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EDITORIAL

THE ONTARIO TEMPERANCE ACT AND THE DOCTORS

We have frequently called attention to the Ontario Temperance Act and the attitude the doctors should maintain. We will venture once more to revert to this subject.

In the first place the Act makes all forms of alcohol containing liquors drugs, and places them under the control of the doctors. We have held firmly that the doctors always had this power; for it was always their right to prescribe alcoholic stimulants when they saw fit, as these stimulants are drugs and therapeutic agents. But the legislators took a short cut to get rid of the difficulty of arranging the way whereby people may obtain some liquor by passing an act setting forth that people can only buy when they can furnish doctors' orders. This was an act of rank injustice to the medical profession, and rank cowardice on the part of the legislators, who sought in this way to escape responsibility for finding some other plan of vending alcoholized liquors.

During the recent investigation of the liquor problem by the Special Committee appointed by the Legislature at its past session, a number of things came out in evidence. It was made clear the act was violated at times by those who had the control over its administration. This was admitted as necessary at times. Here we have proof that the act is faulty.

Then it came out in evidence that seized liquors were turned over to the vendors and sold for medicinal purposes. Just think of it! What guarantee could there be in such a case? Liquors may be tampered with in many ways. Liquors sold for medicinal purposes should be of the highest quality.

It was stated before the Committee that it should be made unlawful for a doctor to charge for a prescription for liquor. This would be abso-