

February 1, 1934.

Memo -

Mr. Sallans -

Re Inspector J. F. C. B. Vance

Pursuant to our conversation yesterday, I tender the following facts regarding Inspector Vance, police bureau of science:

As you are probably aware, Inspector Vance has been made several lucrative offers during the past five years. Police departments in other cities have realized his tremendous value and made exceedingly high bids for his services.

For various reason, some of which are personal, Vance has on all occasions in the past refused these offers.

Recently, however, a Chinese student, on behalf of the Chinese government, made a tentative offer for Vance's services in connection with the establishment of a crime detection laboratory i n The Orient.

I know that Vance, disappointed in the treatment he has received at the hands of our city fathers and the tremendous amount of work involved,



in crime detection in his laboratory, is seriously considering acceptance<sup>a/</sup> of the Chinese offer.

Vance's value to the city of Vancouver, or any city for that matter, is inestimable. During the three years I have been covering police, Vance has been involved in an extremely large number of cases in which detectives, following the routine methods of crime detection, would have been unable to secure convictions.

Not only has Vance's work secured the incarceration of gunmen, burglars, yeggmen, rapists and petty thieves, but he has undoubtedly saved the city many, many times his salary by precluding possibilities of damage suits.

In one instance alone involving the fatal shooting of<sup>b/</sup> one<sup>the</sup> you by a policeman, three lawyers attended the inquest, hawk-eyed for the merest opportunity of a successful damage action against the city. Vance's evidence, which could not have been secured by any<sup>other</sup> person at present connected with the Vancouver Police Department, was sufficient to prevent such an action.



Vance's official positions at the present time are: city analyst, city ~~sanitation~~ toxicologist and inspector of the bureau of science. This work involves the supervision of all food inspections, the analyses ~~and~~ and examination of all suspected deaths and his scientific criminal work.

During 1933, Vance was involved in investigation of 49 suspected deaths, the majority of which never got beyond the inquest stage. Of the balance of 143 cases handled by him, only three resulted in acquittals of the accused men. Four or five of these cases were still pending at the end of the year.

I personally know that the work has become so heavy that Vance is obliged to work almost every night of the week and is working every Sunday.

The situation with regard to salary is this: Last year Vance applied for an increase in salary. There was a storm of ~~pro~~<sup>pro</sup>test from individuals, including some aldermen, the meat of which was that Vance was being paid a sufficiently large salary.

Several years previously when Vance made the same request to



the city council it was referred to a group of aldermen for investigation.

This group discovered after a canvass of every university in Canada and numerous outstanding laboratories throughout the country that the best the city could do if Vance left was to hire three other men to handle his work.

Today Vance has managed to establish under one roof and single control (his own) the finest crime detection laboratory ever established on two continents.

Should Vance leave his present position, the city would be out many times his salary should <sup>it</sup> ~~they~~ employ the ~~three~~ three men required to handle the work which he now does alone.

In addition to his work for the city department, Vance has been engaged by Provincial Police, R. ~~Mr~~ C. M. P. and police departments throughout the province. This service was given by the city in a ~~spirit of co-operation~~ spirit of co-operation.

Vance's value, in my opinion, to the police <sup>no</sup> ~~pr~~ tective agencies of the province cannot be exaggerated and should you consider one or more editorials in his favor, I would suggest the following.



1. Inasmuch as Vance does not wish to start another storm of protest regarding his offers from outside, that no mention be made of the recent Chinese ~~mission~~ proposition.

2. That the editorials, if any, force home the fact that Vance is extremely valuable to every police department in the province and that he be transferred from a city to a provincial government payroll, maintaining his laboratory and headquarters in Vancouver.

In this way the cost of maintaining the expensive equipment and any reasonable increase in Vance's salary would be borne by the entire province and not by the city of Vancouver as in the past.

It is true that the city might charge any ~~municipal~~ municipal or other department for Vance's service.

Surely it is evident even to the city fathers and our legislators that Vance is entitled to an increase in salary commensurate with the increased amount of work he must complete, even if he is not paid his true value.

Gar Macpherson