

REAL PURITY METHODS.

THE LICENSE INQUIRY WILL BE
GIN ON MONDAY.

The **Parkdale Hotel** Case Will be Prob-
ed—Was It Zeal for the Public Ser-
vice That Secured a Big Abate-
ment in Price ?

Some amazing statements are being made in advance of Mr. J. R. L. Starr's investigation on behalf of the Ontario Government into the circumstances connected with the issuing and transfer of licenses in Toronto. The inquiry will be begun on Monday at 10 a.m. in the offices of the License Commissioners in the Temple building and many persons have been notified to attend.

The transfer of the **Parkdale Hotel** license from William Martin to W. A. Ball for \$20,000 will be one of the first things brought up. The case is a complicated one. Martin and Ball had arranged that the transfer price for the licence and "furnishings," most of which were afterwards sold for a very small sum, should be \$29,000. The commissioners or the inspectors acting for them, it is alleged, stepped in and forced Martin by threat of cancelling his license to sell to Ball for \$20,000, or a reduction of \$9,000 in the agreed-upon price. Mr. Stephen Burns acted for Ball in the case and Mr. Kelly, of Foy & Kelly, for Martin. It is now asserted that Martin, in the hope of securing a renewal of his license, paid certain sums to well-known politicians who were supposed to have used their "influence" for him. He has entered suit to recover \$500 so spent.

The chief point of inquiry will no doubt be as to whether the \$9,000 saved to Mr. Ball by official intervention all remained in his own pocket.

Hon. Mr. Hanna said yesterday that absolutely no significance attached to the fact that the Board of License Commissioners for Toronto had not been formally reappointed for the present year. It is pointed out that the formal re-appointment often does not take place for several weeks after the term of office of the commissioners has expired.