

ALL PLACES OF AMUSEMENTS AND SALOONS MUST BE CLOSED

State Health Commissioner Royer Has So Decreed As a Protection For Workers in Munition Plants Especially.

With stunning effect the order of State Health Commissioner Royer directing the closing of all places of amusement and saloons was received in this city and vicinity last night and while the order was not welcome by any means either to the owners of these places or to the patrons, steps were taken to put the order into operation at once.

The order was not unexpected in high official circles in this city for the drift of things had been that way for several days, but that the order should be made state-wide came as the biggest surprise.

It has been known that government officials who are assigned to duty at the Bethlehem Steel Works have been strong in their demand that a quarantine be established in this section for the protection of the workers at the Bethlehem Steel Company plant and securing a steady stream of munitions to Europe.

There have been many conferences recently of officials both in this city and Bethlehem relative to the matter. At one of these on Tuesday, Dr. A. J. Lanza, now attached to the U. S. Public Health Service, met with city council and announced the desire that Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton, be quarantined in the interest of the Bethlehem Steel workers and the check of any possible spread of Spanish influenza. No action was taken by the Allentown council and Mayor Reichenbach was decidedly opposed to the move, claiming that the situation here did not warrant such drastic measures.

There were further conferences in Bethlehem on Tuesday and Wednesday and yesterday forenoon there was a meeting in Bethlehem attended by Mayor Johnston of Bethlehem, Dr. Lanza, Brig. General T. C. Dickson, in charge of government work at Bethlehem, and other steel and government officials. Dr. J. T. Butz, health officer of this city, represented Allentown.

The meeting yesterday was attended by Dr. B. F. Royer, the state health commissioner. The entire question was carefully gone over. The government officials were strongly for closing up everything, including schools and churches. Dr. Royer opposed the latter unless local health boards so decided. He contended that with

small supplies of coal on hand in most homes it is better to have the children attending school than housed in damp homes.

Just what would be done had not been decided when the conference adjourned. Dr. Royer hurried back to Harrisburg and the order issued last night, was quickly formulated.

Upon arrival of the news in this city, it was quickly spread and the newspaper offices were importuned for the text of the order.

The Orpheum Theatre management received word from its Harrisburg office ordering the closing of the theatre until further notice and the sending away of all acts. All moving picture theatres closed their doors with the last show last night.

The hotel and saloon keepers were in a quandary as to the meaning of the word "forthwith." Some of them interpreted it to mean that when they closed up last night their places of business should not again be reopened. Others contended that until they receive official notice the order is not effective. Many consulted their attorneys and it is probable that some will open this morning.

The proprietors of soda fountains were much worried but it does not appear that this group of business is included.

The Liberty Loan drive committees were dazed by the order. It means that all elaborate plans for meetings to be conducted in the interest of the loan will have to be abandoned and the canvass be conducted in a different manner. All plans virtually will have to be rearranged.

As to the meaning of the word "forthwith," as applying to this case, Dr. J. T. Butz would not be quoted last evening. He came back from the proceedings, saying that the matter was entirely in the hands of the national meeting very reticent about the pro and state authorities.

Up to a late hour last night he had not yet received a telegram such as the telegraphic report stated had been sent to every board of health in the state. He announced that he will submit such order at once to a meeting of city council, which body is the health board of this city.

The health board will be expected to carry out the order at once.