

## ACTION OF HEALTH COMMITTEE IN CLOSING SCHOOLS AND THEATRES ACCOUNT EPIDEMIC UNWARRANTED

### City Given Undesirable Publicity Because of Ill-Considered Action

### NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

### Small Number of Cases of Mild Rash Excites Doctors and City Officials to Take Harmful Action

The people of Alexandria have been needlessly alarmed, the city has secured undesirable advertising all over the country, the merchants have lost thousands of dollars of trade from surrounding counties, the schools have been closed just at examination time, the most important period of the entire school year, and damage in every direction has been done as the result of the action of the health committee of city council in taking their drastic action of Friday and Saturday in connection with the "so-called" scarlet fever epidemic.

Alexandria has no scarlet fever epidemic, there is no cause for alarm and the injury that has been done was without warrant of law.

Despite the efforts on the part of some people to swell the number of cases of the "so-called" scarlet fever, and the exaggerated statement which have been made by some members of the health committee the total number of cases reported to the health office at 11 o'clock this morning was 33. Up to Saturday there had been 26 cases reported and today's mail brought in 7 more. Of these seven notices two were dated June 1st and two June 2 while one doctor anticipated by dating one notice June 6th. This should put a complete end to the silly talk of several hundred cases and will also answer the statement of one member of the health committee that there was "40 cases of scarlet fever in Rosemont."

The health committee held a meeting on Friday night and two meetings on Saturday. At the first meeting there was present Alderman Maurice Wilkins, chairman, Aldermen George I. Robinson, and City Councilman Taylor Burke. Dr. E. A. Gorman, city health officer, was present and the situation was gone over with the result that the committee decided to close the schools and also the moving picture theatres. Chief Goods notified the theatres Friday night that after the performance on that night they would not be permitted to reopen.

The second meeting of the committee was held on Saturday afternoon and they adjourned over until Saturday night when they invited a number of doctors to be present.

At this meeting Councilman Brockett was present. Among those who attended this meeting were Drs. William M. Smith, president of the Virginia State Board of Health, Dr. Hugh McGuire, Dr. Llewellyn Powell, Dr. S. B. Moore, Dr. Klipstein and Dr. Delaney. It was manifest from the beginning that the doctors could not agree on any subject connected with the purposes of the meeting. They were unable to agree on the cause of the outbreak, they could not agree that it was scarlet fever and they could not agree upon the necessity of closing the schools and theatres.

Dr. E. A. Gorman, city health officer, reiterated his statement that there was no need of alarm and declared that from the commencement he had seen no need of closing the public schools. He said in closing the schools one of the best methods of locating and keeping track of the spread of the disease was taken away. Dr. Gorman said that if the committee adhered to their former decision in ordering the schools closed he also favored closing the churches and all places where the public gathered.

Dr. William M. Smith, was the most outspoken in his opinion that the necessity did not exist for the radical measures which had been

taken by the health committee. He said that he had examined 12 cases and that he did not believe that they were scarlet fever. He said that those who were ill had been taken with a sore throat, followed by a rise in temperature and a little rash which disappeared in 48 hours leaving no unpleasant consequence. He said that in his practice he had never encountered anything similar to the disease.

Dr. Klipstein said that he had several cases of genuine scarlet fever but that he did not think it was necessary to close the schools.

Dr. Moore was opposed to closing the schools and thought the cases very light.

Drs. McGuire, Delaney and Powell were strongly of the opinion that the health committee had taken the right action and that the cases of the disease which they had examined were scarlet fever cases.

After the discussion by the doctors the committee decided to adhere to their former action but refused to close the churches as had been suggested by Dr. Gorman who wanted everything closed if the schools were to close.

The action of the committee was not put in writing nor were any formal notices given to any one as required by the state law when there are epidemics. There is a serious question as to the authority of the health committee to take the action that they did. They are given power by the state law to make reasonable rules and regulations to prevent the spread of disease provided these regulations are printed and posted in accordance with the law.

Their action in having the police department close up the moving picture theatres was without warrant of law as the mayor is the only person who can issue orders to the police department and Mayor Fisher denied that he had been consulted had given any orders to the police.

