

QUARANTINE IN ALLENTOWN IN EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT

Action Taken by City Council Yesterday, Sitting as Health Board—Local Operation of State Ruling

At midnight tonight the new state regulation will go into effect in Allentown closing all public places of amusement and saloons to prevent the spread of Spanish influenza. The order of the state health authorities was considered yesterday morning by City Council, which is the Board of Health for Allentown. Its action is officially summarized in another column, which will be the only notification to those affected.

The following resolutions summarize the action taken at the meeting:

WHEREAS, City Council is fully convinced that the colds with which some of our people are affected are largely attributable to damp houses due to the desire to conserve coal, and that if people would take the opposite step—heat their houses where colds existed and promptly consult a doctor, more serious trouble would be avoided,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN, That we call upon our people to protect their health by heating their homes properly and to call upon doctors promptly upon the first sign of any unusual cold.

NOTE: City Council is not in a position at this time to guarantee a full supply of fuel but the citizens may rest assured of every effort on their part with the Fuel Administration to see that an ample supply is provided during the winter.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, Pa., that Mr. C. D. Strauss, Supt. Dept. Accounts & Finance (Div. Health) and Dr. J. Treichler Butz, Health Officer, publish for three insertions in the five daily newspapers of the city, the order upon quarantine received from the Acting Commissioner of Health of the State of Pennsylvania.

Whereas, complaint is made to City Council that owners of apartment houses are neglecting and in some instances refusing to install heat, giving various excuses such as the War and

orders of the Fuel Administrator, etc., THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Council, through the Dept. of Public Affairs, promptly have such complaint investigated and report same to Council where said department cannot have the remedy applied at once.

One resolution reads: "That Councilman Strauss, acting for Council, together with the Health Officer, prepare a list, naming the places affected, so far as is within their power and is feasible and practical, and to define what meetings are intended to be covered by the quarantine order from Harrisburg, and report same to Council that action may be taken relative to the closing order."

Another resolution reads as follows: "That Council, as the Health Board, under present conditions does not see the necessity of closing public and private schools, Sunday Schools for churches, but will await recommendations relative to this from the Health Bureau before taking action."

The question of closing churches and schools was left to the discretion of the health authorities by the State Health Department in the order issued last night.

Mayor Reichenbach was strong in his denunciation of the order, calling it the work of the Bethlehem Steel Company officials, one of whom recently made a proposition that he, with the mayors of Easton and Bethlehem agree to close all places under their jurisdiction to prevent the spread of the disease, and which he refused to do, as he said it was a matter for council to decide and not he alone. The matter was then taken to Harrisburg, according to Mr. Reichenbach with the present result.

In his denunciation of the action the mayor stated "that Bethlehem was filthy and dirty, and that a wagon load of refuse could be secured from three blocks of the highways and that the streets were covered with thick layers

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and that, the worst breeder of disease. The action, he said, was a move on the part of the company to prevent the holding of meetings.

"If the quarantine is to be as drastic as the ruling calls for, then the trains and cars conveying them to the plant should be taken care of," said the mayor. "In there," he said, "is the principal danger, for they have no ventilation and are crowded going and coming. This should be remedied immediately."

There are at present sixty-six cases of the so-called influenza in the city; but were they carried down to the finer points they could be laid to the coal situation, as the houses are being improperly heated at this time so as to conserve coal for the colder days that are coming. Had the situation been the same last fall as it is now, then there would have been as many cases of sickness reported of the same nature, but no thought would have been given it for they would have been thought coincident with conditions.

"The ruling," he stated, "is almost Prussianism, and is just what we are fighting for over there now and was the work of autocrats and not in reason."

Councilman Wheeler said that his views coincided with the Mayor's.

Word was passed around during yesterday morning that the Royer order was "simply newspaper talk," and that the Department of Health was awaiting official instructions before advising those who called or telephoned for information that the decree was mandatory and could not be modified in any respect.

Saloon keepers who had closed their doors opened for business. Some moving picture theatres did likewise. City officials openly advised proprietors of these places to await official notification before complying with the order.

The Strand, Lyric and Orpheum closed and stayed closed, others opened. Under Council's interpretation all must close to-night and remain closed until the order is rescinded.