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Amendment of the Pharmacy Act.

The council of the college, headed by Mr. Mackenzie, acting president in the absence of Mr. Petrie, has achieved a signal victory in regard to the bill introduced by the Hon. G. W. Ross at the present session of the Local Legislature to make permanent the clause exempting the manufacturers and dealers in patent or proprietary medicines from the restrictions of the Pharmacy Act.

This clause, as proposed to be made permanent, and which has been in force as a renewal and experimental legislative clause during the past two years, reads as follows. "Nothing in this Act contained shall extend to, interfere with, or affect the making, vending, or dealing in any patent or proprietary medicine, and the said Act shall be read as if this section had always formed part of the said Act."

To the portion of the clause exempting the vendor from the restrictions of the Act the council offered no opposition, as general dealers have always been exempt in so far as the sale of non-poisonous proprietary compounds is concerned, but to the part freeing the manufacturer of any patent or proprietary compound, whether it contained any scheduled poison or not, from the restrictions of the Act, they most strenuously objected, as they argued, and rightly so, we believe, that such an exemption would wipe out in actual practice the schedule to the Act, as it would permit the sale of every article there mentioned, provided it was put up under the guise of a proprietary medicine. They claimed that if it was improper for a qualified druggist to sell these things, which they were competent to handle, it was assuredly improper that incompetent persons should be specially privileged by legislative enactment to do so, that if the welfare of the community was sought, the consumer should be safeguarded somewhat, as otherwise he would be entirely at the mercy of every designing quack-medicine vendor, that under such

legislation the class of remedies designed for the treatment of private diseases and those which were suggestively advertised for immoral and criminal purposes would be sure to increase, that other countries, instead of granting unrestrained license, as this bill proposed to do, passed restrictive or prohibitive legislation regarding them, and that, while our Pharmacy Act had always left the question an open one, it had never been designed by its framers that any one other than wholesale druggists, doctors, and veterinary surgeons should be specially exempt from the provisions of the Act. These and many other reasons were urged upon Sir Oliver and the members of his cabinet by Messrs. Mackenzie and Clark, who, with Messrs. Karn and Hargreaves, waited upon the government by special appointment to consider the proposed bill and give their views upon it. As indicating what the council would be willing to have passed as an amendment to the Act, the committee presented a typewritten copy of the following to Sir Oliver :

"The Pharmacy Act is amended by adding thereto the following sections.

"The Pharmacy Act is amended by adding thereto the following section.

"Nothing in this Act contained shall extend to, interfere with, or affect the making or dealing in any patent or proprietary medicines. Provided always that on the petition of three licensed medical practitioners (or the Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacy) the Provincial Board of Health shall cause to be made a full and sufficient analysis of such patent or proprietary medicine by an analyst or other competent person appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and if on such analysis it appears that such patent or proprietary medicine contains any of the poisons mentioned in any of the schedules to this Act to an extent that renders their use in the doses prescribed dangerous to health or life the said Board of Health shall give notice to the manufacturer or proprietor of such