

SCHOOLS OF COLORADO SPRINGS CLOSE TODAY; BOARD OF EDUCATION TAKES DEFINITE ACTION

Classes End This Afternoon for Indefinite Period; Teachers Outline Two Weeks Work for Students

Owing to the influenza epidemic, all schools in Colorado Springs will close at the end of the school day today for an indefinite period. This decision was reached by members of the board of education in regular session last night after the closing question had been discussed from all angles for more than four hours.

The board was guided in its opinion largely by a recommendation signed by 25 city physicians, which was received by the school board earlier in the day. The resolution to close the schools was presented and its adoption moved by Mrs. Willis R. Armstrong and seconded by William A. Hiller, the only dissenting vote being that of E. P. Shove.

Seek Official Cooperation.
The board also instructed Thomas J. Fox, secretary of the board, to send a letter to the board of health urging that school children be kept from other places of congestion.

All teachers in the schools today will be instructed to outline two weeks of work to their pupils before they are dismissed on their indefinite vacation. The resolution which was adopted last night follows:

Whereas, The members of the board of education have received a communication from 25 local physicians, advising them to close the schools; and,

Whereas, It is apparent to the board of education that this body of physicians is of the opinion that the assembling of children in the schools has an influence in the spreading of influenza and also because of the fact that the board of education realizes that under the present congested condition of the High school, adequate health supervision is impossible for that reason; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the High school as well as the grade schools of Colorado Springs be temporarily closed, beginning Friday morning, February 6.

The letter which will be sent to the board of health today reads: "The board of education considers comparatively futile to close the schools unless the school children are kept from other places of congestion."
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Salient Points of the Epidemic

The number of new cases reported at the office of the city health department yesterday was 132, as against 101 the day before.

There was also a slight increase in the number of pneumonia cases. The Observation hospital is nearly filled, and the new Emergency hospital will be opened today.

No general closing order is yet contemplated by the city, but Dr. O. R. Gillett, city health officer, urges that residents of the city voluntarily keep away from needless gatherings.

One more rural school in the county was closed yesterday, making eight.

Numerous meetings which were planned have been canceled.

Yesterday brought no promise of abatement of the influenza epidemic. The number of new cases reported at the city hall was slightly greater than the day before, totaling 122. There were 10 new cases of pneumonia.

The new emergency hospital at the Deaconess home will open today. It will be ready to receive patients this afternoon. A number of applications already have been made.

The organization of the hospital is to be as follows: Miss Anna Sampson, superintendent; J. W. Potter, to represent the county; Perry Bottr, the city; and G. W. Bierbauer, the Red Cross.

Avoid Public Gatherings.
Dr. O. R. Gillett, city health officer, has taken no step toward issuing closing orders, believing that under

25 PHYSICIANS SIGN

PETITION FOR ORDER

TO CLAMP DOWN LID

Action Follows Adoption of Resolution to Gain General Opinion of Doctors

SAY RESTRICTION TARDY

Cite Stock Show as Proof That Public Gatherings Spread Influenza Epidemic

A petition "favoring active and energetic measures for the control of the present epidemic of influenza" is now being circulated among the physicians of Colorado Springs in an effort to have the health authorities place a ban on public gatherings. The petition includes the statement that the general restriction should have been ordered one week ago. The names of 25 physicians had been signed to the petition at the time of its presentation to The Gazette for publication yesterday evening. The El Paso County Medical society will not officially consider the question of a general ban in Colorado Springs because of the influenza epidemic. Dr. C. E. Richmond, member

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GREAT VICTORY FOR

THE RUSSIANS OVER

BOLSHEVIK FORCES

ARCHANGEL, Feb. 4. — A wireless dispatch from Odessa

25 PHYSICIANS SIGN

PETITION FOR ORDER

TO CLAMP DOWN

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of the executive committee, said last night after conference with Dr. C. R. Arnold and Dr. G. B. Gilbert, members of the committee, that no meeting of the society would be held. It was thought, Dr. Richmond said, that the doctors should express their personal opinions and that the health authorities should act according to their best judgment.

The action was taken, following the adoption of a resolution Tuesday evening, in an effort to get a more general opinion of local physicians.

The petition and the names of signers follow:

The undersigned physicians and surgeons of Colorado Springs wish to be placed on record as favoring active and energetic measures for the control of the present epidemic of influenza and wish to urge that the health department and board of education take immediate steps to close the schools and other public gathering places until such time as this epidemic shows definite signs of abatement.

In view of the fact that influenza is recognized as one of the most contagious of diseases and is spread mainly by personal contact we feel the mere advice to the people to refrain from public gatherings is inadequate. There is definite evidence that the Denver Stock show contributed largely to the rapid spread of this epidemic thruout the state, which is a clear indictment if any were necessary against public gatherings during the epidemic of influenza.

We can see no reason for comparing the problems of such communities of Colorado Springs with those of the large cities of the east. This city is not handicapped by the unavoidable congestion and the large areas in which poverty and ignorance make the necessary measures for control impossible. In addition our weather conditions at this time of year are more favorable for an out-of-door life than can be found in eastern cities.

The physicians of this community are in better position to judge these local problems than the heads of health departments of large cities a thousand miles away.

We realize the pressure brought to bear on the health department by business and other affected interests and feel it our duty to present our protest against the passive measures now being taken.

Essential activities in this community must continue and a large incident of the disease will persist for a time in spite of all efforts possible to employ, but we strongly feel that the size and fatality of this epidemic can be definitely influenced by the measures advocated. Exactly as our influenza patients are advised to take to their beds during the brief interval of the disease, so we believe that the community should limit its brief periods of these epidemics.

The courage and spirit of the community is admirable and it should be understood that we are striking no note of apprehension by this statement. The disease prevalent at this time is apparently milder than that of last year but experience proves that an epidemic which spreads rapidly and widely frequently tends toward an increased virulence.

We feel that the measures advocated should have been taken a week ago.

G. B. WEBB,

F. BURTON GILBERT,

P. A. LOOMIS,

CHARLES ECTOR PATTERSON,

W. W. MULLIN,

L. W. BARTROW,

W. H. SWAIN,

L. H. M'KINNIE,

CHARLES O. GIESE,

S. W. SHAFER,

GEORGE A. BOYD,

H. C. MOSES,

FRANK T. STEVENS,

D. A. VANDERHOOF,

E. L. TIMMONS,

FRANK L. DENNIS,

Z. H. MCLAUSTON,

J. A. PATTERSON,

J. H. BROWN,

THOMAS S. JONES,

A. C. MAGRUDER,

FRANK W. BROWN.

Other doctors who signed last night were P. O. Hanford, C. R. Arnold and Beverly Tucker.