

desired level of intelligent and progressive management will expose the licensee to the loss of his privilege.

To obtain the necessary uniformity throughout the country and to ensure progressive policy, it would be necessary for public control to be under the supervision of a central authority which should either itself control or supervise control by special local bodies.

My view is that a public authority is far more competent to exercise supervision than to conduct trade by its own agents, and this consideration would, in my opinion, be conclusive as to the preferability of the system I advocate even were there no financial danger from State purchase.

It may be asked what the practical measures would be which would expedite the introduction of the proposed reform. They might consist in the division of the country into a certain number of monopoly areas and an enactment that within an area the present holders or licensees must come forward with a joint scheme for the exercise of the monopoly which it has been proposed to grant to them. These areas should certainly be much larger than existing licensing areas. How much larger can only be determined after mature examination. They should be designed so as to reduce the cost of transport and facilitate economic administration.

In the event of these proposals proving unacceptable, alternative schemes would be received from other groups. The general control of this system would have to be confined to a central authority.

It may be contended that under the plan advocated the public interest would be sacrificed; that inferior liquor would be supplied; that the element of com-