

PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA.

The pneumonic influenza epidemic is still raging.

The number of cases in Victoria has reached over 1600.

South Australia has been declared an infected State.

A suspected case is under observation at Goulburn.

On Tuesday afternoon Dr. Belli delivered an address to the V.A.D. at the Town Hall.

Smoking was permitted in Melbourne courts as a preventative of pneumonic influenza.

Sydney is practically deserted each evening after 7 o'clock.

The death rate in Fiji as a result of the epidemic is 5 per cent of the population.

The Maclean Council is demanding that all steamers entering the Clarence be subject to examination, at Iluka.

Included in the seven deaths reported at Melbourne on Wednesday was that of Dr. Eliza May Sweet, aged 37.

Passengers by the New England and Northern Motor Co's. cars submitted to examination at Lismore on Tuesday.

All liquor bars within the County of Cumberland were ordered to be closed from 6 p.m. on Tuesday until further notice.

Mr. Doyle, deputy-leader of the Labor party, suggests that bar guards should be appointed instead of closing the hotels.

Statistical information indicates that the present influenza epidemic has been quietly raging in the Commonwealth for a year or two.

The Newcastle City Council has asked the Government to isolate Newcastle from Sydney. There is one true case in the coal city.

The Federal Government is desirous that all Queenslanders at Tenterfield should return to Sydney and then proceed home by water.

The Minister for Health appeals to the sporting sense of the people to wear masks. If they do not respond other methods will have to be taken.

The Mayor of Coraki has telegraphed to the Department urging the medical inspection at Ballina and Byron Bay of vessels coming from Sydney.

Despite what has been said in Victoria regarding the efficacy of masks, it is remarkable that not a single Board of Health officer adopted one for use.

A public meeting at Byron Bay protested against the arrival of passengers by either land or water from Sydney during the prevalence of the epidemic.

There were further inoculations at the Drill Hall on Wednesday afternoon, when a fair number presented themselves. Dr. Belli will again be in attendance on Monday afternoon.

All passengers from Tenterfield who intend going on by train from Lismore are medically examined at the Railway Institute. The trains wait for passengers undergoing examination.

Two cases of pneumonic influenza, one of the patients being a young man and the other an elderly man, were admitted to Albury Hospital on Monday, and the latter died the same night.

It is pointed out that while persons can be prosecuted and fined for not wearing masks in trams and trains, those summoned for not wearing them in the streets must be committed for trial.

Three railway employees who visited Tenterfield from Brisbane to participate in a rifle match evaded the border patrols and returned to Toowoomba. They were arrested for, evading the quarantine order.

The question of accommodation of those stricken with the disease is causing concern in Melbourne. All the hospitals report that they are filled, and some other arrangements will have to be made for housing patients.

Smokers are being treated in Sydney as if they were not wearing masks. Most of the persons fined for not wearing masks in Sydney were occupants of tramcars, and were smoking with the masks hanging under their chins. The fines ranged from 15s to 50s.

A particularly sad case is reported from one of the Melbourne suburbs. A young woman, whose marriage was fixed for Saturday next, was seized with pneumonic influenza and died last Sunday night. She was buried in her bridal robes.

The committee at Lismore has asked the picture show proprietors to close their places of amusement, and also people not to attend lodge or similar meetings. It was decided to examine all people going to Lismore by any means of travel.

At a meeting of South Grafton Council one of the aldermen drew attention to next week's races at Armidale as a means of possible contagion. People returning to the district, he argued, should be subjected to strict medical examination.

The president of Lismore Agricultural Society offered the use of the grounds and buildings in the event of an outbreak in that town, but the sanitary inspector informed him that the authorities had decided to use other places which probably were more suitable.

The Queensland Government has decided to take action against two women reported to have crossed the border at Hebel. The quarantine officer stated that all who had crossed from N.S.W. were under arrest, totalling six persons in all, who have been isolated.

The president of Dorrigo Shire and the secretary to the Coff's Harbour Chamber of Commerce both deny that the case of illness at Nana Glen (Bucca Creek) was diagnosed as pneumonic influenza. The doctor was satisfied that it was not a true case and released the patient and all contacts.

Queensland is still clean. A quarantine area is being established at Tweed Heads. Six soldiers broke quarantine at Fort Lytton and went to Brisbane by motor car, but all were arrested and returned. Trouble is expected when 1000 soldiers arrive next week.

It now transpires that a cable from Melbourne appeared in the Christchurch (N.Z.) press at the beginning of December, stating that several typically pneumonic influenza cases had occurred in Melbourne hospital. This is prima facie evidence that influenza existed in Victoria in December although not reported until January 28.

An exciting interlude occurred at Tenterfield. A man evidently determined to cross the border. He sneaked out of the town, and impressing a stray horse into service, rode across

country for the border fence. However, he was seen, and an exciting chase ensued, but he was eventually stopped and turned back into Tenterfield.

At a meeting of the health and bylaws committee of the Sydney City Council, Ald. Meagher, in a reference to the Governments order to wear masks, was not enthusiastic about the idea. In fact, he stated that he preferred the anti-toxin of nicotine to the disadvantages of carbon-dioxide generated by the masks.

