

*The Canadian*

# POLICE GAZETTE

VOL. 8

No. 8



J. I. DEMERS, ESQ.  
CHIEF CONSTABLE  
MAGOG, P. Q.

November, 1933

EXPLANATION AND PUBLICATION  
OF POLICE ACTIVITIES



# *The Canadian* **POLICE GAZETTE**

*A Magazine Devoted to the Explanation of Police Activities in Canada*

Subscription, \$3.00 per Annum

Advertising Rates on Application

VOL. 8

NOVEMBER, 1933

No. 8

## J.F.C.B. Vance---Super Criminologist

HE doesn't make much fuss about his works in the annals of Criminology. He doesn't brazen his way into periodicals so as to give them an idea that he and he only can solve crimes to the satisfaction of puzzled authorities. He doesn't try and show the world that they are all wrong, and he is right. And, added to all that, is the fact that he does not seek notoriety.

Naturally a prophet has no honor in his own country, and this applies with a vengeance to Inspector Vance—or to give him his full name, Inspector John F. C. B. Vance. Vancouver doesn't know him. When they see the name Vance in the daily papers—if it is mentioned at all, though those same papers just say that the City Analyst has charge—they usually associate it with mucky intestines and some other substance which are supposed to appertain to the human system. Just that.

Now peculiarly it remained for Chief John Cameron of Vancouver to really appreciate Inspector Vance's worth. Heretofore the different chief constables have taken all the credit to themselves, letting Vance stay in the background. But Chief Cameron, visiting Victoria, in connection with a case which involved a Vancouver family, and which was puzzling the Victoria police, told Chief Heatley there that Inspector Vance of Vancouver, was an expert in investigation work, with the result that he was called in. Here it might be stated that Inspector Vance is a chemist, with big degrees; he is an assayer, holding licences from the Dominion, Provincial and City governments; and he is also a chemical and metallurgical engineer. So in his peculiar position as Vancouver City Analyst he is fitted to rule over the Police Bureau of Science in that city. But as we said before, the different incumbents of the chief's office before Chief Cameron were content to have all the credit, and naturally Vance had none. Indeed, it is only lately that they even gave him the inspectorship—and that was during Jack Cameron's time.

For twenty-six years Inspector Vance has labored in his laboratory. Piece by piece he has built up that place until now it is the most complete on the North American continent. He has 6,000 square feet of floor

space wherein he labors, and you can find him there almost day and night to complete the labors he has undertaken. He is a rather shy individual, and never asserts himself. That is one of the reasons that he has stayed in the one city. That is the reason, possibly, why previous chiefs have covered themselves with glory, basking in the radiance shed by the endeavors of Inspector Vance.

One can gather the extent of the apparatus when the following is enumerated:

ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT (Black Light)—Used in the detection of forged documents—alterations in signatures—detection of counterfeit money, etc.

COMPARATOR — Used in the comparison of handwriting—fingerprints—typewriting, etc.

COMPARISON MICROSCOPE — Used principally in the identification of firearms,

shells, bullets—by which means it is possible to positively identify the revolver, pistol or rifle from which a bullet was fired.

LOW POWER MICROSCOPE—Used for the identification of minute particles, dust, hairs, splinters of wood, fabrics, organic and inorganic matter taken from the person or clothing of suspected persons.

HIGH POWER MICROSCOPE—Used for the examination of blood, semen stains, smears, and identification of bacteria.

SPECTROSCOPE—Used in the identification of blood, impurities in blood, drugs, etc.

POLARISCOPE—Used in the identification of liquids found on suspected persons.

REFRACTOMETER—Used in the identification of solids, liquids, and fats, including also the various alcoholic liquids.



J. F. C. B. VANCE, ESQ.  
INSPECTOR IN CHARGE

**FINE BALANCE**—Used in the weighing of poisons extracted from various parts of the human body.

**HELIXOMETER**—Used for the examination of inside of weapon barrels and for measuring the helix or twists of the lands or grooves in the barrel. This is essential in proving that bullets are fired from certain arms.

