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INFLUENZA



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A MENACE TO THE
COUNTRY

COUNTRY

ORGANISED EFFORT TO COMBAT IT URGED

APPEAL BY THE MINISTER

2200 CASES IN CAMP

TWENTY-TWO DEATHS AT FEATHERSTON

THE TOLL IN THE CITY

The Minister of Public Health (the Hon. G. W. Russell) has addressed the following telegram to all Mayors and chairmen of town districts:—

In connection with the serious epidemic now raging in various parts of the Dominion, the want of an adequate number of medical men and trained nurses renders it of the utmost importance that the entire strength of the population should be enlisted for the purpose of meeting the danger which now so seriously menaces the country. The necessity of complete organisation for the purpose of securing the full assistance of volunteers makes it desirable that every Mayor and chairman of a town board in the Dominion should at once call a public meeting to organise voluntary assistance and ask for the enrolment of all women workers who are prepared to assist in combating the disease.

A registration bureau should be established either at the local hospital

or at the borough offices, at which should be registered all cases where there are patients in want of assistance in the way of nursing or medical attendance. For this purpose the town should be divided into blocks and committees of men or women or boy scouts or any other organisation should be secured for the purpose of visiting homes where there are sick persons, and thus securing all information that may be available. The local medical men should be strongly urged to work on the block system in order to avoid loss of time by overlapping, and lists of those who are sick should be handed out from time to time by the clerk or other official, who records the case as information is sent in. By these methods the efficiency of the medical service will be greatly increased and much valuable time will be saved.

For the purpose of providing food in homes where the family arrangements are disorganised, it is suggested that the Women's National Reserve or some similar organisation should undertake the cooking of food. Distribution should be made by volunteer labour by motor-car or in any other way that may be practicable. It is of special desirability for the purpose herein stated that the assistance of the St. John Ambulance Association, any women's social societies, and any other organisations should be obtained.

these distressing circumstances should hold nursing certificates. Any women who have had experience in nursing can obtain the necessary advice from medical practitioners as to the lines of action to be taken in nursing patients. I make the appeal to the manhood and womanhood of the country in this very serious emergency to help and to volunteer for the work as our brave soldiers have volunteered to fight. We now have brought to our homes an epidemic which has already carried off a number of people, and which, unless controlled by organisation and direct effort, is likely to greatly lessen the population of the country.

This is not a matter for trifling. It is a matter that demands the entire organised strength of the people of the Dominion, and as Minister of Public Health I make this appeal to Mayors and chairmen of town boards to set up organisations in their districts to help the Government. I have to remind them that they are each of them by law the health authorities for the district they control. On them rests the responsibility of seeing that the sanitary and hygienic conditions of the people in their districts are as nearly perfect as it is possible to make them.

The modus operandi of dealing with the epidemic herein suggested has already been adopted in Auckland, and has worked with great success.

EPIDEMIC STILL RAGING IN THE CAMPS

OVER 2000 CASES.

Influenza is still raging in the military camps. In Awapuni, Trentham, and Featherston there are about 2200 cases of the disease. Over 2000 of these are in Featherston Camp, where over one hundred of the cases are serious. There are eighteen serious cases in Trentham and four in Awapuni. The total deaths at Featherston from the epidemic number twenty-two.

Yesterday's health reports from the camps read:—

Featherston.

Paraded sick	270
Admitted to hospital	152
In hospital	2158
Serious cases	102
Total deaths	22

Trentham.

Paraded sick	163
Admitted to hospital	105
Influenza cases	105
Detained for observation	4
Remaining in hospital	1108
Influenza cases	980
Serious	18
Deaths	3

Awapuni.

Paraded sick	12
Admitted to hospital	4
Influenza cases	4
In hospital	86
Influenza cases	80

Serious cases, two in Palmerston North Hospital, both critical. One at Feilding serious. Two in camp, one improving, the other very serious.

Deaths in the Camps.

Deaths reported from Trentham Camp yesterday were:—

Major Sale.

