

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CITY REOPEN THIS MORNING

Christmas Holidays to Be
Shortened to Offset "In-
fluenza Vacation"

EXTEND TERM TO FEB. 7

Proposal for Extension of
School Day Considered
by Educators

ALL the public schools in San Francisco will reopen this morning. So will the Normal School. The pupils have been enjoying an enforced "influenza vacation" since Friday, October 11, when the schools were closed by order of the Health Department. This means that they have had a six weeks' holiday, and in order to make up the deficit in the intellectual pabulum that should have been fed to their wits during that period, it will now be necessary to cut down the Christmas vacation and also to extend the educational term which generally closes at Christmas to February 7, 1919.

ONE WEEK VACATION

The Normal School will only have one week vacation—Christmas week. Work will resume on December 29, with New Year's day as a single and solitary holiday on Wednesday.

No apprehension of sleepy heads, as a locally recurrent phenomenon on January 2 of each year, was permitted to prejudice the educational authorities in their decision. Kindergarten, Normal and high school pupils all stand on the same footing as regards the dread outlook. They must be in their places at 9 A. M. on January 2 or miss the exalting consciousness of having entered dutifully upon their intellectual labors of the budding year.

At last Friday's meeting of the Board of Education Superintendent of Schools Alfred Roncovieri submitted a proposal for extending the school day by twenty minutes in the elementary schools and by forty-five minutes in the high schools.

ACTION POSTPONED

Action on this suggestion was postponed in order to give time for consultation with the high school principals and others concerned. It is probable, however, that the proposed extension will be adopted early in the new year.

"Personally I am not in favor of the immediate adoption of the measure," said Miss Agnes Regan of the Board of Education yesterday, "but it may be put into effect later with good results. It would mean bringing the children and the teachers to school at 8:45 in the morning instead of at 9 o'clock, and keeping some of them half an hour later than at present in the afternoon. By giving more time for preparation under supervision it would not overtax the pupils, and would materially help many who have not good facilities for study at home. They would have the school libraries at their disposal and other facilities that would tend to make their day's work lighter than if the same studies were attempted at home. It is part of a general movement throughout the State, and has met the favor of the high school girls who have adopted it."

EXTENSION NECESSARY

Superintendent Roncovieri said that some extension of the school hours is necessary if the pupils are not to be deprived of the full benefit of the educational courses now prescribed by law.

"Our legislators have been gradually extending the essential curriculum without extending the hours of study; and it now becomes a case of putting a quart into a pint measure. The loss of six weeks caused by the influenza accentuates the difficulty; and it becomes absolutely necessary to lengthen the school hours, if the pupils are to get through all the work."

As the public libraries were opened last week, San Francisco now again faces the future unmasked and in normal condition.