

HEALTH BOARD CLOSES PUBLIC MEETING PLACES

Schools, Churches, Theaters and Dance Halls to Be Shut Today

CIVIC AUDITORIUM HIT Rapid Spread of Influenza Is Responsible for Action Taken Last Night

WITH resolutions unanimously adopted and approved by the State and Federal authorities, the San Francisco Board of Health last night ordered closed at 1 o'clock this morning all amusement and public gathering places, churches and public and private schools as a preventive step against the spread of influenza. The resolution read:

"Whereas, There exists at this time in the city and county of San Francisco and throughout the State of California an epidemic of Spanish influenza of the virulent type; and whereas, the number of cases, to wit, 2867, now existing in San Francisco, and the daily increasing number reported by physicians indicate a very grave situation, which can only be met by the most radical measures; therefore,

"It is moved, seconded and carried, That the Board of Health hereby directs the Health Officer to carry out the following measures for the protection of the public health, and in order to insure speedy control of the present epidemic of influenza, by closing:

AMUSEMENT PLACES COME UNDER ORDER

"First—All places of amusement, including theaters, moving-picture theaters, concert halls, dance halls and dances in all cabarets, cafes and hotels, and all forms of entertainment in any or all of them.

"Second—All lodge and fraternal meetings and gatherings.

"Third—All penny arcades, merry-go-rounds and other or similar types of public amusement places.

"Fourth—All private dances, halls and social gatherings of whatsoever nature and kind.

"Fifth—That all church services, Sunday-schools and socials be discontinued.

"Sixth—That all Red Cross activities be eliminated with the exception of such war activities agreed upon by the Health Officer and Red Cross Committee.

"Seventh—That community singing be likewise discontinued.

"Eighth—That the Municipal Auditorium be closed during the prevalence of the epidemic.

"Ninth—That a permit must be secured from the Board of Health before any public meeting can be held.

"Tenth—That the Chief of Police be requested to act in accordance with this proclamation and see that the orders of the Board of Health are obeyed.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO BE CLOSED

"Eleventh—That all public and private schools and kindergartens be closed until further notice."

Section 9 of the resolution, it was explained by Dr. William C. Hassler, City Health Officer, will permit of the holding of Liberty loan drives.

Under the section closing cafes and cabarets, not even orchestra music will be permitted. Dr. Hassler told the Board members that from three to five weeks would be necessary to control the spread of influenza.

The resolutions were adopted after long discussion and a report by Dr. Hassler of 443 new cases yesterday and fifteen deaths. The total to date, he said, is 2867 cases and forty-eight deaths in San Francisco.

Dr. George E. Ebright, president of

(Continued on Page 2, Column 8.)

Board of Health Closes All Public Gathering Places

(Continued from Page 1)

the State Board of Health, announced his approval of the action of the board and asserted that the State board would adopt at least the first four sections of the resolution if not all of it at the board's meeting tomorrow, thus putting the order in effect throughout the State.

Dr. William C. Billings of the United States Department of Public Health also approved the course taken by the board. Dr. J. C. McGovern of South San Francisco, Dr. E. F. Jones, acting health officer of Oakland; a representative of the State Council of Defense and Lieutenant-Commander George Rothganger of the Twelfth Naval District also spoke.

All approved the restrictions and Dr. Jones of Oakland asserted that the Board of Health of that city was being urged to close public places and the schools by the Board of Education. William Sproule and Mayor James Rolph urged caution. Mayor Rolph, however, said he would back up the Health Board in whatever action it took, and said that he himself had just recovered from an attack of influenza. Representative theater, moving picture and cafe men urged the Board to take whatever steps were necessary, and asserted their willingness to close and bear the financial loss. A. J. Frey, assistant manager of the United States Shipbuilding Corporation, asserted that influenza was responsible for a reduction of output by the corporation 25 per cent on the Atlantic Coast. He said that in one shipbuilding yard in Los Angeles there were 740 cases reported between Thursday and Friday.

SALOONS MAY FOLLOW

Dr. Ebright of the State Health Board said he was unwilling to close schools where there could be proper medical supervision. Dr. Hassler asserted that the school nurses were now working in the various districts caring for influenza sufferers and insisted upon his recommendation. Dr. Jones of Oakland said there were 240 cases in Oakland and ten deaths thus far. Dr. McGovern of South San Francisco said all public places had been closed and that he contemplated similar action in regard to saloons.