

March 23

## \$102 Million Ontario Liquor Bill in 1944-45

The Ontario Liquor Control Board's liquor, beer and wine sales for the year ending last March 31 were \$102,885,846, a 7.3 per cent increase to the \$95,819,513 sales the previous year, according to a board return tabled in the Legislature yesterday.

In the board's annual report it was shown that, while sales in liquor stores were down \$5,561,384, sales of beer in bulk and in beverage rooms had advanced from \$48,647,605 to \$61,034,601, and sales in wineries had increased from \$3,264,069 to \$3,504,791. Increase in beer sales in retail outlets and beverage rooms had advanced 25.4 per cent during the year.

### Boost in Permit Holders

An estimated four out of every seven adults in Ontario—two out of five of the entire population—holds a liquor permit, according to Liquor Commissioner W. G. Webster.

Report of the commission showed at what a sharp rate issue of liquor permits had increased in the Province in two years. In April, 1944, only 629,637 residents held permits. By 1945, the number had increased to 1,537,497 and it is estimated unofficially that 1,750,000 permits now are in use.

Beer ration books did not show such a marked increase, the number advancing from 1,156,873 in April, 1944, to 1,455,223 in March, 1945. Wine ration books increased from 479,681 to 935,172. Wine in Ontario is not now sold on ration coupons, though there is limitation on purchase.

Sale of Ontario beer for export more than doubled in the past five years, the report showed, jumping from 2,477,639 gallons in 1941 to 5,578,745 in 1945. Total Ontario sale of domestic beer in the same period advanced from 31,303,708 gallons to 45,785,337.

The report showed 125 brewers' retail stores in operation, only one new one having been opened during the year, in Delhi, Ont. The board reported that all beer analyzed,

produced either in Ontario or Quebec, had conformed to regulations. In addition, 309 analyses had been made of products of 21 wineries.

Wine sales increased from 3,082,769 in 1944 to 3,166,288 gallons in 1945.

Under the Liquor Control Act, convictions were 26,566 for 1945.

## New Labor Code Theme of Bill

Along similar lines to C.C.F. Government provisions in Saskatchewan, a new labor code for Ontario was proposed in a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday by R. H. Carlin (C.C.F., Sudbury).

The bill would repeal the portion of the Labor Relations Board Act which provides for application of the Dominion wartime labor regulations (P.C. 1003) to Ontario industries; create a right to collective bargaining, and exclusive representation by the agency chosen by majority vote of workers in any plant; provide for a vote if 25 per cent of the workers demand it; give the Labor Board power to inquire into and dissolve a company union.

Stiff penalties are provided for evasion—as much as \$200 for an individual and \$5,000 for a corporation—with imprisonment up to one year for a second offense. Where an employer continues to disobey a board order, the bill would authorize the Government to take over the plant and put a controller in charge. Union security would be protected through a modified form of union shop and the checkoff of union dues at the request of the employee.