As the facts of the closing spread over Alexandria today and the people began to realize what unnecessarily severe measure had been taken the health committee came in for all kinds of censure and they had but few supporters. Several other doctors expressed themselves of the opinion that the health committee was wrong. Dr. Warfield physician to the post could see no reason for the drastic action and Dr. Jones said that the cases he had seen were very mild and that there was no reason for alarm.

Mayor Fisher started a little investigation of his own to find out the authority of the health board for their action and he will probably be heard from tomorrow.

The Retail Merchants Association will hold a special meeting tonight at 8 o'clock to consider the situation, which President Schwarzmann termed as "outrageous."

Th management of the Richmond and Surprise theatres issued an appeal today to the health committee which is published in full in another column. If this appeal does not have the desired effect the management of the theatres will probably take legal action tomorrow that they may re-open their doors.

Bad results of the scare are heard on all sides. A number of employees of Washington department stores residing in Alexandria were sent home this morning when they went to work because of the publicity given the "epidemic"; the Washington Knights Templar who had expected to come to Alexandria yesterday to attend the Ascension Day services of Old Dominion Commandery gave up their trip and published an advertisement in the Washington Post that the trip had been called off because of the "scarlet fever epidemic"; plans of the schools for graduation exercises have been halted and the dresses and finery for the "sweet girl graduate" remain unpurchased on the merchant's shelves.

And the worse of it unless the action of the moving picture theatres are successful there is no prospect of a termination of the scare for several weeks. Dr. Gorman said today that it might be necessary to keep the schools and theatres closed for two or three weeks.

## APPEALS TO BOARD Alexandria Amusement Co. Writes Strong Letter Relative to Closing Order

To the Board of Health of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Gentlemen: We, the undersigned, respectfully present the following facts and arguments against the ruling of your Board in closing the moving picture houses of which we are proprietors. Believing that what is good for the goose is also good for the gander, we respectfully submit that your order of recent date closing the moving picture houses, Sunday schools and the public schools is discriminatory, and that unless your ruling is made to apply to all places where people gather either for amusement or business, there is small chance of any real good being done and at the same time is doing us an inestimable injury. We do not wish to be put in the position of not desiring to submit to any reasonable judgment and regulation that means for the good of the community and for the eradication of any contagious disease which may be prevailing in Alexandria, but we do object to a regulation which goes only as far as to close our places of business and does not prevent the very thing that your order is intended to prevent. Manifestly it must be absurd to you gentlemen upon calmer reflection and with the hysteria of your first contemplation of the contagious disease said to prevail in Alexandria considerably abated, merely to close the public schools, Sunday schools and the moving picture houses without also closing factories, saloons, lunch rooms, stores, churches, lodges, amusement halls and where ever else the people gather. To us gentlemen whose places are closed it is not only absurd but also unfortunate, as the stigma is placed upon the enterprises that we conduct without at the same time proper precautions being taken in other localities and other gathering places to prevent the further spread.

We cannot see the justice of permitting the above named places to be open or operated while we are not allowed to enjoy the same privilege. Further, we believe if a sincere effort was made by the Board of Health in compelling physicians to make their patients comply with the health regulations that such an order as issued to us would not be necessary. It is a matter of common knowledge that children in houses where there are now patients are permitted to attend school, that even children are being treated by physicians without proper quarantine precautions being made, and that in one instance the placard is merely placed upon the door of the sick room where the patient is sick. In this last case one of the inmates of this house up until the closing of the school attended school with the full knowledge of the physician in charge, and apparently with full knowledge of the health officer of the city.

The arbitrary ruling of this Board in merely closing down certain classes of public gathering and in not making their rule general has not, as above pointed out, served to accomplish the desired result, namely; to prevent the spread of the contagious disease, but has served to bring the City into ridicule and it is a matter of fact and common knowledge that the stores in Washington employing Alexandria people have in some instances furloughed their employees. Not only are we now suffering because of your order, but the City as a whole will suffer, in that people will give our City a wide berth and will not deal here.