His investigations have a wide range. He can reconstruct a crime, until one can almost see it. He has saved the City of Vancouver thousands of dollars in damage suits. He has delved into criminology to such an extent that he can advise the detective departments in a good many cases as to whether they have the right or wrong man in custody, and he has an uncanny intuition which invariably places him on the right track. In case, for instance, the Terminal City doubts this, let us take the case of one McRae, who was shot and killed by Patrolman Richardson in an attempt to hold up a club. The officer pursued the young man, and the latter realizing this turned and started to fire back at the officer, wounding the latter in the thigh. But the culprit did not die at that time. He ran away, and when he did finally fall, it was about a block from where he was shot. At the inquest, there were numerous lawyers to watch closely, as it apparently had been stated that the boy was an innocent bystander who had been shot by the policeman. Inspector Vance took the powder marks from the boy's hand, analyzed and compared same with the powder contained in the revolver—he then examined the bullet extracted from the policeman's leg, and proved conclusively that this bullet had been fired from the revolver in question—the splintered lead found on McRae's clothing being analyzed and found to be identical with the lead contained in the bullet which was extracted from Constable Richardson's leg, and showed to the satisfaction of the coroner's jury the direct connection. As we said before, that saved the city a large sum of money.

We could cite a lot more of these cases, and prove the worth in Inspector Vance.

But now he is emerging. Other places on the continent have heard about him, and he has been offered positions at double the money which he received in Vancouver. Yet he hesitates to go. You know, after a man has lived in a city for over a quarter of a century he hates to move, but this is what eventually will happen. The only thing, Inspector Vance told us, he hates to go away for, are those beloved instruments of his. Who will take care of them? Who will see to it that the duties they are supposed to furnish will be bared in continuity? But, we know of one case where a professor from an Oriental college is trying to arrange for Inspector Vance's removal to that country, and has promised that the laboratory will be at Vance's orders so far as machinery is concerned. Yet the Inspector regards Vancouver as his home, and hesitates to leave the place.

Inspector Vance has discovered, too, the possibilities in the matter of body stains. Through intensive research he has learned that skin pigmentation in human beings varies greatly and that the pigmentation leaves its own mark on articles touched by the skin surface. Extensive tests are being carried out at the Bureau in an attempt to classify these pigmentations and to enlarge on the encouraging results so far obtained. The success of this research will mean much to law enforcement bodies for it will add another feature in the scientific detection of crime, if indeed it does not do away entirely with the finger printing system. The Bertillon

measurements, then finger printing, and now this. Men like Inspector Vance are studying today the best methods whereby they can combat criminality. They realize that all criminals use the latest in the way of science to elude the law, and law itself has to keep pace with them. Hence this astonishing discovery by Inspector Vance.

That is the reason that Inspector John F. C. B. Vance, head of the Vancouver Police Bureau, received his F.C.S., and also the extra order of merit in the F.C.I.C.—because Great Britain recognized his claim to the advancement of science was genuine and he proved it so. Though the saddest part of the whole affair is that he had to stay in Vancouver for the time being, again proving the statement that a prophet has no honor in his own country through lack of appreciation.

## Extradition Lengthy Process

**R**ENEWED attempts by the United States to extradite Samuel Insull from Greece have again focused attention on the legal process through which one government surrenders a man wanted on criminal charges to another.

While it is a relatively simple matter to extradite a person from one state in the Union to another in which he committed a crime, extradition between nations is hedged about by many technicalities.

In the first place, there must be an extradition treaty, naming special crimes, between the country which holds a man charged as a criminal and the country which wants him. Furthermore, the crime which furnishes the basis for the charges on which extradition proceedings are founded must not only be named in the treaty, but must also be of a type punishable by the laws of the country in which the fugitive has taken refuge.

Although, theoretically, there is no secret about the extradition treaties of the United States, they are in reality concealed and not filed so as to be easily accessible. The State Department does not care to have the provisions of the treaties made public, as such knowledge would give a criminal a definite guide as to the places in which he would be safe from apprehension.

This country, however, has extradition treaties with every major country in the world except the Soviet Union, which is not recognized by the United States. There are also treaties with a number of the smaller countries.

In a foreign country, after the fugitive has been arrested, he is arraigned before an official similar to the United States commissioners, who handle extradition cases involving foreigners in the United States, and that official decides whether the information is sufficient to warrant holding the fugitive.

Up to this time diplomatic officials conduct the negotiations, but if the fugitive is held to be extraditable he must be returned to this country by the regular arresting officers, who must go abroad to claim their man. In the meantime, the fugitive has the right to appeal to the higher courts from the ruling of the official who has ordered him held, just as in this country an alien facing extradition may take his appeal to a United States District Court.