88,228 Pte. R. Goodman.

R.Q.M.S. Watts.

Deaths reported from Featherston included:—

Sister Wishart.

Staff-Sergeant Boock.

Though the figures from the camps are high there is a falling off in the number of soldiers reporting sick, and it is hoped that the authorities have got the epidemic in hand. A number of men are now convalescent, and they are numbered with the hospital cases.

Virulence Appears to be Declining.

The Defence Minister (Sir James Allen) stated last night that the virulence of the influenza epidemic in Featherston Camp appeared to be declining. This was indicated by the lower temperature of the new cases.

The Minister mentioned, also, that there was no doubt the epidemic in its severe form had come from Auckland with the last draft of Auckland recruits.

DEATHS OF SOLDIERS

BRONCHO-PNEUMONIA FOLLOWING INFLUENZA.

Featherston Military Camp reports the following deaths of soldiers from influenza or broncho-pneumonia following upon influenza:—

Private John Wilson Filmer, of the

years of age. His next-of-kin is Mrs. Mary Filmer (mother), Onehunga.

Captain Alan Leslie Christie, N.Z.M.C., at 8.30 on Sunday. He was 31 years of age and single. His next-of-kin is Dr. Christie.

Private Charles Theodore White, A Company, C1 Camp, at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday. Deceased was 22 years of age and single. His next-of-kin is his mother, Mrs. E. White, Upper Moutere, Nelson.

Private Robert John Osbourne, A Company, Forty-sixth Reinforcements, at 7.30 a.m. on Sunday. Deceased was 30 years of age and single. His next-of-kin is Mrs. J. Osbourne (mother), Glenroy.

Private Henry Bernard Cave, of D Company, Forty-sixth Reinforcements, at 7.30 a.m. yesterday. Deceased was single and 28 years of age. His next-of-kin is his mother, Mrs. C. Cave, Claudlands, Hamilton.

Private William James Bron, A Company, Forty-sixth Reinforcements, at 8.15 p.m. on Sunday. Deceased was a married man, 27 years of age, and his next-of-kin is his wife, Mrs. Mary Bron, Addington, Christchurch.

Private Alfred Edmund Nairn, of E Company, C1 Camp, at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday. He was 32 years of age and married, his next-of-kin being his wife, Mrs. L. W. Nairn, Remuera, Auckland.

Trentham-Camp reports that R.Q.M.S. Charles Watts, of the Musketry Staff, died of influenza and pneumonia on Saturday. His next-of-kin is Mrs. R. Watts, Napier.

Leonard Wilson, of D Company, Forty-seventh Reinforcements, died at 5.30 a.m. yesterday. He was 28 years of age. His next-of-kin is Mr. T. Wilson (father), Auckland.

Private W. Clutterbuck, a discharged soldier, died at Hanmer Springs on Saturday, the cause of death being pneumonia. Next-of-kin is his wife, Mrs. W. H. Clutterbuck, Longridge, Kingston Crossing. He was 25 years of age.

C.Q.M.S. G. Goodrich died at Hanmer Springs on Sunday, at 8.30 p.m., the cause of death being influenza. Next-of-kin is Miss M. Turvey, Spreydon, Christchurch. Deceased was 24 years of age, and was an undischarged soldier.

OVER 100 CASES IN WELLINGTON HOSPITAL

SUPERINTENDENT AND NURSES

ILL.

At present there are over 100 influenza patients in the Wellington Hospital. Many of the cases are serious.

Four patients died on Sunday night and two yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Barclay, Medical Superintendent at the Wellington Hospital, is down with influenza.

About forty nurses are afflicted, and members of other branches of the staff also are suffering from the epidemic.

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS

A NUMBER STRICKEN DOWN.

