

March 18.

Bill Sponsors Judicial Board To Handle Liquor Licenses

Handling of liquor licenses and beverage authorities is removed from the Ontario Liquor Control Board in a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell. Licenses will be handled by a judicial board to be set up.

Rights and obligations of licensees will be determined by the bill, the Minister said. The measure, with a complementary bill amending the Liquor Control Act, passed first reading.

The new board, which will supervise authorities, is to hold hearings throughout the Province in districts to be specified later. It will be able to summon witnesses under oath as in civil courts.

Five reasons for which licenses may be cancelled are listed as non-

compliance with the act, failure to carry out orders of the board or the Liquor Board or fire marshal, persistent failure to keep premises clean, non-compliance with a municipal by-law and for any offense involving "moral turpitude under provisions of the Criminal Code."

The board will pass on hotel authority transfers and there are strict regulations concerning minors. Violations of the act will bring penalties of from \$10 to \$50 for first offense and imprisonment up to 30 days for subsequent offenses.

The bill also sets out regulations governing persons to whom beer or wine may not be served, hours of sale, requirements of employees and fees for issue and transfer of authorities.

Bill Empowers Local Police To Round Up Slot Machines

A bill to outlaw slot machines in Ontario received first reading yesterday in the Legislature. It permits the Attorney-General's Department to deal more fully with these machines, operation of which is covered under the Criminal Code.

Replying to G. A. Strange (C.C.F., Brantford) Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell, who introduced the bill, said it provides for Provincial or local police to seize slot machines on the ground that no person can have property right to them.

"Gambling on any sort of device is covered at present by the Criminal Code," Mr. Blackwell explained. "A strange anomaly, however, leads to a highly undesirable result as to the functions and duties of the Attorney-General's Department. To deal with them under the Criminal Code, although all these machines are used for gambling and are the result of the activities of racketeers who place them on premises, we can prosecute only the little fellow on whose premises they are found.

"My department dislikes prosecuting little people to stop a racket. This bill makes it possible to proceed. It provides for police to seize slot machines on the ground that no person can have property rights in slot machines."

Machines would have to be brought before a magistrate, however, to prove purpose of their use, thus differentiating between machines used for gambling and those used for innocent amusement.

Since even children's toys could be used for gambling, he felt there was need for this discrimination in the scope of the Act, hence this restriction was included.

MAY REQUIRE CURB ON PORK

W. P. Watson of the swine branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture told the agricultural committee of the Legislature yesterday that it may be necessary to again restrict domestic consumption of pork in order to fill overseas contracts, but it was doubtful if such restriction would be as severe as prevailed during time of meat rationing in Canada.

Marketings of hogs in Canada in the first ten weeks of this year totalled almost one million more than in the same period last year. Up to March 11 this year 2,208,021 hogs were marketed by Canadian producers as against 1,239,289 for the same period last year.

"Up to last week," he said, "the meat board has shipped 200 million pounds of bacon to Britain this year. We have contracted to supply Britain with 900 million pounds during 1944-45 but more than two-thirds of this amount will be shipped this year. I see no difficulty in reaching this figure."

He placed weekly consumption of pork in Canada today at about 4 million pounds greater than during the period when sale was restricted. This did not mean that Canadians were eating that much more meat, but that pork consumption had greatly replaced that of beef and had tended, perhaps more than anything else, to account for the present "draggy" meat market.