

FIGHT BEGINS ON INFLUENZA BAN VIOLATORS

Authorities File 18 Informations Against Playhouse Men and Liquor Dealers.

THEATERS REMAIN OPEN.

Decision to Continue Performances Announced After Conferences of Owners.

The fight between the state health department and alleged violators of the state influenza closing rule in Pittsburgh, began in earnest today.

Eighteen informations were filed by Attorney E. O. Zealy, legal representative of Dr. B. Franklin Royer, acting state health commissioner, with Alderman George S. Wilson of Sheridan avenue, this morning. They charge misdemeanors on the part of 13 Pittsburgh theater managers and three liquor dealers, in opening their places of business prior to Saturday, the date fixed for the official lifting of the ban.

The informations were prepared by Attorney Nelson McVicar, local counsel for the state department of health.

MANAGERS DEFIANT.

Theater managers responded by keeping their houses open, and announcing performances will proceed as usual. Indorsement of the state closing by Surgeon General Rupert Blue of United States public health service, which this morning, brought a cessation of hesitation, during which no shows were sold at several downtown theaters, and practically all downtown picture houses. Conferences

(Continued on Page 2, column 3)

Lower Influenza Cases Are Reported

Number of Deaths Also Decrease in Past 18 Hours.

Two hundred and eighty-three cases of influenza were reported to the health department for the 18-hour period ending at 12 o'clock this morning. This is fewer cases than were reported for the corresponding period one week ago. Four new cases of pneumonia were reported for the last 18 hours.

The total number of influenza cases reported to date is 11,774, and the pneumonia cases total 1,624.

Deaths reported for the 18 hours ending at 12 o'clock follow: Pneumonia 12, influenza-pneumonia 45, influenza 6, a total of 63.

FIGHT BEGINS ON INFLUENZA BAN VIOLATORS

(Continued From Page 1)

were held by the various managerial interests, and by noon the word went out that all the downtown theaters and, all but one of the downtown motion picture houses will remain open.

Although no direct statement was made, it is understood that the theater managers plan to continue open, and fight out the legal actions of the state authorities through the courts.

Saloons in Pittsburgh were closed today because of election. No statement as to their attitude tomorrow could be obtained. It was intimated, on the part of the state authorities and their representatives that should any open, further legal proceedings will be instituted. SUMMARY ACTION, it was hinted, will be taken against theater managers, should they continue to keep their houses open, for successive daily violations.

SURGEON-GENERAL ACTS.

Surgeon General Rupert Blue of the United States public health service yesterday afternoon sent a telegram to Dr. Royer, acting health commissioner, and Dr. Draper of the public health service, who are directing the epidemic relief work in the state, asking them to send the following appeal to newspapers in Pittsburgh and throughout Pennsylvania over his signature:

As surgeon general of the National public health service, I appeal to every good citizen of Pittsburgh and vicinity to stand faithfully by the order imposing restrictions upon moving picture establishments, theaters, public meetings and the sale of alcoholic beverages until the epidemic conditions are much better than at present and until advised by the state department of health of Pennsylvania and representatives of the Federal public health service.

With 16 war industries in Pittsburgh and the metropolitan district about it, it is imperative to protect the lives and health and man-power of this district. See to it that your elected officials do their duty.

The informations read today are based upon data gathered by special investigators brought here from the state capital by Attorney Zealy. Theaters, moving picture houses and saloons that did business were visited.

FORMAL WARNING.

To each of the latter, there was delivered last night a circular letter prepared yesterday morning as the state's last word of warning to violators. Copies of the same letter were handed in the late afternoon to the manager of every theater and motion picture house in the city. The letter was:

NOTICE.

To all public places of entertainment, theaters, moving picture establishments, saloons, dance halls, breweries and distillers:

You are hereby notified that the orders of the Department of Health concerning the emergency order influenza epidemic of October 2nd and October 9th are in full force, and any violation by you or any of you of said orders directing you to keep your places of business closed will render you liable to the penalties of the law touching violations of the orders of the Department of Health.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

By B. Franklin Royer,
McVicar, Hazlett & Gardner, Attorneys.