

Motel Owner Says Cocktail Lounge Has Become Necessity

HALIFAX — (CP) — Hotel owner Forbes Thrasher said Tuesday he can't afford to stay in business here without a cocktail lounge.

His hotel, The Sword and Anchor, which opened in 1942, will be converted into a 21-unit apartment building.

Mr. Thrasher, prominent in a move to have Nova Scotia's liquor laws liberalized, said "unless something is done about them, we'll lose more of our hotels."

Cocktail lounges are not permitted, though wine and beer may be sold in hotel dining rooms by local option. The Nova Scotia Innkeepers Guild has been pressing for changes.

"Without a cocktail lounge," Mr. Thrasher said, "we can't afford to operate. Fortunately, we can change over to apartments. There is a good demand for apartments."

The Sword and Anchor's equipment was sold at auction. A cocktail lounge "doesn't mean drunkenness," he said. "No hotel wants to lose its licence."

Nova Scotia has a good tourist industry but "isn't getting the easier spender who wants 'good accommodation and something to do in the evening.'"

Stringent liquor laws have made hotels "obsolete," he said.

Motels have taken a lot of business away from hotels. At motels there "are no tipping demands" and dress is less formal.

With liquor revenue, hotels could afford to hire top chefs and continue traditional hotel operations. But unless the laws are changed, Nova Scotia may lose at least three more hotels, Mr. Thrasher said.

He said Canadian Pacific hotels in Kentville, Digby and Yarmouth "lost money this year."

R. A. Mackie, general manager of CPR hotels, told the Innkeepers Guild last week that most hotels in smaller Canadian communities "could not stay in business if it were not for beverage room operations."

Packers See Price Spreads Growing Bigger

OTTAWA (CP)—British Columbia Packers Limited of Vancouver Tuesday foresaw a continuing increase in price spreads.

In a brief to the royal commission which is investigating the gap between producer and consumer prices for food products, the fish-processing company said it looks for an "increase in pressures" causing the spread.

"There is no indication that labor will give up its annual demands in all sections of industry for higher wages, shorter working hours and more company-paid welfare and other fringe benefits," the packers told the commission.

"Every time concessions are granted to the steel workers who produce the tin plate for our cans, the oil refinery workers who produce the oil for our plants and fleet, the artisans who produce our equipment, the seamen and railroad workers who transport our materials and our finished product, the spread . . . will tend to increase."

Also tending to increase the spread was consumer demand for extra processing and packaging services. "The trend to prepared and pre-cooked packaged products has increased our processing costs and of necessity has increased the spread . . ."

Quoddy Project Investigation Near Completion

BOSTON (AP)—The \$3,300,000 engineering investigation into the feasibility of the proposed Passamaquoddy Tidal Power project by the American and Canadian governments is nearing completion, Richard D. Field of the U.S. Army Engineers reported Tuesday night.

Field is chief of the Passamaquoddy survey branch. He spoke before the Boston section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The recommendations to the two governments on the project will be made by the international joint commission from the conclusions of its engineering and fisheries boards.

The New England division of the army engineers is conducting the engineering investigation in collaboration with the Federal Power Commission, the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, the department of public works and the department of natural resources and northern affairs of Canada, and other agencies.

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