Babcock Asks State to Lift Influenza Ban

Letter to Commissioner Royer States Unnecessary
Pull 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 R. F. Royer. Mr. Babcock desires in the interest of the people a return to 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 rather in places where it is impossible to control them, and in other ways the wishes of the officials to keep the people isolated to the greatest extent possible fails of realization, it is said.

Mr. Babcock's telegram to Commissioner Royer follows:

It is my opinion that 50 per cent of the population of this city now desires the health board lifted so that we may return to our normal activities and conditions seen by us can be accomplished, keeping in mind the safeguarding of the health of our citizens. I am cooperating in this matter 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...

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