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Increased Beer Flow Impossible for Months

The effect of the beer restrictions will continue to be felt by Ontario citizens for some time by reason of the fact that production of the breweries was related to what was permitted to be sold in Ontario by the Dominion Government, Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell said yesterday in a prepared statement. It was issued following a conference between brewery officials and the Liquor Control Board.

"A stroke of the pen in the cancellation of an Order-in-Council cannot remove the effects of restrictions," Mr. Blackwell said in referring to the Dominion Government's withdrawal from the field of beer manufacture and distribution. "Notwithstanding this fact the Province feels that it can now safely abandon the intention to issue a single ration book and for the present intends to proceed with the usual permit for the purchase of spirits and imported wine at the usual permit fee of one dollar and the separate coupon ration books for beer and native wines without charge."

The Attorney-General said ability to continue the rationing with the hope of abating the stringency as additional supplies of beer became available depended entirely on the possibility of the Ontario Government obtaining some co-operation from the Dominion Government.

"In other words, if, through controls such as cartons, glass and manpower controls, the restrictions are tightened instead of being abated as circumstances will permit, an indirect and effective restriction would still be imposed. It is to be hoped that will not happen."

Earlier the former Liquor Board Chairman, A. St. Clair Gordon, told the Legislature that it would be two or three months before more beer became available. Long before the

restrictive order was put into effect by Ottawa, many of the brewers were rationing themselves. Mr. Gordon expressed the view there would still be a shortage of beer even when the brewers caught up on production.

"Ontario is the largest consumer of beer in Canada," said Mr. Gordon. "But it is not the largest consumer of spirits. As we restrict the quantity of spirits available the demand for beer will run, I believe, to 50 million or more gallons of beer annually."

(In 1942 Ontario consumed 42 million gallons of beer.)