The number of doctors in Wellington is quite inadequate to cope with the present serious outbreak of influenza, and, as other places in the North Island are suffering just as severely as Wellington, it is next to impossible to say how relief is to be obtained. The illness of Dr. Watt (District Public Health Officer) and Dr. H. Pollen (Port Health Officer) has already been noted. Other medical men who are affected include Drs. Holmes, Geisen, Elliott, Gilmer, and Barclay (Medical Superintendent at the Hospital). All these gentlemen have contracted the ailment in the course of their duties, which have been most onerous for over a week past. Other medical men are dead beat with the pressure. Many sufferers have been absolutely unable to obtain personal medical attention, and have had to be content with instructions from fagged doctors, who are working eighteen out of the twenty-four hours. One medical man, attending a case yesterday afternoon, stated that it was his fifty-fifth case of influenza (apart from other patients), which had claimed his attention yesterday.

DON'T RING THE HOSPITAL

pital board called at this office last evening and asked to be allowed to appeal through THE DOMINION to the public to refrain from ringing up the Hospital. The Hospital authorities give their word that in any serious case they will at once communicate with the patient's relatives.

Yesterday the Hospital telephones were so crowded with people ringing from without that it took the authorities an hour to communicate by telephone with a mother whose child was dying.

RUSH ON THE PHARMACIES

CHEMISTS DECIDE TO KEEP OPEN OF AN EVENING.

Pharmacists decided at a meeting held yesterday morning to keep their premises open of an evening until 8.30 o'clock instead of closing down at 6 p.m. as usual, in order to cope with the demands made upon them for drugs and disinfectants during the present epidemic.

Chemists in the city state that the rush of business during the last few days has been quite phenomenal, and huge stocks of drugs and disinfectants of all kinds are being purchased by the public, who are now fairly roused to the serious nature of the scourge. The chief medicaments in demand are camphor, formalin inhalent, ammoniated quinine, aspirin, and all manner of gargles and purgatives. Aspirin is in very active demand on account of its properties as a relief to the headache and fever which accompany the attack. A shortage of ammoniated quinine was experienced on Saturday evening, owing to the big run on stocks, but the situation was relieved by the prompt action of Messrs. Sharland and Co., who made an extra call on their manufacturing staff, and were able to place supplies where needed at a late hour on Saturday night.

INHALATION CHAMBERS RUSHED

USE OF THE SCHOOLS SOUGHT.

The one public inhalation chamber at the Town Hall is proving to be altogether inadequate for the demands of the moment. About eight hundred people were treated on Saturday, and so urgent was the demand that the chamber was kept going from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. On Sunday over seven hundred people passed before the preventive jet. Arrangements are being made to establish other chambers in different parts of the city to cope with the need of the moment.

In order that the tramway staff, the members of which have to mingle with the public all day long, might be treated, a car has been fitted with an inhalation plant, and will move from point to point in the city, in order to give the men preventive facilities by inhalation.

The Education Board was communicated with by the Mayor yesterday, who asked that a room in the Thorndon (Normal), Clyde Quay, Mount Cook, and Newtown Schools should be placed at the disposal of the city authorities for use as inhalation chambers until the epidemic has run its course.

The crowd which attended the Town Hall yesterday morning were at one stage formed up into a queue, but as the numbers increased they broke the line, swarming round the entrance and exit doors in such an undisciplined manner that the authorities had to send for a police constable to restore reasonable order.

CURTAILED TELEPHONE STAFFS

MODERATION IN THE USE OF THE WIRES URGED.

Half of the Telephone Exchange staff in Auckland are suffering from influenza, and about one-third of the Wellington staff have already succumbed to the great leveller. The work has, in consequence, been thrown on to a sadly depleted staff, who are kept going at high pressure to meet the requirements of callers.

It is regrettable that people with telephones are somewhat inconsiderate in the over-free use they are making of the wires in this time of stress. The admission of so many girls to offices is one of the chief causes of the trouble, many employers allowing their girl employees to make the freest use of the telephones to indulge in long conversations with their friends. Another cause is the use

some people make, quite unwittingly perhaps, of talking over the wires upon

subjects such as the prevailing epidemic and the armistice news, without a thought that most of such talk is merely gossip, and closes the wires in many instances to messages of graver import. The pressure on the staff at the local exchange yesterday was such that two of the girls were seized with hysteria and completely knocked out for the day.

