

# THEATER BAN MAY LAST FIVE WEEKS

## Term of Epidemic Precaution Estimated by State Health Commissioner.

Theaters, concert halls and indoor public meeting places of all kinds probably will remain closed under the present epidemic emergency order of the state health department for from four to five weeks more.

This is the gist of a telegram received today by a local theater manager from Dr. B. Franklin Royer, state commissioner of health, at Harrisburg.

The telegram from Dr. Royer came in response to a night letter sent the state health commissioner last night by the theater manager asking him to give some indication of the probable length of the ban on public meetings which has closed the city's amusement places, its churches and its auditoriums.

The inquiry was the crystallization of general curiosity as to the length of time the ban will be enforced. The belief that the influenza epidemic had reached its crest here led many to expect a revocation of the order within a week or 10 days, but Dr. Royer's telegram eliminates such hopes.

The message made plain that the period of four or five weeks mentioned was the estimate at the present moment, indicating a possibility that this period might be curtailed with an early elimination in this district of the epidemic danger.

A continuation of the order for the time mentioned would bar a number of plays and musical shows, scheduled to appear here, from local theaters, would necessitate the cancellation or postponement of probably half a dozen concerts, and would generally derange the plans for the 1918-1919 theatrical and musical seasons.