

Hon. R. W. Scott, of Ottawa, who as Secretary of State in 1878 introduced into the Dominion Parliament the measure known as the Canada Temperance Act, has expressed opinions upon the question which will be found in the present issue of this journal. He believes that the legislature has authority to enact prohibition of retail selling, but thinks that it would be wise to simply enact further rigid restrictions of the traffic pending the action of the courts upon the question submitted. He to a certain extent agrees with, and differs from, both of the other opinions above set out.

A certain amount of control of the liquor traffic is, without question, vested in each of five different parties:

1. The Dominion Parliament has unquestioned authority to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors
2. Local legislatures have unquestioned authority to limit licenses and otherwise control the liquor traffic to any extent short of prohibition. Their right to enact prohibitory laws is disputed.
3. Municipal councils in Ontario have power to limit the number of licenses to be issued within their respective jurisdictions, such limitation always being within the statutory limitations provided by the legislature.
4. Boards of license commissioners in Ontario have authority to further limit the number of licenses to be issued, to fix hours of sale and to make other regulations for the management of licensed places.
5. Electors in Ontario have authority by petition to prevent the issue of new licenses, to oppose the renewal of licenses and in conjunction with municipal councils to enact local option by-laws.

It is manifest that responsibility in relation to the liquor traffic rests with all the parties that have any authority in the matter. At the present time, however, special attention is being paid to the Ontario Legislature. That body provided for the taking of the recent plebiscite, and as a result