The authorities respectively solicit heads of households and firms to assert some control over the indiscriminate use of telephones during the present crisis, and so spare the attenuated exchange staff as much as possible. It is believed that this can be done without interfering in any way with business, and possibly may mean a reform not altogether disadvantageous to those who pay the telephone charges.

PICTURE THEATRES CLOSED

ALSO OTHER PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

Yesterday morning a deputation of proprietors of picture theatres in Wellington waited on the Mayor (Mr. J. P. Luke) and expressed their desire to fall in with His Worship's suggestion that continuous picture houses should limit their activities to two sessions per day, and that between sessions and after the night programme the theatres should be thoroughly ventilated and fumigated.

The Mayor expressed his appreciation of the action of the theatre proprietors in falling in with his views.

Later in the day an overriding decision was come to by Cabinet, to the effect that all picture theatres must close altogether in Wellington and some other localities as a means of helping to check the spread of the prevailing epidemic. The position now is that for one week all theatres, moving-picture theatres, dancing halls, billiard saloons, concert rooms, shooting galleries, and other buildings or rooms used as places of public entertainment or amusement, all public and private schools, all places used for race meetings, shows, or exhibitions of any kind must be closed.

The Wellington health district affected includes the following hospital districts:—Taranaki, Hawera, Stratford, Paten, Wanganui, Hawke's Bay, Wairoa, Cook, Waipapa, Palmerston North, Waipawa, Wairarapa, Wellington, Nelson, Picton, Wairau.

On account of all places of amusement having to be closed the opening of the

Wellington Competition Society's competitions has been postponed to a date to be notified..

The above order will prevent the holding of the Wanganui Agricultural Show which was to have been opened to-morrow.

A concert by the pupils of Mr. and Mrs. Culford Bell arranged for this even-

ing at Lyall Bay has been indefinitely postponed on account of the prevailing epidemic.

On account of the prevailing epidemic having affected many of her pupils, Miss Dorothy Saunders had regretfully to postpone her dance recital, which was to have taken place at the Concert Chamber last evening.

TRAMWAY STAFF REDUCED BY ONE-THIRD

Twenty men from the a.m. and fifty-one men of the p.m. shift on the municipal tramways knocked up yesterday through the inroads of the prevailing epidemic. This means that practically a third of the working staff for the cars are out of action for the time being, and the services, particularly during the rush hours, had to suffer considerably yesterday, and most probably will be very seriously affected to-day.

As a matter of fact the service has never been normal since the recent hold-up, owing to defections on account of illness and other circumstances, and the overcrowding during rush hours is at present as bad as it was during the recent wages trouble. Should the epidemic continue to spread further curtailments will be necessary. The situation is abnormal, and the public must summon up sufficient philosophy to grin and bear it.

SHIPPING SERIOUSLY HAMPERED

MANY SEAMEN AMONG THE SUFFERERS.

The port of Wellington is still seriously affected by the epidemic, and many fresh cases of influenza are reported. Full crews are wanted for several vessels. In the meantime, disinfectants are being freely used on ships, and the officers and crews are daily visiting the inhalation chambers.

At the calls for labour on the wharves yesterday morning there was no response for engagement to unload a cargo of chaff from the Blackball Coal Company's Ngatoro, which arrived from Lyttelton on Sunday morning, owing to the fact that three cases influenza had broken out on board. Several other ships are also similarly affected.

It is probable that the National Disputes Committee will to-day receive the

report of the three doctors who are conferring with regard to the infection of waterside workers who unload cargo from ships affected with influenza. The committee, which represents both employers and employees, will then try to reach a settlement.

A telegram received from Nelson yesterday says that the Union Company's small steamer Karu returned to port in the afternoon owing to sickness on board. She left Nelson early on Sunday morning for Greymouth.

