

OCT. DRAFT CALL HALTED BY INFLUENZA

Entrainment of 142,000 Between
Oct. 7 and 11 Held Up by Order
of Provost Marshal General

WASHINGTON, September 26.—Because of epidemics of Spanish influenza in army camps, Provost Marshal General Crowder to-night canceled calls for the entrainment between October 7 and 11 of 142,000 draft registrants.

During the twenty-four hours ending at noon to-day, 6,139 new cases of influenza in army camps had been reported to the office of the Surgeon General of the Army. One hundred and seventh deaths, resulting chiefly from pneumonia, following influenza, and 723 new cases of pneumonia also were reported.

CAMP KEARNEY REPORTS FIRST CASE OF DISEASE

Camp Kearney, Cal., and Camp Eustis, Va., to-day reported the presence of Spanish influenza for the first time.

Stamping out of Spanish influenza, which has extended to more than a score of army camps and many sections of the country, has been recognized by the government as a war measure.

Medical and nursing units today were mobilized in communities where the epidemic has gained considerable way under the general direction of a central committee representing the public health service, the army, the navy and the American Red Cross.

Immediate relief for localities where influenza has gone beyond control of the local authorities will be the main task of the committee, organized yesterday after word was received that in the East, and particularly Massachusetts conditions were serious.

It was explained that the principal relief will be afforded by units at home.

ONLY 13 CAMPS FREE FROM DREAD EPIDEMIC

When Camps Kearney, California, and Eustis, Virginia, were added to-day to the list of those where influenza has made its appearance, only thirteen camps were left free from the disease. The total number of cases of influenza in all camps was placed at 25,146 with 3,036 cases of pneumonia. One out of every four men at Camp Devens, Mass., has contracted influenza. It was announced and 10 per cent of the cases have developed into pneumonia.

In canceling the call for the entrainment of the draft registrants early next month General Crowder acted upon instructions from General March, chief of staff. Every State and the District of Columbia had been assigned quotas and the men were to have gone to practically all of the camps in the country. The

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OCTOBER DRAFT CALL IS HALTED BY SPREAD OF INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

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men probably will not be entrained until after the influenza epidemic has been checked.

It was said at the office of the surgeon general of the army tonight that every possible precaution is being taken in all camps to check the spread of the disease, but despite all measures it is believed the disease will run its course and probably spread to still other camps. Additional physicians and nurses have been sent to camps where the epidemic is most severe.

The greatest number of new influenza cases, 1,007, was reported today from Camp Rix. While Camp Devens reported fewer cases, pneumonia showed an increase there, 309 new cases and 53 deaths being reported.

Influenza is also on the increase among the civilian population, particularly in New England. The Federal Government has taken steps to co-operate with State and municipal authorities in combating the disease, and medical and nursing units are being mobilized in communities where the epidemic has gained great headway.

VACCINE TO FIGHT DREAD INFLUENZA

VACCINE to combat Spanish influenza is being rushed to San Francisco from the Rockefeller Institute, where it was discovered, according to an announcement made yesterday in this city by Dr. William C. Hassler, health officer. The vaccine is declared to be a preventive. The first to arrive will be sent to Goat Island for use among the sailors, while additional supplies will be distributed among the physicians of San Francisco.