires in the interest of the people a return to the normal conditions as early as possible.

The telegram was written by Mr. Babcock after a conference with Health Director W. H. Davis and other officials and after making a thorough investigation of the wishes of the people of the city. There is a widespread belief that it will accomplish the desired result. Neither Mr. Babcock nor Director Davis would talk about it for publication.

An opinion that is gaining strength is that the drastic measures of the health department of the state to some extent have been defeating their own ends. Crowds gather in places where it is impossible to control them, and in other ways the wish of the officials to keep the people isolated to the greatest extent possible falls of realization, it is said.

Mr. Babcock's telegram to Commissioner Royer follows:

It is my opinion that 80 per cent of the residents of this city now desire the health ban lifted that we may return to our normal activities and conditions as soon as this can be accomplished, keeping in mind the safeguarding of the health of our citizens. I am co-operating and in close touch with Director Davis of our Department of Health, who has strictly and consistently complied with your orders. In my official capacity as Mayor of Pittsburgh, I beg to ask you to

# Babcock Wants Quarantine Lifted

Continued from First Page.

authorize Director Davis to handle all conditions relating to the closing of the town and the fighting of the influenza epidemic as he thinks best, the purpose being to open the city in all its activities as soon as possible consistent with conserving the health of its citizens.

I recommend that all business activities be allowed to open in the next few days under stiff regulations laid down by our health department to prevent the assembling of crowds in any part of its jurisdiction. At this time there is an awful pall hanging over the city which, in my judgment, is no longer necessary. Our people have been patient and have co-operated well, but the unnecessary continuance of the present regulations is causing them to lose the proper spirit. It is the psychological moment to advise all those that are closed of the time and conditions under which they can reopen, and at the same time claim a continued and better co-operation with the Health Department.

## Would Help Officials.

The result would undoubtedly be an increased activity in helping the Health Department, first, because it helps their own business, and second, because of a patriotic desire to help out in the general propaganda of fighting the epidemic. If you cannot grant this request will you please fix a time when I can meet you in Harrisburg, or elsewhere, at once, to discuss this subject in all its details.

Mr. Babcock and Health Director Davis attended a large meeting of physicians at the Health Department yesterday afternoon and arrangements were made to furnish physicians to sick people who are without them. Dr. Clement G. Jones presided.

The city was districted and arrangements were made to have every fire engine house to receive calls both for physicians and nurses. A count showed that about 60 physicians are available, these being specialists who have temporarily returned to general practice and the physicians of the city schools.

Calls sent to engine houses will be promptly attended to, but it is asked that the people do not call at unusual hours and that they procure the services of their regular physician where they have one. The arrangement is not intended as a charity, but is for the relief of those, who because of the excessive calls on the time of the doctors, have been for days unable to obtain any medical service though badly in need of it.

## All to Receive Attention.

At the same time those who need a physician and cannot pay will not be neglected and if service other than that of a physician is required, it will be furnished. This applies particularly to the service of nurses, which is under the direction of J. W. Henderson. Dr. H. J. Lenz will direct the activities of the physicians.

There were reports of 162 deaths to the Health Department yesterday. This is larger than any previous day's report, the largest heretofore being that of last Thursday, when the deaths numbered 155. The period of yesterday's report was for 26 hours, however, one extra hour being due to the turning back of the clock and the other to the fact that the office remains open an hour longer for the issuing of burial permits on Sunday. There is no report of new cases on Sunday. Of the deaths reported yesterday 55 were from pneumonia, 91 from a combination of pneumonia and influenza and 16 from influenza.

Death reports are larger on Sunday than on any other day of the week. Director Davis explained yesterday, because undertakers have more time to apply for permits. Some of the reports made yesterday were for deaths of Friday and Saturday.

The situation was reported as being

Continued on Page Two, Column Seven.