

THE LIQUOR DISPENSARIES.

The decision of the Ontario Government to take over the sale of liquor for medicinal purposes, and conduct or control the dispensing of it is one that is justified by existing conditions, and similar action may be expected in other Provinces.

The *Winnipeg Telegram* says it is reliably informed "that wholesale druggists buy Scotch whiskey right here in Winnipeg from the wholesale liquor dealers for \$24 a case, and without even opening the case resell it to local retail druggists at \$45 a case—thus making a profit of \$21 for the work of doing a little carting and bookkeeping." The retail druggists do the dispensing, and the *Telegram* says they re-sell to the public in prescriptions at a rate which gives them \$63 a case.

It may be argued by some that the making of liquor expensive discourages its use, but on the other hand it is to be noted that the condition which makes the sale of liquor as highly profitable as this to those who handle it creates a strong impulse to push sales and pile up profits.

The taking over by the Government of the dispensing of liquor cuts away at a stroke the profit-making interest and the incentive to push sales. The prices would be reduced by the elimination of large profits, but when the Government is the only lawful retailer there will probably be a steady decline in the quantity of liquor bought, sold and used.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

The Government bill creating a Department of Public Health is expected to be brought down comparatively early, although the exact form of it is not yet determined. It is seemingly an open question whether a separate Ministry will be created or the work added to that of one of the existing departments.

So far as can be learned, the functions of the department would include:—

(1) Very careful supervision of immigration by process of medical inspection to ensure that only those of good physique and in good health be admitted to the country.

(2) Institution of medical research along the lines of the Pasteur and Rockefeller Institutes, but with particular reference to diseases peculiar to Canada.

(3) Direction of propaganda as to how to live to promote health, collectively and individually.

It is understood that the subject of medical education, the tests and