

BASIN CONCERTS NOT TO BE HELD

Air-Raid Danger in Charles River Area Cited — Smallpox History Given in Anti-vaccination Bill Hearing

From Our Special Reporter

Boston, April 1—The Metropolitan District commission will not appropriate money this year or next for conduct of concerts on the Esplanade along the Charles-river basin. Its chairman so informed ways and means committee today. It has been customary to provide \$5000 for a series of concerts, which have drawn large audiences, but the chairman said they will not be provided this year or next "because of the potential danger of bringing so many people to one place in the event of an air-raid." He also explained that with the lights either blacked out or dimmed out, it presents a serious problem in this congested area because of the depleted metropolitan district police force.

The charge that thousands of soldiers died at Fort Devens during the first World war from smallpox vaccinations was made at the anti-vaccination bill hearing today before public health committee. The bill seeks to remove the compulsory feature of the law requiring vaccination of schoolchildren. Charge was made by Mrs Jessica Henderson of Wayland, secretary-treasurer of the Committee for Medical Freedom, who claimed the deaths were "covered up" by saying they were due to influenza. She claimed that at one time, 2000 men were lying dead at the fort. Public health department and Harvard officials, who said they were familiar with the fort and its conditions at that time, denied her charge, saying there were no cases of smallpox and no vaccine trouble.

Mrs Henderson said cleanliness and sanitation is all that is needed to combat smallpox, as she claimed compulsory vaccination is unconstitutional. John S. Codman of Boston, for the bill, said he knew of no other body of men than doctors who urge the Legislature to keep this law and thus force their services on the public. The committee was given a history of smallpox in Massachusetts, where there have been no cases since 1932. Representatives Daniel Casey of Pittsfield and Ernest Y. Carman of Pittsfield, and Senator James P. McAndrews of Adams recorded against the bill.

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