

CLOSING ORDER BEING OBEYED, REPORTS SHOW

Theaters and Saloons in Pennsylvania Support Move to Check Influenza.

50,000 CASES IN STATE.

By International News Service.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Oct. 4. Reports received today at the office of Dr. W. F. Royer, acting state health commissioner, indicate that the commissioner's closing order last night closing all places of amusement in the state, including theaters, moving picture houses, dance halls, pool rooms and saloons in an effort to check the spread of Spanish influenza is being obeyed generally.

Dr. Royer estimated today that there are now 50,000 cases in the state.

WILL ENFORCE ORDER.

Copies of the closing order are in the hands of every board of health and medical inspector in the state today and they will see to it that the general terms of the order are rigorously enforced. In addition the local health boards may issue such additional orders as they may deem necessary.

Violations of the state health department's order is punishable by a fine of \$50 or by one month's imprisonment or both, at the discretion of the court and Dr. Royer has held that the publicity given the order in the newspapers throughout the state shall be sufficient notice to proprietors of places affected.

Dr. Royer is not ready to order a state-wide closing of the schools and churches. He is putting this matter up to the local health boards, and if in their judgment such closing is necessary the boards can issue orders locally.

NO ORDER ON FAIRS.

Numerous inquiries were made at the department today by health boards in all sections of the state regarding the closing of clubs, county fairs and public sales, but at the present no general order will be issued to cover these. They will be acted upon separately by the local health boards. Almost all of the county fairs have been held, but Dr. Royer is of the belief the directors of those still scheduled to be held will cancel them for this year.

Restaurants and other places where food is served will be allowed to remain open, according to a statement made by Dr. Royer today. However, in places where restaurants have a bar attached, the bar must be closed.

No limit has been placed on the health order as to the time the closing of amusement places will remain effective. A notice allowing the places to again open their doors will be issued when all danger is past and the epidemic is checked.

The official order issued by Dr. Royer follows:

"The spread of the epidemic of influenza in other states has shown that public gathering places 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 serious 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 25, 1906, 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.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION.

"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."

The orders were issued to the 320 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 to exceed one month, or both, at the discretion of the court."