

INFLUENZA SCOURGE

Increased police vigilance is to be exercised with a view to arresting those taking undue advantage of the relaxed mask conditions. Mr. Fitzgerald, Minister for Health, has replied to critics who say the Government is actuated by panic in the measures now taken to combat influenza. He says he decided two months ago to adopt these measures because they had been found successful in fighting the disease in other countries.

Twelve additional cases of pneumonic influenza were reported in the city and suburbs on Saturday and Sunday. Cases reported in this State now total 165, six deaths. One of the cases is classified as dangerously ill.

There were 33 deaths and 234 fresh cases in Victoria during the last two days. The total deaths in Victoria now number 343, and total cases 3509.

It transpires that the suspected case at Ballina was not pneumonic influenza. After a period of isolation the patient was discharged.

Sydney, Tuesday.

Twenty fresh cases were diagnosed in New South Wales yesterday. The total for the State is now 138.

Twenty-nine deaths occurred in Victoria yesterday, while 186 fresh cases were reported. Victoria's total cases to date number 3595, with 372 deaths.

It is understood that a reduction in the quarantine period on the Victorian border to 96 hours is being considered.

A fresh case is reported from Adelaide.

Mr. Fitzgerald, minister for Health has received answers to his recent messages from South Africa, San Francisco and New Zealand. The South African Minister states the cases there totalled 500,000 whites and 2,000,000 others. The deaths totalled 11,700 Europeans and 127,000 others. The British Consul at San Francisco stated the total cases there were 45,000

with 3000 deaths. The decline of cases was coincident with the wearing of masks. The Acting-Premier of New Zealand stated to-day that the number of cases was undeterminable owing to a number of slight cases not being reported. The number of deaths officially reported was 5990. The period of the epidemic was about seven weeks, and the highest infectivity was at the end of the second week.

The Solicitor-General of New Zealand expressed the opinion that the compulsory closing of businesses through the epidemic does not affect the obligation on the part of the employer to pay wages. The question will be the subject of a test case.

A Commission of Inquiry into the late influenza epidemic in New Zealand has opened.

The Auckland Tramway Company has agreed to the tramway men's demands for increased wages, but will pass on the difference to the public.

A man named Donaghy, who was admitted to the Coast Hospital on Sunday, died this morning from pneumonic influenza. Four new cases were also reported, the patients coming from Bronte, Canterbury, Dulwich Hill and Hornsby. There were only four additional death in Melbourne hospitals up to 10.30 this morning, and very few new cases are reported.

Mr Fitzgerald commented severely today upon the action of the Supreme Court Judges who sat in the Banco Court yesterday without masks. He said he was amazed at Judges taking upon themselves to disobey the Masking law.

When the Full Court assembled today the Chief Justice stated he had received a communication from the Attorney-General stating that Judges while sitting in Court were exempt from the wearing of masks, but it requested that counsel, when unmasked in Court, should be a reasonable distance from each other. It is believed the Victorian Cabinet will tomorrow decide to re-open hotels.