

INFLUENZA SPREADING.

Public Gatherings Forbidden—Schools and Churches Closed.

A steadily growing death list, bans on all public gatherings, closed schools, churches, and movies in an increasing number of towns in the state, and an appeal issued by Governor Graham calling upon citizens to "give their services and all attention to checking influenza" are among the developments in the disease epidemic which is sweeping the state.

Governor Graham in his appeal asks for practical patriotism and in part says:

"There is now an opportunity for practical patriotism in our own communities. We must protect the reserve man power at home. We must brace our boys in uniform by caring for every mother, brother and sister in Vermont."

There are at least 1,000 cases in Montpelier. Thirteen nurses at Heat-on hospital are laid up with the disease. Five deaths occurred Monday.

Burlington reports 650 cases, St. Albans 650, St. Johnsbury 1,000.

Conditions are serious in Barre also. The city hospital is crowded with patients. Doctors, many of them seriously ill, are overworked and the shortage of nurses is seriously felt. Business is hard hit. More than 50 per cent of the granite workers and those of allied trades are held at home because of sickness. A number of stores have been forced to close because of the lack of a working force and nearly every retail firm finds its staff badly depleted.

As time goes on and more names are added to the lists of sick, there is more and more of a set back to business and industry. Many offices are handicapped through the loss of employees who are ill. In the main, however, business is going along as usual. This is only on the surface, however. An attempt to secure a doctor shows that something unusual is under way. Every doctor is busy night and day. The numbers of calls made by some of the physicians each day is almost beyond belief. The weather, to which all were looking for a material help in checking the spread of influenza, has taken a change for the worse, and today has been one of the rainy, gloomy variety.

Director of Public Institutions John E. Weeks announces that visitors' day is temporarily suspended during the period of the grip epidemic at the State prison, house of correction, state school for feeble minded, industrial school and state hospital.