

Capping an oftentimes stormy session, town council last Monday night decided to send what were described as four "contentious" issues to the people for approval or disapproval on a referendum to be held shortly.

Citizens will be asked to answer "yes" or "no" to these four questions:

Do you approve of control of our police by our present police commission?

Do you approve of parking meters in the business section of town?

Do you approve of a liquor store and beer warehouse being established here?

Do you approve of council passing a by-law licensing restaurants in Dresden, restraining the owners from refusing to serve, regardless of race, creed or color.

The decision to submit all four issues to the electorate came a few minutes after Mayor Walter S. Weese had said:

"These cold wars - between temperance people and prohibitionist, colored and white - are ruining this town of Dresden."

Statutory requirements have compelled town council to change its plan to hold a referendum on April 19, it was announced Wednesday.

The law requires publication of the notice of election at least three weeks in advance of the date.

A special council meeting will be held next Monday night to fix the date.

Council's referral of the four issues to the people for decision came on the heels of the renewed request of a deputation of colored residents for passage of a by-law licensing local restaurants.

In moving that a referendum be held, Reeve Douglas Weese said, "I feel these four questions are causing a serious division in the community. I think we can settle them once and for all by taking them to the people."

Mr. William Carter, speaking for the deputation, pressed for legislation to regulate three local restaurants which he said would not serve members of his group.

"Sometimes the dose of medicine you give the patient can make his condition worse," observed the mayor. "Your grievance isn't with council, I hope - it's with the restaurant owners."

"You can enact any law you want to as long as it isn't contrary to any existing law," replied Mr. Carter.

"The question is, where does our jurisdiction over private enterprise begin and end?" queried Mayor Weese.

Mr. Carter quoted passages

from the statutes which he said allowed council to pass by-laws without question from anyone.

"There are a number of colored people who have told me you are killing their cause," the mayor told Mr. Carter.

Mr. Carter replied, "Like any group, we do have some people haven't the back-bone to stand up and fight."

Councillor Fry rose, and said, "I'm surprised that the mayor has carried on the meeting like this."

Mayor Weese: "You sit down."

Councillor Fry: "There have been questions asked here which should be answered."

The mayor: "If you'll sit down, I'll table this matter."

The mayor went on: "We know their cause is just, and we are not afraid of the restaurant owners. We're probably afraid of a law unknown in the Dominion of Canada. I haven't much faith in curing moral issues by law. It's your question, gentlemen."

Mr. H. Burnette. "We'll bring our lawyer down and show you how you can do it, if you'll pay the expenses."

Mr. Joe Hanson: "Let's hear what council has to say."

Councillor Fry: "There's a by-law restricting the hours of my business. If they can do it on me, council can pass by-laws on other matters. I can assure my good colored friends that I am in favor of the by-law."

"Seemingly this question has been going on for a long time," said Councillor George Wellman. "Other councils have apparently side-stepped it. I think the question should go to the Town of Dresden for a vote."

Mayor Weese. "It has appeared that every time council introduced an issue this year it has had insults and inflam-

(continued on page eight)

Council Sends

(continued from page one)

ing letters. If a cure can be found, I'll be the happiest man in this town."

Said Councillor George Clark: "We have no business to interfere. My advice from as good a lawyer as there is in the City of Chatham is that any council cannot pass legislation of this kind."

In moving that a referend-

um be held, Reeve Weese said:

"These four questions are causing serious divisions in the community."

Referring to the application for a liquor and beer warehouse, the reeve said the local member of the provincial house had told members of council all they had to do was file an application.

He said it had been more than a month since the application had been sent for a change in the police set-up.

"I think something is going to happen to that, too," he said.

When the motion was put to council, it was passed un-animously.

Average earnings of hourly rated workers in leading Canadian manufacturing plants at January 1, 1949, were \$39.46, an increase of \$6.29 over earnings at January 1, 1948.