

CITY CANNOT REFUSE LICENSES TO ALIENS

Controllers to Confer With the
Police Board — China
Enters a Protest.

Protests are pouring in on the civic authorities now against their action in limiting the issuing of business licenses to naturalized Canadians or Britishers.

It seems almost inevitable that the by-law of the Police Commissioners in this regard will have to be rescinded, on the ground that it contravenes the treaty rights of many foreign nations with Canada and Britain.

The Chinese vice-consul has already served notice on the city that such a restriction of business liberty is a breach of comity between Britain and China under existing treaties.

It is likely that there will be a conference between the Board of Control and the Police Commissioners on Tuesday afternoon in regard to the issuing of licenses to aliens. There is, of course, nothing to prevent the barring of ~~enemy~~ aliens from getting business licenses, but to shut out the citizens of allied nations, such as the United States, France, Italy, Japan, China, etc., is a different matter, and one that might lead to international complications.

In this connection it is of interest to note that Chicago City Council recently passed a by-law to bar aliens from getting business licenses, but on the protest of Secretary of State Lansing that such an ordinance was contrary to the treaty rights of many foreign nations the Council had to swallow itself and repeal the ordinance.