

arise from such an arrangement. The closing of the liquor stores on Saturday afternoons, Sundays and all holidays is not in keeping with the meaning of the Act that alcohol of every kind is kept and sold as a medicine.

But a further point to which your Committee desires to draw attention, and on which it lays great stress, is that the medical profession must resist any outside body interfering in the matter of treating patients. The quotation, by the License Commissioners, of the opinion of a certain doctor that fifty prescriptions a month should suffice, must be resented. That a few doctors may have issued orders for liquor too freely is of a thousand times less importance than that the entire profession should be placed under the control of a small body of laymen. Such a state cannot be endured for long.

But there is another grievance. The law states that the only way to procure liquor is to first procure a doctor's order. This has the effect of sending the people to the doctors. Very many claimants cannot have their requests granted, and thus the time of the doctors is wasted hearing these people, and the doctors have the unpleasant duty of refusing, and the applicants are offended. Such events have happened in this great province hundreds of thousands of times. The doctor's only return for this waste of time is annoyance and the feeling that he has offended many.

It would be well if the Commissioners directed some attention to those who obtain several prescriptions from one doctor and then go to another for several more. These rounders should be kept under close watch.

It may be said by many that it is easier to condemn than it is to recommend. Well, there are remedies. One of these is for the medical profession to refuse to write orders to be filled up by any of the vendors, holding that prescriptions for drugs should go to a druggist. Another remedy is for the profession to demand the right to issue as many orders as each doctor may see fit, provided he is able to show that his orders are solely for medicinal purposes. A third remedy would be for the Government to discontinue the present system of orders by doctors and substitute therefor licenses to purchasers for a limited amount from time to time, holding the purchasers strictly accountable for the use to which the liquor may be put.

In a circular letter dated 22nd December, 1919, sent out by the Board of License Commissioners, it stated in one paragraph that "prescriptions authorized thereunder may be filled;" accordingly the Board feels warranted under said paragraph in directing managers of dis-