

HOTEL LICENSES HIGHER.

HOW THE NEW LEGISLATION AFFECTS TORONTO.

Severe Penalties for Illegal Selling — Minors Must Tell Who Supplies Them With Liquor—Local Option Hotels to be Licensed.

Hotel licenses in cities of over 200,000 to be raised to \$1,600. This is the principal change affecting Toronto in the new Government liquor license bill distributed in the Legislature yesterday and fathered by Hon. W. J. Hanna, the Provincial Secretary. Shop licenses remain at \$1,000.

The battle on the "blind pigs" and the sale of liquor by non-license holders is to be intensified by making the penalties much more severe. At present the fine for a first offence is from \$50 to \$100. Under the new bill the minimum is raised to \$100 and the maximum fixed at \$200. There is a similar increase for second offences from four months' imprisonment to six months' incarceration for second and all subsequent offences.

Authority is given to Provincial inspectors "to visit and inspect any tavern or hotel for which a license has been issued under this act, and the accommodations provided therein and the utensils, bedding and other furniture therein, and to see that the laws of the Province providing for the protection, safety and health of guests and other inmates are complied with, and to give directions in writing to the license holder as to providing other or additional accommodations, furniture and appliances, or as to any other matter he may deem necessary for the safety, comfort and convenience of guests."

Authority is given police officers to seize any liquor in transit in course of delivery for sale in contravention of the act. Provision is also made for the issuing of a local option hotel license. These will be granted by the License Commissioner upon payment of five dollars. If the board so decides stabling may not be required.

Provincial brewers and distillers and wholesale dealers are given a measure of protection against dealers outside the Province by a clause imposing a fee of \$300 a year on agents. This is known as a "sample and commission license."

The clause compelling a minor or prohibited person to tell who provided him with liquor reads: "Where upon any prosecution under this section for selling or supplying liquor it has been proved that liquor has been sold or supplied to a person under the age of 21 years, such person shall be compellable to disclose upon oath the name of the person from whom such liquor was obtained and the date when the same was so sold or supplied, and, in case of a refusal, he shall be guilty of an offence, and may, upon the order of the Magistrate or Justice, be forthwith imprisoned for any period not exceeding three months, unless he sooner discloses such information and pays the costs of his committal, and for the purpose of making such disclosure he may at any time be brought before the same or any other Justice, or may disclose the said information by affidavit."

The brewers' warehouse license is amended by confining sales under such permission to members of the trade.