

SLIGHT ABATEMENT IN NUMBER OF INFLUENZA CASES

Washington, Oct. 2.—For the first time since it became epidemic, spread of Spanish influenza at army camps showed a slight abatement during the twenty-four hours ending at noon to-day. New cases reported totaled slightly more than 13,000, a decrease of one thousand from the number reported the day before. Pneumonia also showed a decrease with only 876 new cases and 271 deaths.

Philadelphia, Oct. 2.—Spanish influenza continued to sweep through Philadelphia and suburban towns to-day. Hundreds of new cases and many additional deaths were reported. All private and public hospitals are crowded and the director of public health will commandeer club houses and other suitable places if necessary. Mayor Thomas B. Smith to-day placed at the disposal of the health authorities the entire fund appropriated by councils for war emergency purposes, the city law officer having decided the money could so be used.

The number of cases officially reported to the bureau of health in the last 24 hours numbered 648, an increase of 23 over yesterday. Fatalities from influenza and pneumonia reported were 143. Very few physicians are reporting influenza cases and it is estimated by health officials that there may be twenty thousand in the city and surrounding towns.

The disease shows little change in the fourth naval district. Fifty-four new cases and nine additional deaths were reported for the last twenty-four hours. The total number of cases in the district number 2431 and the deaths 130.

Delaware county, adjoining Philadelphia, in which many great war industries are situated has been hit hard. All the schools, saloons, public halls, churches and other public gathering places in Chester have been closed because of the epidemic. Six other towns in the county have taken similar action.

About eight per cent. of Hog Island's army of nearly thirty thousand shipworkers are afflicted with colds or influenza. The two big ship yards at Chester also report a large number of cases. Lieutenant Colonel Philip S. Doan, sanitary officer of the Emergency Fleet Corporation has sent out an appeal for thirty doctors and one hundred nurses to aid in checking the epidemic in ship yards in Philadelphia.

The state department of health to-day asked the adjutant general of Pennsylvania to furnish tents and also to place the use of armories at the disposal of health officers at Chester and other places. Because of the influx of thousands of war workers in the industrial centers in the eastern part of the state, lodging and boarding houses are crowded and are unfavorable places for caring for sick persons.

In Camden, Gloucester and other nearby places on the New Jersey side of the Delaware river, schools, churches and other public places have been closed. The Camden board of health today instructed physicians to at once report all influenza cases. Until these reports are complied with no accurate estimate can be made of the number of cases which are believed to run into the thousands.

Wilmington, Del., Oct. 2.—The Board of Health to-day ordered immediately closed until further orders, all schools, churches, theatres, saloons, motion picture houses, dance halls, carnivals, soda fountains, ice cream parlors, billiard and pool rooms and bowling alleys.

Nightly fumigation of street cars is also required as part of the campaign against Spanish influenza.

Health authorities estimate the number of cases in the city as well over 10,000, a number of those affected being shipyard workers.

Deaths from influenza and pneumonia since the epidemic began are estimated at nearly fifty.