

## ROEBUCK SAYS OFFICERS AID CRIME FOR PAY

Seek to Purge Municipal Forces of Corruption by Constables Act Changes, Conant Admits to House

### PROVIDES FOR PROBES

The blunt assertion of A. W. Roebuck (Lib., Toronto-Bellwoods) that unsavory police conditions existed in some Ontario municipalities, amounting almost to malfeasance, drew from Attorney-General Gordon Conant last night the admission that proposed amendments to the Constables Act were aimed at stamping out corruption among municipal police forces.

The bill, sponsored by the Attorney-General, passed through committee stage in the Ontario Legislature with only minor amendments. It gives municipal police officers power to make arrests outside their own jurisdiction, and provides the attorney-general may order inquiries into "the conduct of any constable, the administration of any police force and the system of policing any municipality," with or without the request of the municipal council concerned.

Colonel Drew questioned the advisability of permitting investigation of the conduct of individual police officers, but Mr. Roebuck countered his argument with a single terse sentence.

"There are occasions," he said, "when police forces actually wink at criminal conditions within their jurisdiction."

"They actually take part in them some times," interjected Provincial Secretary Harry Nixon.

"Take part in and draw revenue from them," supplemented Mr. Roebuck, former Attorney-General.

"The honorable member has stated what I would have stated if I were not Attorney-General," Mr. Conant replied. "I would not have wished to have those remarks attributed to me in my capacity because they would be so subject to misinterpretation. In the main, our police are honest, aggressive and efficient, but such occasions do exist from time to time. This is aimed exactly at the purpose of meeting such situations."

The power of constables to make arrests outside their own municipalities was limited by an amendment which provided that such arrests could be made only in cases where the person concerned had committed, or was believed to have committed, a crime in territory within the jurisdiction of the arresting officer.

## GORDON LIKELY TO RETAIN SEAT

Amending Liquor Control Act to Allow Hepburn Minister to Head Board and Continue in House

### DREW GIVES WARNING

Appointment of Hon. St. Clair Gordon (Liberal, Kent West) to the post of Commissioner of the Liquor Control Board, with authority to retain his seat in the House, was virtually assured yesterday in the Legislature when Premier Hepburn defended the government's proposal to place the dual responsibility upon the member.

St. Clair Gordon, minister without portfolio, was not named in the brief debate between the two party leaders which followed the introduction by the Premier of an amendment to the Liquor Control Act, which, in brief, had the effect of making it unnecessary for an appointee among the members to vacate his seat.

Colonel George Drew prefaced his criticism with the statement that the man who was to be appointed was a close personal friend. "I only want to make this comment," he said. "I would urge the Premier not to press this bill further. I would warn the government it is on extremely dangerous ground in bringing the Liquor Control Board into this House."

Premier Hepburn held there was a precedent, established by the Conservative administration of 1912, which enacted legislation making it possible for the members of the Ontario Hydro Commission to sit in the House.

"I think," he said, "it is fit and proper that the man who administers such an extremely important department should sit in this House and thus be directly responsible to this House for his administration."

## Boom It Out, Hunter Urges

In the booming voice which once echoed through the Peshawar Hills of India, Col. Fred Fraser Hunter, erstwhile Bengal Lancer, yesterday in the Ontario Legislature assailed members in the front ranks who spoke in tones which did not carry to the long-suffering back-benchers.

Members on all sides thumped their approval of the rebuke with a drum roll on desk tops as Colonel Hunter (Lib., St. Patrick) indignantly requested Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways, to speak louder. There were, he said, members on the back benches who did not necessarily agree with the matter on which he was speaking.

"Do you mean me?" asked the minister in surprise, as his Cabinet colleagues grinned at his discomfiture.

"Yes, I mean you," snapped back Colonel Hunter.

"I haven't had the advantage of military training," put in Mr. McQuesten.

"All right, speak up, anyway," retorted the annoyed member.

## CIVIL SERVICE LIST UP 509

Extension of services under the Department of Health accounted for an increase of 509 in the civil service list since the Hepburn Government came into power in 1934, Premier Hepburn advised the House yesterday.

The Premier, answering a question by Colonel George Drew, Conservative Leader, reported there were 6,321 permanent and 1,418 temporary civil service employees. He emphasized that the staff of the Health Department had been increased by 555 and that, therefore, there had been actually a reduction of 46 in other departments.

He attributed the increase largely to tubercular work and to the extension of mental hospital services. There was, also, a small increase in the laboratory section. Department officials pointed out later that the number of specimens sent in for examination had increased from 380,000 in 1934 to 550,000 in 1938.