

Highlights of New Bill

Salient features of the Beer Bill (an act to amend the Liquor Control Act), introduced in the Legislature late yesterday by Attorney-General Price, are as follows:

Sales under authority of the Liquor Control Board.

Sale of beer and wine in dining-rooms of standard hotels, and, at option of board, in restaurants and clubs.

Sale of beer alone in hotel refreshment rooms and in veterans' and labor union clubs.

Liquor Board "authority" for sale will specify rooms or places in which consumption of beer is permitted.

Issuance of "authorities" only to fit and proper persons, bona fide owners of the businesses to which sale is permitted. Prohibition against issuance to any person who has been convicted of specified offenses against the law; if he is an individual, or is not a British subject; if a corporation or club not incorporated or organized as required by regulations; or applied for in respect to premises which do not conform with the regulations.

Restriction on the number of "authorities" issued in any municipality, at the board's discretion.

Prohibition against issuance of "authorities" to any person who has covenanted to sell the beer of any brewer or the wine of any manufacturer; to the brewer or manufacturer himself, or to his agent, or to any person whose financial connections would lead him to promote the sale of any one product; or to any premises in which a brewer or wine manufacturer has an interest.

Prohibition against sale of beer or wine to any one who is below 21 years of age, is intoxicated, or to whom the sale of intoxicants is prohibited by statute. Prohibition against serving beer to a police officer on duty; against permitting gambling, drunkenness or disorderly conduct on the premises; against permitting any one of notoriously bad character to remain there; against slot machines or gambling devices on the premises.

No bars to be permitted. Removal of beer from sale-premises definitely forbidden.

Employees may be required to obtain individual "authorities."

Joint Conference Of Oppositionists Accepts New Act

The Opposition members of the Legislature, at a joint conference last evening, went on record as placing upon Premier Henry's Government responsibility for the beer and wine policy introduced in the House.

A statement issued declared that "prohibition is not and should not be made a partisan political issue." After reciting the issues on which the Government's tenure of office is challenged, the statement says:

These major issues are the ones upon which the electors of the Province of Ontario, in our opinion, desire to pass judgment in the coming general election.

We are, therefore, under the circumstances, prepared to acquiesce in the measure without discussion, regarding it as a Government responsibility.

This attitude toward the problem was taken, it was explained, in the belief that it offered the only way to remove the liquor question from politics and make it an independent issue.

The view was expressed by some members that under existing conditions it is not possible to promote temperance education throughout Ontario, that the temperance movement has been killed by a Government which reintroduced liquor with the profession that it favored temperance. The hope was expressed that in acquiescing in the measure without discussion and placing responsibility on the Government, a step might be taken for the divorce of politics and the liquor question. The statement issued was as follows:

"The position of the Opposition of the Ontario Legislature is that prohibition is not and should not be made a partisan political issue. This discredited Government, clinging to office by usurpation of power for a fifth year and on the eve of a general election, is now presenting a measure obviously in an attempt to make liquor once again the major issue before the electors.

"If further evidence of this were wanted it is afforded by the repeated announcements of Premier Henry that he would never introduce a measure of this nature.

"Our responsibility to the people of Ontario is such that we are determined to hold the Henry Government to a defense of its record of maladministration, increased debt and taxation, mismanagement of our great publicly owned Hydro-Electric system, and dissipation of our natural resources.

"These major issues are the ones upon which the electors of the Province of Ontario, in our opinion, desire to pass judgment in the coming general election.

"We are, therefore, under the circumstances, prepared to acquiesce in the measure without discussion, regarding it as a Government responsibility."