We would not feel constrained to call these conditions to your attention if we sincerely believed that your ruling was helpful, but unless you take drastic measures and close up every place, whether public or private, we do not feel that it is just and fair that we should suffer the brunt of your order, and we respectfully submit that you rescind your previous order and that we be permitted to open our places of business, unless it is your intention to make your ruling general and not applicable merely to certain public places. Until your Board compels physicians to obey the law and report all cases, until a stringent quarantine is rigidly observed, until there is no diversity of opinion upon the part of the whole Board, and among the physicians of our City, we feel that it is unfair and unreasonable that we should be stigmatized as one of the

breeding places of a contagious disease, when medical advice and testimony is ample that a contagious disease is more easily spread by failure to observe the simplest quarantine precautions, which in no cases, so far as we can learn, have at the present time been faithfully observed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alexandria Amusement Co.

## HUGHES GROWS STRONGER HOURLY

### Prominent Leaders at Chicago Impressed by Prospects

### BULL MOOSE WAVERS

### Want Hughes's Views on Progressive Party's Principles Before Accepting Him as Nominee.

Chicago, June 5.—There are stronger indications that the Progressive leaders are swinging around to the idea of taking Justice Hughes than at any time since they began assembling here. If Justice Hughes, however, is accepted it will be only after he has declared himself on the issues of the day. How this can be brought about nobody appears to know as yet.

The suggestion is made in some Progressive quarters that some plan possibly can be arranged by which the Progressive convention might be held open until the Republican convention had made its nomination, and if the Republicans had named Justice Hughes. The Progressive convention could then immediately by wire demand of the jurist an explicit definition of his opinion with respect to preparedness and other progressive principles.

The feasibility of this plan is doubted by many Progressives. In any event, its success would be contingent entirely upon the control the leaders of the conciliatory faction can exercise over the delegates. In a Progressive convention, it must be remembered, the delegates are in a majority of cases unknown quantities.

They have been picked up all over the country in rather curious fashion supplied with credentials and brought here to make a convention. They have few bellwethers.

The Progressive National Committee will meet today. The chief purpose of this meeting is to arrange the credentials, which have been sent here by the secretary of the so-called State conventions or brought in person by the delegates. A roll is then to be prepared. There are no contests. Raymond Robbins, of Illinois, will be selected as the temporary chairman of the convention. Mr. Robbins is credited with having more or less radical tendencies. On the other hand it is on the slate to name Walter Brown, State Chairman of Ohio, as permanent chairman, and Mr. Brown is one of the leaders who is ready to take Hughes.

A great many leading Progressives have flocked into town and it is apparent that the Bull Moose people are to have a real convention, both committee men and delegates taking their duties very seriously. Yesterday the Progressives' board of strategy held an important conference in Mr. Perkins' suite at the Blackstone, which lasted several hours. Those present at it were, in addition to Mr. Perkins himself, E. A. Van Valkenburg, editor of the Philadelphia North American; Oscar Straus, chairman of the New York Public Service Commission; Governor Hiram Johnson, of California; Gifford Pinchot, William H. Hotchkiss, Henry B. Stoddard, Bainbridge Colby and W. L. Crans-trom. They went over the situation with Mr. Perkins. They all pressed to be holding fast to Roosevelt.

Oscar Straus made a flat declaration that he was for Hughes if the Republicans would not take Roosevelt. "But if the Republicans nominate Mr. Root, from what many of our delegates have told me, I firmly believe," said Mr. Straus, "that a majority would be for endorsing President Wilson. I do not believe in bringing the Supreme Bench into politics."

Hamilton Fish, jr., issued a statement, saying: "Roosevelt will be nominated for President by the Progressive convention. Even if Roosevelt would come to Chicago and plead for the nomination of General Wood or Justice Hughes, the Progressive convention would disregard the request."

GAZETTE One Month . . . . . 43c

although personally Mr. Hughes would be acceptable to me. Mr. Hughes has made the strongest argument himself against the Bench being injected into politics. I feel that Mr. Roosevelt is certainly the man to be nominated. Who has made the issue? Who has inspired all these preparedness parades? Mr. Roosevelt and not Mr. Hughes. I don't see how Mr. Hughes can be taken before he defines his position."

Mr. Hotchkiss, Mr. Colby and other New York Progressives generally share the views of Mr. Straus. In fact, the New York delegation in the Progressive convention will certainly be for Mr. Hughes, it is stated, if he in some way can indicate that he meets their views on the important issues. E. A. Van Valkenburg and William Flinn, of Pittsburgh are said to hold to this view.

In the meantime, the radical Bull Moosers are saying that they will not take Hughes under any condition. They are looking toward Governor Johnson for leadership.

