

SCHOOLS OF CITY CLOSED ON ACCOUNT OF INFLUENZA MENACE

Board Views Yesterday's Big Increase in Cases With Alarm and Adopts Medical Inspector Weaber's Recommendation

The public schools of the city will not be opened this morning, the school board at its meeting last night having decided in view of the seriousness of the influenza menace to close them at once.

Dr. Thomas H. Weaber, the chief medical inspector, outlined the situation in this city in a short, pithy address to the board and then recommended that no chances be taken but that all the schools be closed at once.

The board members apparently had been thinking along the same lines, for almost every one gave some reason that had impressed him lately as sufficient to cause the schools to be closed and then there was a unanimous vote endorsing the medical inspector's recommendation.

Dr. Weaber pointed out that whereas there had been an average of but 30 cases reported per day last week, yesterday's figures were 115, bringing the total reported in the city to date to 265. He pointed out that the teachers and medical inspectors do not have any absolute power to exclude children coming from families in which there are known cases of the disease. He told of the large number of absentees in the schools yesterday, most of them due, of course, to fear of contact and contracting the disease, but he also told of schools that have been almost emptied of pupils.

He urged that in the interest of the thousands of children and the army camp in this city that every possible precaution be taken and he urged the closing of the schools as a very important precaution to take.

Mr. Iobst, who presided, said that he had been of the opinion for some time that a quarantine of the city and of the schools would be unnecessary but that he had changed his mind yesterday when he learned of the great increase in the number of cases.

Mr. Good said that he did not dare to take a chance and keep the schools open any longer as the loss of one life, if due to lack of precautions, would never be forgiven.

Mr. Weaber told of the conditions at Camp Crane, where the men are wearing masks when in contact with patients sick with the disease.

Mr. Good emphasized that the closing of the schools does not mean a vacation for the children but a period during which parents will be expected to keep their children away from others. They are not to congregate in stores and, commenting on this, Mr. Dietrich said that there are many stores that daily are visited by more people than the entire school population of the city and that they are as dangerous as the schools.

It was suggested that while children are to be kept out of crowds they should be in the open air as much as possible. "Fresh air and play will be good for them," said Dr. Weaber.

The board was in the right humor to close the schools. With Rev. Rausch ill with the disease and Mr. Good apparently ready to be taken down with it, and after hearing the reports of the medical officers there was no hesitancy in taking action.

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Sanitary Survey Made.
A complete survey of the sanitary conditions of the schools was reported by Dr. Thomas H. Weaber, the chief medical inspector.

As a preventative of grippé, all teachers were instructed to keep school rooms open as much as possible as sunlight and air kill the grippé germ. Shades were kept high and windows open. Several sick teachers were excluded as were sick pupils and their rooms fumigated.

The survey indicated inadequate toilets in the Harrison-Morton and Sheridan buildings.

Unsanitary toilets were found in the Central Junior High, Hunsicker, Herbst, Lincoln and Stevens buildings.

More Cloak Rooms Urged.
Cloak rooms are urged for the Harrison-Morton buildings, where clothes are hung in the school room. Same conditions prevail in some rooms in the Wolfe and McKinley buildings.

Better lighting is urged in the rooms of Miss Heckman and Miss Bachman. Also in first grade room, Wolfe building.

Insufficient air space is noted in some rooms in the Wolfe and Sheridan buildings.

Standard Drinking Fountains.
The new type of drinking fountain in the Franklin building is praised and recommendation is made that the fountain be adopted as the schools' standard.

Dr. Weaber recommended that all doors leading to toilets should have door checks and marked either "boys" or "girls" toilets.

A common roller towel, found in the Hunsicker building, was condemned.

Report of the Secretary.
Secretary Wenner's report on the collection of taxes showed that a total of \$548,201.82 was collected up to October 1 out of a duplicate of \$613,540. The balance uncollected is \$66,338.18. A penalty of 6 per cent is imposed on this unpaid balance.

The report showed that Tax Collector Adam E. Bittner took in \$462,079.66 during the month or an average of over \$11,500 per working day.

\$147,416.79 Balance.
The report of the treasurer, C. M. W. Keck, showed \$145,486.80 in the active account, \$1,230 in the coupon account, \$382.50 in the High School building account and \$317.49 in sinking funds or a grand total of \$147,416.79.

Many Pupils Examined.
Reports on health conditions show 2102 examinations by Drs. Weaber and Boyer in the two districts. One hundred and forty cases were enlarged tonsils and forty-nine decayed teeth. Nineteen cases of eye disease were found in the Mosser building. Eight pupils were excluded and eight readmitted.

Dental Clinic Work.
The dental clinic reported 108 cases applying for treatment, 28 treated with a total of 71 fillings and 42 extractions.

No Money for Principals.
A group of principals, to whose duties have been added new schools but not new rooms, asked for additional remuneration. The communication was filed because the district does not have the money necessary.

Two thousand dollars worth of

bonds were offered to the board and ordered purchased.

Truants Reported.
The attendance officer's report showed 13 truants discovered during the month out of a total of 158 reported cases.

\$21,067.82 in Claims.
The claims committee reported bills totalling \$21,067.82 which were ordered paid. The summary shows the bills provided for the following general purposes. Instruction, \$10,106.04; maintaining, \$4,288.31; conducting, \$341.49; school plant, \$180.42; operating, \$6,094.10; contributing, \$55.46.

Miscellaneous Business.
Twenty-five residents of Allentown asked that a teacher in physical training be elected to handle night classes of girls in the high school. Action was deferred on account of the closing of the school.

All teachers were directed to spend two days per season in visiting other schools under the direction of other teachers.

Principal Tinker was granted 1000 stamped envelopes for High School correspondence.

Action on requests for use of the High School auditorium by the Saengerbund and Red Cross were deferred on account of the quarantine. Also requests from War Camp Community Service and the Motor Messenger Service.

A hot water regulator for the High School was offered by the American Construction Co. for \$120.

A check paid to Mrs. Mary Fetherolf for her son Prof. Martin Fetherolf, a teacher, was lost in the mails in January. The officers of the board were authorized to adjust the matter.

The income tax board was granted the use of the Administration Building for its work.