PRECAUTIONS AT THE HUTT

INHALATION CHAMBER BEING PROVIDED.

The Hutt Borough Council last night decided to use a room in the Town Hall as an inhalation chamber. The necessary apparatus is to be obtained immediately, and the chamber should be available to the public to-morrow. Disinfectant can be obtained at the council offices at cost price. The Mayor (Mr. E. P. Rishworth) said that every precaution was being taken in the borough to combat the epidemic. A complaint was made in regard to the conditions prevailing in the suburban trains. It was alleged that precautions promised were not being fully taken, and that the carriages on

the early morning trains reeked of smoke from the previous night. Inquiries were made by a reporter, and it was stated by Departmental officials that the trains were fumigated twice daily.

LITTLE CHANGE IN AUCKLAND

By Telegraph—Press Association

Auckland, November 11.

Officers in control of measures for combating the epidemic at the Town Hall report that the position is about the same as yesterday. The applications for assistance totalled 380, which shows a falling off. As the result of the organisation by block committees, the Deputy-Mayor is of opinion that the climax has been passed, though there is still need for more volunteer helpers.

Passengers by the steamer Niagara, which arrived from Sydney last night, had to undergo thorough inhalation treatment before landing. Only passengers for New Zealand were allowed to land.

Dr. Frengley, Chief Health Officer, urges that public peace demonstrations be postponed till the epidemic has abated, in consequence of interference with relief work, and to avoid disturbing invalids.

During the prevalence of the widespread and severe form of influenza in Auckland there will be no public services, either on Sundays or week days, in the Catholic churches of the city. The churches will, however, be open daily for private Mass, Confession, Holy Communion, and the other Sacraments and visits of devotion. Catholics in Auckland are dispensed from abstinence from flesh meat on Fridays while the epidemic continues.

There is a more hopeful note in today's reports of the organisations fighting the epidemic. Many patients are recovering. At the same time helpers are still urgently called upon, and it is emphasised that efforts must not be slackened. A serious phase of the trouble is that many of the dead lie unburied for days at times. Dr. Frengley is issuing a notification that burials must be carried out without delay. It is expected

that measures will be adopted to ensure this.

night that the epidemic showed no signs of abating, and all cases being admitted to the various hospitals were of a very serious character. At request, Dr. Frengley had transferred Dr. Hughes, district health officer, to the Hospital Board's offices, and the work of the Health Department's doctors was being directed by Dr. Hughes from that point. Mr. Wallace mentioned that the eight or nine doctors now at the disposal of the Health Department were doing very good work, but all efforts to get the other medical men to work under some scheme to prevent overlapping had so far failed.

DREADFUL REVELATIONS

CONDITIONS IN AUCKLAND.

"A terrible feature of the epidemic relief work is the revelation of the dreadful conditions that exist in the poorer quarters of the city," said a prominent worker to an Auckland "Herald" representative. "Hitherto we have flattered ourselves that slum conditions were unknown in fair Auckland. I should like some people to have had a glimpse of certain things with which we have grown familiar in the last few days. We have come across whole families herded together in two rooms, devoid of any of the ordinary decencies of life, let alone its comforts and luxuries. We have found four sick children lying together in one wretched bed, with no proper bedding, and no food in the house. This epidemic is revealing terrible flaws in our social conditions, and when it is all over the authorities will have to face up to the position, and make most thorough investigation into these sad conditions."

Mr. C. T. Haynes, chief sanitary officer of the city, stated that the spread of the epidemic was not due to the city being in an insanitary condition. Generally speaking, he said, the city was in a good sanitary state, though isolated cases of bad sanitary conditions no doubt existed. These instances might contribute to the severity of the malady in the immediate neighbourhood, but the widespread prevalence of the complaint was sufficient indication that its cause and spread had to be looked for in other directions.

"A TURN FOR THE WORSE"

EPIDEMIC SPREADING RAPIDLY IN CHRISTCHURCH.

