

LANCASTER BOARD OF HEALTH DEFIES STATE AUTHORITIES, PERMITTING SALOONS TO OPEN

Dr. Royer Will Have Warrants Sworn Out Against All Violators For Prosecution to the Full Extent of the Law

(By Associated Press.)

Harrisburg, Oct. 30.—Warrants will be sworn out against every liquor dealer who makes sales in the city of Lancaster contrary to the orders of the state department of health, announced Dr. B. Franklin Royer, acting commissioner of health, tonight after a conference with officers of the attorney general's department at which reports of actions taken by Lancaster city officers were considered. It was announced that health officers had been detailed to Lancaster to obtain evidence. Similar steps will be taken in Norristown.

A statement issued from Dr. Royer's office said:

"Dr. Stites, of the state health department, who is in charge of the Lancaster situation, has been advised to confer with a local attorney designated by the attorney general's office, and every violator of the closing order will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Warrants will be prepared tonight and arrests will be made early tomorrow morning. Dr. Royer announced that inasmuch as the city health authorities of Lancaster were completely dominated by the liquor interests and had decided to defy the state health department, this drastic step was necessary in order to prevent the re-opening of saloons until the epidemic of influenza shows greater improvement."

Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 30.—Despite the fact that Dr. Royer has served notice on every saloon keeper in Lancaster that the epidemic ban would not be lifted before next Tuesday, the liquor men continued to do a big business throughout the day. Members of the state constabulary are camping on the outskirts of the city but as yet their mission is unknown to the Lancaster authorities. Hotel men announced again this evening that they will continue to do business unless ordered by the local board of health.

Theatres remained closed throughout the day and managers of local play houses say they will stick by Dr. Royer and not resume business until the date fixed by the official removing of the ban.

Harrisburg, Oct. 30.—State department of health officials tonight announced some improvement in the health situation of the state.

Deaths to the number of 1312 were reported for twenty-four hours. The statement tonight says:

"From incomplete reports received from various counties the number of new cases of influenza is decreasing. There were 3,943 new cases reported today from twenty-four counties. Of this number 1,063 new cases were reported in Allegheny county, of which 785 were in the city of Pittsburgh. The crest of the epidemic has apparently been reached in many places in Armstrong county and the situation also shows some improvement in Lackawanna county where only ninety-five new cases were reported in the city of Scranton. In Beaver county 216 new cases were reported and there were 322 new cases in Berks county of which 118 were in the city of Reading. The situation is bad in Tioga county which reports 300 new cases with 199 in Blossburg. There were 249 new cases in Lehigh county with 116 in the city of Allentown."

"The total number of deaths from influenza since the first of October is 21,077 and the total number of deaths from pneumonia during the month is 7,712, making a total of 28,790 deaths from influenza and pneumonia throughout the state since October 1."

Dr. Royer issued a statement tonight in which he declared the potential value of lives lost from influenza and pneumonia in Philadelphia was estimated at \$55,000,000. Deaths were calculated at 11,000 since October 1.