

provided that the compensation is adequate. A chairman of a large brewery company* suggested a State ownership scheme similar to that at Carlisle, in which the direction of a central authority was to be aided by a local committee with some measure of executive power, so as to bring about "a management in the interests of the people themselves." Or again, if a municipality should prefer to be the owners of the property rather than the State, it should, with Treasury backing, be permitted to take over the breweries and the licensed houses within its area. Then there would be no necessity for direction by any State department.

THE BRATT SYSTEM OF CONTROL.

As was mentioned incidentally in a previous chapter, various systems of State control have been tried in a number of countries, but a scheme recently introduced in Sweden—namely, the Bratt system—has features of special interest, and on that account calls for a more detailed description. This system arose out of the well-known Gothenburg system, under which all the trade in spirits for a particular town and its neighbourhood was placed in the hands of a company. The net profits made by the company were handed over to the municipality, so that the evil influence of private gain was eliminated. The companies for the most part confined themselves to selling native spirits (*brännvin*), whilst relegating to private tradesmen and restaurants the sale of the dearer spirits such as whisky and brandy. Almost all of their business was done in the off-sale of bottles holding a litre (1·76 pints), for in Sweden

* *The Times*, August 16, 1924.