By Telegraph.—Press Association.

Christchurch November 11.

CHRISTCHURCH, NOVEMBER 11.
The influenza epidemic has taken a turn for the worse here. Several cases of pneumonia following influenza were reported yesterday, and the epidemic appears to be spreading rapidly.

Seventeen tramway employees were absent from duty yesterday, while five more collapsed during the day.

Many of the Carnival Week visitors have contracted the malady, and some of the chief hotels in the city resemble hospitals.

The Public Health Department has installed an inhalation chamber, which was visited by about 1500 people yesterday, while there has been a steady stream since an early hour this morning.

The Health Department has closed all the schools, public and private, also the picture theatres and other places of entertainment.

During the illness of Dr. Barclay, superintendent of the Wellington Hospital, Dr. C. Morris, of the Victoria Ward, is acting as chief medical officer of the hospital.

Energetic steps to cope with the influenza epidemic in the Queen Mary Hospital for Convalescent Soldiers at Hanmer were taken immediately the disease appeared there. Two soldiers, however, have died there—3/117 Quartermaster-Sergeant G. Goodrich and 3/1005 Corporal W. G. Clark, discharged soldiers; Luigi Mason, a Maori, whose next-of-kin lives at Blaketown, near Greymouth, died in Christchurch Hospital this morning from influenza.

Dr. Chesson's order closing theatres, public halls, and billiard rooms will operate for one week. If necessary it will be extended. It applies to all large centres in the Canterbury health district. These include Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Ashburton, Waimate, Timaru, Geraldine, Hokitika, Reefton, Westport, and Greymouth. Up to the present over thirty cases of influenza have been admitted to the hospital for treatment.

Shortages of staffs through influenza are interfering with the telegraph service more than any trouble with the wires. It has been found necessary to cut down the letter deliveries in all parts of the city to one a day, owing to the depletion of the staffs through influenza. For the same reason a reduced tramway service is being brought into operation.

DANNEVIRKE IN THE GRIP

WHOLE FAMILIES DOWN.

By Telegraph.—Press Association.

Dannevirke, November 11.

The Dannevirke district is in the grip

The Dannevirke district is in the grip of the prevailing epidemic. Of its four medical men, two are now suffering from the complaint. One death has occurred, the victim being Norman White, second son of Mr. Kinross White, managing director of the North British Freezing Works, Napier. The deceased was on a visit to Dannevirke.

Whole families are down, and the staffs of mercantile firms are sadly depleted.

With a few exceptions the majority of the cases are not exceptionally severe.

THIRTY-THREE STRICKEN.

By Telegraph—Press Association.

Dunedin, November 11.

Thirty-three members of the staff of the Dunedin Hospital are down with influenza. There were forty-three influenza patients at 3.30 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

CHILDREN'S GATHERINGS PROHIBITED.

As a precautionary measure the Government has prohibited all gatherings of children in connection with armistice celebrations or for any other purpose. This decision means that the programme for Children's Day has been vetoed, and, that being so, other arrangements will be made for the children to fittingly celebrate when the general health of the community is normal.

The Mayor states that several ladies have rung up offering their services to households which may be afflicted and have not help at their command. Such applicants were referred to Miss McLean, of the Public Health Department, who has the matter in hand.

No excursion trains are to be run in connection with peace celebrations anywhere owing to the prevailing epidemic.

On the suggestion of the city engineer (Mr. W. H. Morton) disinfectants are to be sprayed along the side-channels of the principal thoroughfares by means of water-carts, in order to disinfect as far as possible, the dust and debris liable to accumulate there.

The Police Force is being inconvenienced by influenza attacking the members of the force, and this is being reflected in the work of the Magistrate's Court. Yesterday the cases against John William Bailey, charged with the theft of two drums of sheep-dip, the property of the Wellington Harbour Board, and William Smith, charged with the theft of £4 18s., a metal watch, and pocket-knife could not be proceeded with because certain police officials could not attend to give evidence. Both cases were remanded for a week.