Chicago, June 5.—The Old Guard made its first definite proffer to the Progressives today. Secure in its own belief that it can control the votes of a majority of the delegates, the dominant forces of Republicanism want Hughes.

But they only want Hughes if they are convinced he can be a winner next November. Therefore, their preliminary feeler to the Progressives was to ascertain whether an agreement could not be possible with Hughes as a candidate, running on any sort of a platform which the Progressives might require.

The Old Guard isn't belittling the power which it feels the Progressives can swing, and its plan went further than a mere suggestion that agreement come about on Hughes. It embraced a scheme by which the Progressives might be able later to say they were the ones who put Hughes over.

The scheme fostered by the Old Guard was to have the Progressives meet Wednesday, and not later than Thursday night to nominate Hughes. Then by Friday or Saturday the Republican convention would choose the same standard bearer. The Progressives could very well "point with pride," to the fact that by their action in naming Hughes they had forced the G. O. P. into selecting the same leader.

Chicago, June 5.—What about the German-American vote? What will the German-American vote do as between Roosevelt and Wilson if Roosevelt should head the Republican ticket?

Now although the political chieftains about these parts are not talking such subjects from the housetops, the fact is that when they congregate together in their rooms at the hotels they have a lot to say about them.

The Republican leaders, just as are the Democratic leaders, are doing a great deal of worrying about the vote here mentioned.

And right here it can be said that the opponents of Roosevelt, in their effort to head off his nomination have for weeks and months been using this argument against his selection: "He can't possibly be elected. Think what he's said to the German-Americans and the hypenates."

And about the Chicago hotels one can hear frequently from delegates such assertions as this: "I am friendly to Roosevelt, but I don't believe he can be elected."

Moreover, it is well known that men close to the Wilson administration think Roosevelt would be an easy man, easier than Hughes, to beat, largely because of German-American opposition.

Unquestionably one of the forces working for Justice Hughes among Republican politicians is the feeling that because he has given offense to no body of citizens he will roll up an overwhelming vote.

New York, June 5.—"T. R. for President, and only T. R." is the sentiment of the entire New York Progressive delegation, due in Chicago today, according to statements telegraphed from the Progressive special.

Hamilton Fish, jr., issued a statement, saying: "Roosevelt will be nominated for President by the Progressive convention. Even if Roosevelt would come to Chicago and plead for the nomination of General Wood or Justice Hughes, the Progressive convention would disregard the request."

You suffered much, you murmured not, We watched you day by day Until, at last, with broken hearts, We saw you pass away. Although thy hands we cannot clasp Thy face we cannot see Still let this little token tell We still remember thee.

By the family.

## GERMAN LIQUID FIRE A FAILURE

### Teuton Attempt to Turn Fort Vaux is Smashed by French

### SOON LOSE Foothold

### Invaders Claim Better Luck Elsewhere and Net 500 Prisoners in a Later Assault

Paris, June 5.—The Germans launched several hot infantry attacks against Fort Vaux last night, employing liquid fire, but despite this the attacks were repulsed, says the French official communique today.

Elsewhere along the line east of the Meuse the fighting was heavy, but the Germans were unable to gain a yard, the statement says.

At Damloup and Fort Vaux the charges of the German infantry ended in hand-to-hand struggles along the trench lines. The Germans did not obtain a foothold at any place. The heaviest part of the attack was directed against Vaux.

Paris, June 5.—Several attempts made by the Germans last night and yesterday morning to turn the French positions at Fort Vaux, on the Verdun front, from the southeast, were unsuccessful, the War Office announced. The night attacks resulted in their gaining a foothold in French trenches in the ravine between Damloup and Fort Vaux, but they were immediately driven out by a counter attack. The assault was checked by the French curtain of fire.

After the desperate fighting which has raged for three days, the latest German drive on Verdun slackened Saturday, and while the bombardment continued on both sides of the Meuse there was a lull in the intense infantry fighting of 48 hours.

Fort Vaux has been the chief center of the latest drive and the Germans, after heavy sacrifices, are now occupying the northern part of a deep wide moat sweeping around the fort, while the French firmly hold the fort itself with the moat and its approaches on the east and west.

