

# LET LIQUOR FIGHT THE FLU

## Proposal is Made to Relax Temporarily Prohibitory Restrictions

### DISPENSARY CROWDED

## Rush in Ottawa Blocks the Sidewalk—No Action Yet by Government

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)  
Ottawa, Oct. 8.—A temporary relaxation of the prohibition regulations to allow liquor to be purchased in small quantities without the production of a doctor's prescription, has been suggested to the Government as an emergency measure in the Spanish influenza epidemic now raging throughout Canada. The proposal is being seriously advocated in some quarters, but has not yet been either approved or turned down by the Cabinet Council.

It is claimed that hot liquor taken in small quantities is beneficial either as a preventive or as a stimulant to prevent heart collapse through the sudden onslaught and rapid progress of the disease. In Ottawa doctors are said to be prescribing liquor to victims of the disease in the pneumonia stage. To-day there were hundreds of people with doctors' prescriptions for liquor crowding the local dispensary in Sparks street. So great was the rush this afternoon that traffic along the sidewalk was blocked by the crowd waiting a chance to get into the store to be served. Ottawa has some 4,000 cases of influenza at present, and the call for liquor by doctors and patients has suddenly assumed proportions which cannot be handled by the present circumscribed source of supply. It is further pointed out that the poorer classes who need, or think they need an emergency supply of liquor to meet the plague situation, are now compelled to pay an extra \$2 for a doctor's prescription, and that under present conditions of stress for the medical men a search for a doctor sometimes takes hours.

### Guarded and Temporary Relaxation

It is not proposed, of course, to allow the sale of liquor indiscriminately, but merely to allow the qualified local dispensaries to sell a small quantity of five or six ounces only to each applicant, with each sale duly registered so as to prevent repeaters. The proposed relaxation is, of course only intended for a week or so, pending the hoped-for control and stamping out of the epidemic. It is claimed that under the War Measure Act the Federal Government would have the right to override the Provincial prohibition regulations in a case where the national safety is concerned.