

SAYS FEDER HAS THUGS IN EMPLOY

Police Aid Offered to Municipalities, Mr. Conant States

The charge that armed thugs who fled from the United States are engaged in a gambling underworld here controlled by Manny Feder, was made in the Legislature yesterday by Opposition Leader Lieutenant-Colonel George Drew, who called upon the Government to put these "miserable beasts" out of business by immediate action to enforce the law in the suburbs of Toronto.

Colonel Drew said that Feder, alias Fuller, lived in a luxurious apartment a stone's-throw from the Parliament Buildings; that he was extending "like an octopus" and forcing small bookmakers to come under his control; that thugs employed by Feder beat up members of rival organizations, and that men had recently left hospital after receiving treatment for injuries suffered at the hands of these gunmen. The Opposition Leader called upon the Government to pass any amendments to existing statutes which may be necessary to remove "any real impediment" to wiping out the underworld gambling racket.

There was no finality reached on the Opposition Leader's proposal, but a major debate ensued, in which Premier Hepburn, Attorney-General Conant, Leopold Macaulay and other members of the House took part. Mr. Macaulay said all the necessary powers for suppression of the gambling rackets lay in the hands of the Attorney-General, and he declared: "Let me be in your place (Mr. Conant's) for twelve hours and I'll close them up."

This was the first vigorous criticism offered by the Opposition during the current session of the Legislature.

Mr. Conant bore the brunt of the attack. He described how he had repeatedly offered the municipalities surrounding Toronto the services of the Ontario Provincial Police, but the municipalities invariably declined to avail themselves of the offer. Once a municipality forms a police commission and appoints thereto the members as specified by law, the Attorney-General has no right to interfere, he said.

"I regard them as being in a semi, quasi-judicial position," declared Mr. Conant. A little later the Attorney-General, in a reference to light penalties imposed on gamblers and racketeers, said: "Surely I am not being asked to go to a magistrate and ask him to impose heavier penalties? I do agree that the fining of keepers is simply a glorified or legalized license fee. The only

way to control them is to send them to jail for good long stretches."

"That's right," agreed Colonel Drew.

In voicing his denunciation of gambling and the gambling rackets in general, Colonel Drew, in his opening words, referred to a resolution from the Presbytery of the United Church on the subject.

"This Legislature should take steps to deal with a situation which will undermine confidence in the enforcement of the law unless dealt with," said Colonel Drew. "I realize the great difficulties and problems which have to be faced. The earliest remains of human beings are accompanied by some form of gambling devices. But there is a vast difference between instinctive gambling and organized corruption. I understand the difficulties of the Attorney-General with regard to limitations. If those limitations are too great, then let effective amendments be introduced making it possible for the Provincial authorities to take effective steps.

"A man named Manny Feder, alias Fuller, is the underworld lord in this area," continued Colonel Drew. "This same Feder has done time. He has in his employ armed thugs and convicted gunmen. One of them was sentenced to over twenty years for armed robbery. He lives in Toronto, where he is well known to the Attorney-General.

Men Beaten Up.

"This underworld has telephone lines and a whole organized system of control. Only recently men left hospital who were beaten up by these thugs. We have knowledge of this. We have reason to be proud that no large-scale racketeering flourishes in Toronto. Yet in the adjacent area around the city are thugs who have been driven out of the United States and are flourishing on the payroll of this organization. We are asking young men to give their all in this war. I want to say that this gambling racket is a matter of deep concern to the military authorities. Young men in the armed forces are enticed to go into these places and they often find themselves embarrassed to the point where it affects their military duties.

"I raise this matter so that we may have an opportunity of dealing with it without any legal restraint," continued Colonel Drew. "I want the members of the House to know the extent of the bestiality which accompanies this racket. Fol-

lowing the bombing of one of these gambling joints by a rival gang, these miserable beasts were brought in from the United States for pay and so dealt with members of the opposing gang that they were left on the verge of death, their legs broken by clubs with which they were beaten on the orders of this overlord of the underworld.

Organized Theft of Funds.

"Do not think I am not appreciative of the thoroughly human instincts with regard to gambling. But there is a large difference between casual gambling and this organized theft of public funds, for that is what it is, to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly. That is the sort of thing we cannot permit.

"We stand with our backs to the wall today not only against the enemy in the field, but in defense of our way of life, and part of the fabric of that way of life is that wrongdoing will be punished by the long arm of the law, and if the law doesn't go far enough, laws that will must be passed.