Halloween Carnival Is Banned in City

Pierrots—and Pierrettes of Pittsburgh Are Forbidden Confetti and Parades in Central Districts Tomorrow Night—Influenza Is Cause.

Pierrette weeps and Pierrot frowns and Harlequin sulks in a corner somewhere, for Carnival sits over Pittsburgh this Halloween without even a rainbow shower of confetti from its incandescent wings.

Like an ill-natured Phantom, influenza forbids the gaiety festival of the masks to which the city is wont each year at October’s end to give itself. Those avenues of downtown Pittsburgh, East Liberty, Northside and Southside which are transformed every October 31 into highways of revelry, teeming with a maelstrom of mummers, are now undisturbed by shouts and laughter and horn blots and clanging bells or by the flash of warm colors and bright eyes.

A ghost of the old spirit will remain.

Although Charles Blackard, director of the department of public safety, had instructed the police department to forbid the congregation of crowds in the central and suburban centers of the city, he has permitted the celebrants who desire to mask through the streets to do so in their own neighborhoods. Pumpkin lanterns and fantastic costumes are not banished. Parties where old-time games of grandmothers may be played, are not under disapproval.

But the processions of merrymakers, though streets of spectators in the vicinity of celebrations are forbidden. The throwing of confetti, that mischievous and harmless expression of the carnival spirit, is prohibited because this year, it is not harmless, but a dangerous means of spreading infection. Ticklers and brushes are banished as they have been in other years.

Patriotism too has made its appeal to the maskers. The use of any food substances, such as beans, peas and the like, and of other commodities, such as soap, has been prohibited by order of the Federal food administration. War has made the waste of these materials a flagrant failure of patriotism.