



## City of Vancouver

Department  
City Prosecutors Office,

Vancouver, B.C.

November 5th, 1923.

### re Equipment for Criminal Investigation.

The Chief Constable,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir;

I understand that Mr. J.F.C.B.Vance is asking you to supply him with some additional equipment for use in criminal investigation, and I am writing to explain as best I can how necessary this equipment is.

I can give you a great many instances in which Mr Vance's assistance has been invaluable, using his present equipment, but what I think should be emphasized are the cases where he has been unable to give us full results, due entirely to lack of means.

May I say that I have had many discussions with Mr. Vance on this subject because I believe in using every aid that **Science** can lend and am convinced that he will be able to do work in criminal research that is not merely a copy of London, Paris or New York but due to his original research will be in some respects a distinct advance on any known methods.

I attach herewith a list from memory of ten cases we have had recently, showing in one column what he was able to do, and then in the other column what I would have liked and what he tells me he would have a fair chance of doing with the additional facilities he is asking for.





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Please call on me if you wish any further elucidation of any matters mentioned. I feel very strongly that secrecy about the matter should be observed otherwise the criminals may take more pains to obliterate the clues they so obligingly scatter around at present.

Yours truly

(signed)

Oscar Orr  
City Prosecutor.

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1. Attempt burglary.  
Stearman's Drugstore,  
Alma & 4th.

Jimmy found in possession of accused shown to have exact paint & dirt film that appear on the forced door. In this case the quantity of material found on jimmy was large enough to be dealt with by present facilities.

Burglars both convicted.

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2. Attempt burglary,  
Drugstore, Venables & Commercial.

Same facts as above but material adhering to jimmy too infinitesimal for present facilities.

Should have been able to tie the jimmy up with burglar in whose possession it was found.

Burglary charged dropped.

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3. Fitzgerald case.  
Explosives & money found in sock outside his hotel room.

Money was shown to have beer stains on it similar to money in his pocket.

Should have been able to show that sock had been worn by Fitzgerald, putting case beyond argument.

Convicted.

Appealed. Conviction upheld but Judges disagreed.

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4. Ivanhoe Hotel,  
Attempted burglary.

Smudged finger prints on window sill too blurred for finger print expert to swear to.

Mr. Vance not consulted in the case but with new apparatus should have been able to have proved mark to have been made by accused apart altogether from finger print science.

Accused acquitted.

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5. Death of 2 ladies on Broadway.  
Hit & run driver.

Threads from coat of deceased lady together with small sliver of glass identified and proved to be same as found adhering to car.

New apparatus should give similar results even if nothing more than contact leaving no threads or particles behind.

Conviction for manslaughter.

Could also fix identity of person holding the wheel.

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6. Theft of tire.

Identification of mud on tire and mud on boot.

Mud was ~~in~~ sufficiently quantity for analysis but if only a small piece we could not get the results at present.

Conviction.



7. Death of little child by hit & run driver.

A single thread of child's dress found in crack of headlight glass.

On being confronted with this, driver confessed.

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8. Melnyk & Gordon,  
Stolen car, shot at police.  
2 or 3 holdups all in one night.

Managed to convict of holdup on identity of accused, but not able to proceed with shooting case.

*Vance not  
consulted in  
this case*

This was an outstanding case. We had all sorts of exhibits, 2 recently fired guns, bloodstains on car, overcoats and on man.

I wanted to show 2 things:

- (1) Time guns were fired,
- (2) Identity of blood stain on back window of car, from which shooting took place.

Neither of these results were attained but we think would have been available with the new equipment.

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9. Lapiere & Capstick  
Burglary. Oct. 1932.

Burglary left clear imprint of rubber heel on window, window too large to move "place glass" photography unsuccessful, heel print obliterated by photographic attempts.

Both acquitted.

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10. Terryberry, Moore, Capstick, Lapiere,  
2 holdups  
Car partly identified.

Loaded gun found under driver's seat of car, no one in car, 4 accused in house where car parked.

All hands released and two have even had the nerve to threaten suit for false arrest and have given notices.

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11. Sexual cases generally

Complete results would be possible.

*Vance Not Consulted  
in this case*

With new equipment, Mr. Vance would have had a most favorable chance to prove that the person whose hand was on the wheel of the car was the person who last had the gun in his hand and I would have been able to get one at least convicted because there was no dispute about who the driver was.

We expect better results than ever possible before.