Queensland and N.S.W. Governments have arranged to have a quarantine area established at Tenterfield, and those people already there will have to submit to the necessary period of isolation. Drafts of Queenslanders will be sent on from Sydney and other centres as expeditiously as accommodation can be found for them at Tenterfield.

The State Government is considering the question of proclaiming a moratorium to ease the situation for persons and firms whose businesses have been closed by Government order. These include theatres, picture shows, bands, hotels, etc. In addition, there is the question of providing relief for employees out of work.

All the medical officers in Melbourne agree that an extraordinary feature of the cases admitted to the hospitals is the fact that the patients are as a general rule young adults, old people and infants, not having been affected in anything like the number that might have been expected. The ages in more than two-thirds of the cases reported run from 25 to 50.

A message from Brisbane states that because of a considerable falling off in the traffic, the Acting Commissioner has decided to reduce the Sydney mail from a daily service to three times a week. It is understood that the mails will be brought through daily, but on the days that the Sydney mail is not running they will be received later than usual.

Dr. Earle Page writes to Grafton papers pointing out that "the Sydney press objects most violently, and justly, too, against the callous disregard of Melbourne for Sydney's safety, yet ignores the fact that Sydney is treating the country districts of New South Wales in the same fashion". He suggests that a united protest should go in from the whole of N.S.W., insisting on the immediate quarantining of the County of Cumberland.

The N.S.W. Cabinet has informed Mr. Watt that they are desirous of co-operating with the Federal Government to endeavor to suppress the epidemic. The intimation added "Victoria by its neglect to use due diligence to have itself declared an infected State by the Common

wealth has allowed that infection to become widely distributed among its population, and by its delay to act in terms of agreement has also brought infection to this State”.

Notwithstanding the Government's orders prohibiting the holding of meetings the electric light committee and the health and bylaws committee of the Sydney City Council sat for the usual fortnight's business. Most of the aldermen wore masks — on the back of the neck — and all, with the exception of two, smoked pipes contentedly or puffed a cigar in their desire to fight the microbe.

Lengthy and at times acrimonious discussion ensued in the Grafton Council, instigated by Ald. Ferguson, who questioned the Mayor as to what had been done to prevent the disease from coming to the district. The Mayor refused to listen to aspersions on the work of the Health Committee. A motion was eventually passed asking the Government for power to prevent persons coming from infected areas.

Tenterfield 'Star' writes: One of the passengers to Tenterfield was a man named Noonan, who is a policeman in the Queensland police force. This man is a brother of the policeman Noonan who was admitted to the Coast Hospital with influenza last week. He resided close to Randwick Hospital before coming up this way. He left Tenterfield a couple of days after arriving here, and, we understand, is now in Glen Innes.

At a meeting at Maclean it was stated that the Government Medical Officer had received instructions to medically examine passengers travelling to the Clarence by steamer on two days of the week. Grafton suggests that the passengers should be examined at Maclean, which has aroused the ire of the Lower Clarence people, who urge that they be examined at Iluka, the first port of call. The meeting decided to take action to have travellers by car also medically examined.

Subsequent to the meeting on Wednesday afternoon at the Town Hall, the Mayor of Casino received a reply from the Minister for Health in answer to a request to give the local authority power to have medically examined all passengers travelling from Sydney to the rivers by either steamer, train or car. The Minister stated that he did not deem such a course necessary at the present juncture, but if an outbreak occurred he would seriously consider the request. It was decided by the Vigilance Committee to repeat the request to

the Minister, as from the above reply it is apparent the Minister misunderstands the request.

A well-known resident of Bathurst has received, a letter from a relative at Wellington, N.Z which discloses some remarkable features of the great scare caused by the recent influenza epidemic in the Dominion. Every victim, the writer explained, was sewn up in canvas before burial. In one case a father followed the supposed dead body of his son to a burial place, and when the body was about to be consigned to the grave he noticed a movement. The result was that the canvas was cut away, and the son sat up. Further, the "dead" man has since recovered, and to-day is as well as ever.

Reference is being made in almost every paper to the false rumors that are being spread about by thoughtless persons, which adds considerable alarm to the community. It is a pity that these scare mongers cannot be dealt with in a salutary manner. Quite a scare was created in Casino on Monday morning by rumors to the effect that there were two cases at the showground and several more to come during the day, and also that deaths had occurred at Grafton, Ballina and Lismore. These were all unfounded. At the meeting on Tuesday evening there was positive assurance that the Bucca Creek case was one of pneumonic influenza, while as a matter of fact the case had never been diagnosed as influenza and the patient and the contacts had been sent to their homes two days before.

Dr. Earle Page was re-elected Mayor of South Grafton. The Lismore Council has invited Dr. Page to deliver an address in that town on the Gorge electrical scheme. No decision has yet been reached concerning the office of Governor-General of Australia, but it is generally believed that Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson desires and will retain it. The mystery surrounding the great bush fire in Megalong Valley has been solved. James Davies, 18 years of age, was charged at Katoomba Police Court with starting bush fires on January 18. James Anderson, a selector in the Valley, gave expert evidence as to the damage caused. Over a thousand acres of grass was destroyed, and 14 men fought the flames for a week, but saved little. On account of the boy's youth the magistrate said he would be lenient. Davies was fined £5, with 19s costs, or in default two months' imprisonment.