

LIQUOR TRAFFIC RESTRICTION IN ONTARIO.

The time of the year has come when work can effectively be done for the further curtailment of the liquor traffic in different localities. This is specially the case with municipalities in the Province of Ontario.

The powers delegated by the Legislature in the province named may be briefly summarized as follows :—

Municipal councils may pass by-laws for reducing the number of licenses below the maximum statutory limit. This reduction may be by by-law. A municipal council may also fix within certain limits a fee for licenses greater than the minimum statutory fee. If this fee is to be made very large the by-law fixing it must be approved by a vote of the electors of the municipality. A municipal council may also fix the hours of closing places where liquor is sold under shop licenses.

License commissioners may pass resolutions fixing hours for closing, and generally, imposing any reasonable regulation they see fit, on places licensed to sell liquor, as to their mode of carrying on the business for which they are licensed. They may in their discretion issue fewer licenses than those permitted by statute or municipal by-law, but cannot exceed that number.

Electors have a right to petition against the granting or transferring of a license to take effect upon premises on which a license was not previously in operation.

An application for license to take effect on premises not before licensed must be accompanied by a petition signed by a majority of the electors in the polling sub-division in which such premises are situated.