The rush on Fort Vaux reached its maximum intensity at 6 o'clock Friday night after an all-day struggle. The Germans then massed reinforcements for the final shock, but were caught by the diagonal enfilading fire from French artillery posted at Damloup. At heavy sacrifices the Germans gained the entrance to the northern part of the moat, but were held off at other points. They made no further attempt to improve their position after the night's pitched battle.

Berlin, June 5.—The German drive on the Verdun front between the Caillotte wood and Damloup, northeast of the fortress, is progressing favorably for the attacking forces, the War Office announced yesterday. The capture of more than 500 prisoners and four machine guns is reported.

West of the Meuse a French attack near Hill 3044 was repulsed. Attempts by the British to regain the ground they recently lost to the Germans near Ypres, on the Flanders front, were fruitless.

### DEATH NOTICE

Died, Saturday June 3rd, at her residence, 603 E Street, southeast, Washington, after a long illness, JANE E. RORICK, widow of the late Michael Rorick. Funeral services from B. Wheatley's chapel, Tuesday, June 6th, at 3 o'clock. Interment in Bethel Cemetery. Friends and relatives invited to attend. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Laura Graney, six grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and one brother, Mr. John M. Wells, 213 Commerce Street. Her pallbearers will be her three grandsons and three nephews.

You suffered much, you murmured not, We watched you day by day Until, at last, with broken hearts, We saw you pass away. Although thy hands we cannot clasp Thy face we cannot see Still let this little token tell We still remember thee.

By the family.

## GREAT BRITAIN CLAIMS VICTORY

### Nation While Mourning Staggering Loss, is Optimistic

### STORIES OF HORROR

### Hope of English That More Survivors of the Engagement Would Appear Shattered

London, June 5.—The hope of many English families, members of which were on the ships lost in the great Skagerak sea fight, that some of the men would be rescued, is being slowly crushed by the tales of the awfulness brought in by vessels which have reached Copenhagen since the battle.

But with the crushing of this hope, pride in the navy is growing hourly with continued insistence of the British admiralty that the Germans lost far more heavily than they admit.

"There seems to be the strongest ground for supposing that included in the German battle losses are two battleships, two dreadnaughts battle cruisers of the most powerful type, two of the latest light cruisers, the Wiesbaden and the Eiling; a light cruiser of the Rostock type, the light cruiser Frauenloh, nine destroyers, and submarine," the statement said.

The admitted German loss in tonnage is now 32,515 tons. The British claim an additional 8,920 tons, which would bring the German total to 113,435. The British admit the loss of 114,100 tons.

All of the sailors of the vessels that have passed through the battle in the waters since the battle agreed that in nearly every instance the loss of life with the destruction of the ships must have been nearly total, ships arriving in Copenhagen report.

Hundreds of the seamen jumped to rafts and were slowly driven insane by the torture of thirst. Some drank salt water, and going stark-crazy, fought with weakened companions, jumped into the sea, and were drowned.

The dispatches also state that many large German cruisers, which heretofore have been patrolling the Courland coast (Russia), have been withdrawn.

Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty is today looked upon as one of Great Britain's illustrious naval heroes. With the men of the fleet he is an idol.

They all agree that when the German battle losses become fully known it will be shown that the action was a glorious victory for the British navy.

The admiralty report that the War-pite was not sunk, as claimed by the Germans, is confirmed by seacoast reports saying that she limped into port under her own steam late Thursday, the day after the battle.

Sailors said the battle was fought in a sea calm as a millpond, with a mist hanging low, making firing at the longer ranges almost impossible.

"It sounded like forty thunderstorms rolled into one," was the description of one. Most briefed it is by saying it was "hell."

London, June 5.—The British admiralty last night issued a statement saying there was the strongest ground for the belief that the British navy in the battle with the Germans off Jutland last week had accounted for a total of eighteen German men-of-war and that there was nothing to add to or subtract from the original announcement of the British losses.

The statement gave the German losses as two battleships, two dreadnaught battle cruisers, four light cruisers, nine torpedo-boat destroyers and a submarine.

The admiralty declares that pending the compilation of details these facts have been positively established. The German reports of the battle are declared to be false. The German losses were heavier than the British, not merely in proportion, but positively, the admiralty declares.

The arrival on the scene of battle of the main body of the British high seas fleet was the signal for the German fleet to speed back to its base.