

# CLOSING ORDER MAY BE LIFTED WITHIN WEEK

## Mayor Says Early Withdrawal of Epidemic Rule Depends on Next Few Days.

### "NOT BUSINESS MATTER."

Mayor E. V. Babcock, who returned last night from Harrisburg, where he was in conference with Dr. B. Franklin Royer, acting state commissioner of health, stated this morning that he thought the influenza closing regulations on Allegheny county would be lifted by the middle of next week, if not before.

"The entire matter rests with conditions here of the next few days. If the number of cases and deaths continue to show a decline the ban will be lifted, but if there is an increase in the number of cases and deaths the ban will remain on," he said.

The mayor also made it plain that even if the ban was lifted immediately and an increase in the number of cases was shown, that the ban would be clamped on again, and perhaps a little tighter. "It is not a matter of business, it is a matter pure and simple of health," he said.

Dr. Wilber H. Batt, state registrar of vital statistics, arrived in this city yesterday evening and immediately started a survey of the district preliminary to making a report to the state health commissioner. He will remain in this city until a complete survey has been made of the conditions not only in the city but in the county as well.

Mayor Babcock says the state health commissioner refused to lift the regulations as long as influenza is epidemic in any of the smaller communities adjacent to Pittsburgh. The lifting of the ban in Pittsburgh, he explained to Mayor Babcock, would mean an influx of people from these epidemic-ridden towns, threatening the city with renewed ravages from the disease.

## CONDITIONS UNCHANGED.

Epidemic conditions remained practically unchanged overnight. In the period between 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and 10 o'clock this morning 63 new influenza cases were reported to the bureau of infectious diseases, an increase of three over the corresponding period ending yesterday morning. Seventy-three new pneumonia cases were reported, an increase of four.

Deaths in the same period from pneumonia and influenza showed a decrease of 15. Deaths from influenza were placed at 13, an increase of nine. Fifteen less deaths from pneumonia were reported and nine less from mixed causes.

One of Dr. Royer's assistants, Paul Ross of the housing bureau, state department of health, died of influenza in a downtown hotel yesterday.

Investigations by state health representatives in the town of Willock yesterday, resulted in orders transferring many of the 40 sufferers there to the emergency hospital in Carrick. A physician and a clergyman were sent to Curtsville by the state authorities yesterday, to organize and operate an emergency hospital. They are Dr. E. L. Friederman of the United States public health service and Rev. R. B. Wintersteen. Dr. D. G. Blake of Oakland was assigned to Glen Willard, Dr. Henry Kohlscheger to Shattburg, and Dr. L. W. Zoller to Moon Run.

## MORE BEDS READY.

The Washington park recreation house has been transformed into an emergency hospital for Pittsburgh sufferers, 15 patients being installed there yesterday. A clearing up in the influenza situation among soldiers here is believed to be responsible for the 80 beds reported ready for occupancy in Pittsburgh yesterday.

Red Cross reports yesterday showed that more than 50 school teachers are now acting as nurses' aides. Washington appealed to the local Red Cross chapter for more nurses for Western Pennsylvania towns stricken by the epidemic. An appeal from Clara C. Noyes, National director of field nurses, urged upon Miss Katherine Dempster the need of finding more nurses. Since the epidemic broke out here 120 graduate nurses have been assigned to duty, and 10 more are called for now.

An emergency hospital of 18 private rooms with all facilities is being fitted up in the Aircraft Club building of the Union Switch and Signal Company's plant in Swissvale. Miss Catherine Macdonald is to have charge.

Reports that certain physicians have been profiteering on the influenza serum, with specific cases instanced where \$5 was charged for an inoculation, brought from prominent physicians statements of their ideas of the fee, ranging from \$2 to \$6.

Determined that everyone will have an opportunity to be inoculated health authorities in Tarentum, Brackenridge and Natrona opened public vaccine stations yesterday, where serum will be supplied free. Dentists have volunteered to take charge of the stations to relieve the doctors, some of whom have become exhausted. There are more than 1,000 cases of influenza in the three towns.

Because of the influenza epidemic, the November term of Federal court will open for jury trials a week late, or on Monday, November 18.