

INFLUENZA SITUATION IN STATE REPORTED EXCEEDINGLY SERIOUS BY THE HEALTH AUTHORITIES

150,000 Cases in Pennsylvania—Field Hospitals at Harrisburg and Steelton—Call for Many Doctors and Nurses

(By Associated Press.)

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 6.—An appeal for five hundred doctors and 250 nurses to volunteer their services by noon to-morrow to fight influenza which is spreading throughout the anthracite regions of Pennsylvania, and appearing in the bituminous section was made to-day by Dr. B. Franklin Royer, state commissioner of health.

"Reports I have received to-day indicate that there has been a great increase in the number of cases and it is essential that medical aid be secured for the coal regions or we will feel the effects of it in curtailed production," said the commissioner to-night. Dr. Royer estimated there are over 150,000 cases in Pennsylvania. "We are organizing to fight the disease everywhere and there is urgent need of doctors."

Field hospitals were established in Harrisburg and Steelton to-day by the state and municipal authorities. Adjutant General Beary furnishing tents and cots from the state arsenal. Canvass and equipment will be sent to-morrow to other places. Dr. R. B. Batt has been placed in charge of the campaign against the disease in Chester; Dr. T. A. H. States, director of the Hamburg Sanitorium, has taken charge of the work in Schuylkill county, where hospitals will be established in Pottsville, Armony and at Minersville. Dr. Schultz has been sent to Catawissa. Dr. Reifsnnyder is in the Stroudsburg district, where there is need of doctors. Serious conditions were reported from Somerset county to-day.

Dr. Royer to-day issued notice to heads of all transportation lines in Pennsylvania to have all cars thoroughly cleaned twice every day and to keep as many windows open as possible. "Over-ventilate every common carrier used for passenger service," says his notice.

"Our reports show that the order

against congregating was everywhere observed in Pennsylvania today. Churches were closed and I only heard of one instance where a clergyman objected, but he finally complied," said Dr. Royer to-night. "Some reports of saloons being open have been turned over to local authorities. I am arranging to issue an order whereby stimulants may be bought on prescriptions by doctors as required. This matter will be controlled by the medical men."

A report came here that at Coal Dale Peter Rustuf and Steve Justina were fined \$50 each for selling liquor and eleven men caught in their places were fined \$5 each by Burgess John Dypson.

The Public Service Commission has cancelled all meetings and hearings scheduled for this week.

The military authorities of the state got into co-operation with the state health department tonight at a conference between Adjutant General Beary and the health commissioner concerning measures to prevent a further spread of Spanish influenza and to more adequately handle the cases now reported.

The adjutant general after the conference ordered that state armories in Philadelphia, Scranton, Chester and Pottsville be thrown open. One hundred and twenty cots were sent to Pottsville.

Major A. M. Allen, of Reading, was ordered to the armory at Chester as medical officer, and a detachment of the First Infantry of reserve militia will be ordered out. A part of this will go to Philadelphia. Two of the reserve ambulances were sent to Eddystone, where 2600 cases were reported today. Another was sent to Pottsville.

What are known as hospital units have been sent to Scranton, Minersville and MacIntyre.