

MAYOR BABCOCK FAVORS LIFTING EPIDEMIC BANS

State Health Department Is
Told That Regulations Keep
City Under Black Pall.

NEW CASES DECREASING.

Asking to lift a number of the restrictions which the state department of health has placed on amusements and public assemblies, Mayor Babcock has asked the state to give the city authority to handle the local situation as it sees fit. The request was made to Lt. Frank H. Kover, commissioner of health, in a long telegram sent to Harrisburg yesterday.

If the commissioner refuses, the mayor will insist on a conference on the subject, as he stated in his message that fully 80 per cent of the population of the city is in favor of less rigid regulations. The mayor says that the closing of amusements has thrown a pall over the community. He states further that Dir. for William H. Davis has enforced regulations fearlessly, but there is a general opinion that the purpose of the business concerns affected by the regulations is being seriously taxed and that willing co-operation cannot be expected to continue.

From 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon until 10 this morning 440 new cases of influenza were reported, making a total of 2327. In the same period 60 cases of pneumonia developed, raising the total count for that disease to 2,148. From 8 until 10 o'clock this morning 17 deaths were reported from pneumonia, 10 from complications and three from influenza, making a total of 35. During 26 hours ended at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon a total of 165 deaths were reported from influenza and its complications. While today's figures indicate a decrease in new cases and deaths, clerks in the bureau of infectious diseases point out that over Sunday reports are usually late coming in and that tomorrow's totals will be correspondingly higher as a result.

Representatives of munition manufacturers, the local health department, the army and navy and other persons interested met at the office of Commodore R. G. Dennis, of the United States navy yesterday. Their unanimous decision was that more Government physicians would be needed to check the epidemic here. Otherwise they fear that munition and fuel production will fall off. Serums as preventatives were discussed at length and it was decided that in many cases serum was effective and that its use, with proper medical advice, should be encouraged.

Members of the Pennsylvania Reserve Militia will be used in connection with the opening and operation of emergency hospitals. From Pittsburgh a central organization will direct such work in the boroughs of this and adjoining counties. Particular attention will be paid to the needs of the mining sections. The assignment of militiamen will be directed by Dr. Karl Shaffle and Colonel Franklin Blackstone, commander of the Third regiment of militia.

Snow Saturday a large number of physicians have been added to those already working under the supreme medical command. These men are for the most part specialists who have agreed to go into general practice until such time as the epidemic abates. The plan is to assign one druggist in each engine house to keep in touch with the physicians in his zone. Emergency calls may be sent into the engine houses and the nearest physician to the patient will be notified. Dr. H. V. Benz will direct the engine house reporting system. Director Davis points out that this system is not charitable and that no person should hesitate to take advantage of it if they have trouble obtaining medical attention.