

# THEATERS AND MOVIES CLOSED BY 'FLU' ORDER

All theaters in Illinois, including moving picture houses, will be closed today for an indefinite period.

The action was ordered last night by the executive committee of the emergency commission recently created to combat the influenza-pneumonia epidemic. It will be promulgated as a legally binding order of the state department of public health and will be enforced by local authorities throughout the state.

In Chicago, Health Commissioner Robertson this morning will send a letter to Acting Chief of Police Alcock asking for immediate enforcement.

## Public Schools Here Stay Open.

The commission also agreed to stop all lodge meetings and night schools, but the public schools having a system of medical inspection such as that in Chicago will not be closed.

In the announcement concerning the theaters the phrase "and all other places of public amusement" was used, but probably additional rulings will be required for its interpretation.

At the request of the commission Marquis Eaton, president of the Chicago chapter of the American Red Cross, announced the decision to the newspaper men, who had been waiting outside the closed doors for almost five hours.

## Decision Is Unanimous.

"The commission unanimously recommended," Mr. Eaton said, "that the

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# INFLUENZA ORDER SHUTS THEATERS, STARTING TODAY

## Movies and Lodge Meet- ings Closed; Schools Remain Open.

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Theaters, moving picture shows, and all other places of public amusement be immediately closed; that all lodge meetings be suspended until further notice and that night schools be discontinued.

They have considered the question of closing the public schools in Chicago and throughout the state, and have recommended that for the present those schools remain open which in effect, have adequate medical supervision, and that the teaching forces of those schools so remaining open shall cooperate to the fullest extent in carrying out the measures prescribed for them by the local health department to avoid a spreading of the epidemic.

### Specific Rulings Later.

Immediately Mr. Eaton was asked to interpret the phrase "and all other places of public amusement." He was asked whether it included the "dry cabinets," cafes, saloons, billiard rooms and clubs. He and members of the executive committee of the commissioner conferred informally. Chester E. Cleveland, first assistant corporation counsel for Chicago, who was present, also was consulted, but no further specific rulings were given.

The commission finally took the position that there could be no ruling in reference to a specified class until the exact question has been placed before the executive committee for decision.

### Members of Commission.

The members of the executive committee who adopted the program outlined were the following:

Dr. A. Augustus O'Neill, American Red Cross, chairman.

Dr. C. St. Clair Drake, state director of public health.

Dr. John Dill Robertson, health commissioner, Chicago.

Col. Henry I. Raymond, United States Army, Central department.

Lieut. Col. J. O. Cobb, United States Public Health service.

Dr. W. A. Evans, American Public Health association.

Lieut. Commander Owen J. Mink, chief surgeon of Great Lakes Naval station, was the only member of the committee who was absent.

### All Members in Session.

The meeting, which began at 3 in the afternoon and did not adjourn until about 8 o'clock in the evening, followed a closed session of the entire commission during the morning. At the earlier meeting all phases of the possible "closing" of Chicago and the rest of the state were discussed.

There was no announcement of the trend of opinion at the bigger session, but it was said there were advocates of the closing of both saloons and churches. The church question, it was reported, was put off by a decision that it can be taken up for final disposition later in the week, while the action taken was urged as necessary at once.

There was a manifest desire to avoid any unnecessary interference with the Liberty loan campaign. The closing of the theaters will check one phase of the work, but the way is open for meetings devoted exclusively to the loan or to similarly patriotic purposes. Similarly conventions, banquets, and similar gatherings so far have escaped the ban. Nothing has been said against football games and other outdoor events.

The effect of closing these amusements in Chicago brought a wide variance of opinion. Estimates of the financial loss to the owners and others involved differed extremely. As to the number of people thus thrown

torium. About \$80,000 worth of tickets were sold in advance of the opening last Sunday night, and it is expected that later dates will be announced for the remaining performances.

"The Crowded Hour," said by the first nighters to be the finest of the war plays, with a particular triumph for Miss Willett Kershaw, suspended at the Woods after one performance, and will await the abatement of the epidemic. "Rock-a-bye Baby," scheduled for the Garrick, will depart today for a tour to adjacent cities.

The meeting of the National Catholic War council, which opens at the Olympia today, will not be interfered with. Archbishop Mundelein is to make a brief address.

The convention of the Illinois State Federation of Labor at Bloomington has been indefinitely postponed, and the meeting of the International Association of Dairy Inspectors at Washington has been cancelled.

### "Tribune" Brings Mayo's Help.

Dr. W. H. Mayo of Rochester, Minn., wired Dr. A. Augustus O'Neill last night that Dr. Rosenau, of the famous Mayo institution, will leave for Chicago today for consultation with the Chicago influenza commission tomorrow.

"I read this morning in THE TRIBUNE," Dr. O'Neill said, "that the Mayos had developed a vaccine of great value in treating influenza. I wired to Dr. Mayo at once asking him if we could get some of the vaccine, or if we could have his help in consultation. His reply, sending Dr. Rosenau to us, is the direct result of THE TRIBUNE's story. It may save many lives."

### No Improvement in Chicago.

The Chicago situation yesterday, with 2,883 new cases of influenza and pneumonia reported during the preceding twenty-four hours and 418 deaths ascribed to those two diseases during the same period, failed to show improvement in spite of the fair weather.

At Camp Grant indications were the quarantine can be lifted next week. Only thirty-seven new cases developed, and 111 patients were discharged from the hospital. There were twelve deaths during the day.

out of work, there was some agreement. It was estimated the big theaters in the downtown district now pay salaries to 650 persons, including every one from star to chorus man.

In addition there are hundreds of employes of the movies, the number of those theaters being estimated as 500. All concerts and musical affairs also are affected.

### Police Benefit Hit.

One of the big shows hit is the Policemen's Benevolent association's presentation of "Oh, Boy" at the Audi-