The Mayor (Mr. J. P. Luke) states that he wrote to the Wellington Educa-

tion Board, advising that body to close the schools as a precaution against the spread of the epidemic, as he considered that the first measure in such an emergency was to safeguard the health of the children by removing the danger that exists through close association in the classrooms. There may, he pointed out, be children affected, who, in their zeal to meet the examination tests pending, would attend school though not feeling quite themselves, and so become a source of infection to others. The examinations were important, but not so much so as the general health of the community. As to assembling the children to take part in the armistice

celebrations, the case was rather different, and he did not at present think there was any necessity to make any alterations in the published programme, as the children were to assemble in the open air, and would have as much fresh air as they would anywhere.

As a matter of fact, the chairman of the board (Mr. Thos. Forsyth) and the secretary (Mr. G. L. Stewart) got into touch with some of the members of the executive on Sunday evening, and at a late hour decided to take the step announced in yesterday's DOMINION—to close the schools until further notice.

Even at distant Awanui, far away in the northernmost district of Auckland Province, the influenza epidemic is running its course. The authorities of the Post and Telegraph Department were advised yesterday that six out of nine of the operators were hors de combat with influenza.

When the Moana arrived in Wellington from San Francisco, some six months

ago she had some thirty cases of influenza on board, fortunately not of a very serious nature, yet bad enough to cause some anxiety on board. The epidemic was raging at Raratonga when the vessel touched there on the way up, and none save passengers for the shore were allowed to leave the ship. Even the Government Health Officer was laid aside with the ailment. There was no epidemic at Tahiti, so the Moana passed into San Francisco a "clean ship." On her present trip down it was reported at Raratonga that the influenza trouble was at an end. It had caused between 30 and 40 deaths. The Moana arrived in Wellington absolutely free of the epidemic, to find the country sadly afflicted and steamers laid up through the ravages of the epidemic.

The epidemic continues to play havoc with the members of the Police Force. A total of 33 men in the city and suburbs are at present suffering from the malady. An improvement has been reported in the condition of Detective-Sergeant Cox, who suffered a serious relapse over the week-end. Detective Carney, who has been bad for some days, is still confined to his bed. An inhalation apparatus has been installed at the Central Station, and each man is required to go through the process each day.

In one branch of the Defence Department influenza has made its presence felt very severely. Yesterday fifty of the staff were off duty, suffering from the disease. Measures are being taken to fight the trouble, and a chamber for the treatment of those who remain on duty has been improvised.

The Wellington Technical College has been closed for day and evening scholars until further notice. The Wellington College, Girls' College, and Scots College have also been closed owing to the prevailing scourge.

The meeting convened by the Wellington Milk Vendors' Association for last evening was postponed owing to the epidemic of influenza. For the same reason some of the city bakers are announcing the disorganisation of their bread deliveries.

Word was passed round in some of the Government Departments yesterday

that no objection would be taken if the male staff smoked at their work, an instruction which was taken immediate advantage of by those who enjoy the burning of the fragrant weed.

Yesterday the Minister of Public Health dispatched to Now Plymouth, Wanganui, Napier, and Palmerston North equipment for the establishment of inhalation chambers. Additional inspectors are being secured by the Public Health Department. In making this announcement, the Minister of Public Health mentioned that there was considerable mortality, especially among the natives, in various parts of the Wellington district.

The Public Health Department advertises in this issue a list of precautions and instructions against the influenza epidemic.

No operations will be performed at the Wellington Hospital on Wednesdays for tonsils and adenoids until further notice.

The organisers of the emergency hospitals fitted up at the Alexandra Hall, Abel Smith Street, and the s.s. Takapuna at the Clyde Quay Wharf, will be glad to receive gifts of old linen, lemons, and oranges.

The Sydney Street Soldiers' Club has been taken over by the Health Department for use as an emergency hospital as from to-day.

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