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The Canadian

POLICE GAZETTE

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CHIEF CONSTABLE IRVAN ROBERTSON
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

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EXPLANATION AND PUBLICATION
OF POLICE ACTIVITIES

in 1806, and was replaced by James Read, who was the only one of them to refuse a title. His period in office was marked by one of those transactions which helped to bring Runners into disrepute. The Paisley Bank was robbed of £20,000. Of this amount £12,000 was immediately returned through a Runner who claimed and received a reward. This Runner then arrested the culprit, but he was released on payment of a further £1,000. He was again arrested and sentenced. The Runner involved later died and left £30,000, which in itself was suspicious. Read resigned in 1813, and was replaced in office by Sir Nathaniel Conant. This period was marked by further irregularities on the part of the Force. A system of rewards still obtained and in order to qualify for reward the Runners incited unfortunates to commit crime and then arrested them. If the prisoners were found to have nothing incriminating in their possession the Runners supplied this deficiency by planting stolen property in their pockets.

The appointment of Sir Robert Baker in 1820 was a severe blow to the ambitions of one Richard Birnie, who had been Assistant to Sir Nathaniel for years. Birnie was fortunate, however, as Sir Robert's career was quickly brought to an inglorious close. He was the first of a long line to be dismissed. The affairs of the British Royal Family were far from happy in 1820, and Queen Caroline was obliged to sue for divorce. She was a popular figure with the people of London, and her death in 1821 was a signal for the outbreak of serious rioting. Her remains were being returned to her native Germany and orders had been given that they were to be removed quietly. Despite this order the mob seized the remains and gave them a State funeral through London. For his failure to prevent this Sir Robert was dismissed.

He was replaced by Richard, afterwards Sir Richard, Birnie, and the latter remained in office until the passing of Peel's Act, already mentioned. He was fortunate in having for patron the Prince of Wales, and his career was marked by nothing more unusual than the activities of resurrectionists of which more anon.

In compiling this short narrative, I have gleaned much useful information from *The Bow Street Runners*, by Gilbert Armitage; *The Gordon Riots*, by Paul de Castro, and *The Life and Times of Sir Thomas de Veil*, by an anonymous author.

— *The Garda Review.*

YOU'VE HAD IT, DAD

Dr. John Dearness, London, Ontario's 96-year-old botanist, historian and educationalist, is just a bit irked that here it is spring again, but for the first time in half a century he won't be driving his car along the highways and byways of Middlesex County in search of botanical specimens.

"The highways department don't want me to drive," he said wryly, "and they won't issue me a license this year. They say it's for my own safety."

"Why, I'm a better driver today than 20 years ago," said Dr. Dearness, who, after many years, is still one of North America's greatest authorities on fungi. "I know from my own experience that if the faculties do not deteriorate, a man becomes a better driver from year to year, profiting by what he learns."

Dr. Dearness drove his car right up to last winter. A year and a half ago, at the age of 95, he was the first motorist to cross the new Adelaide St. bridge.

Inspector Vance Retires

Vancouver Police Department this month loses the services of one of the continent's foremost criminologists and scientists with the retirement of Inspector J. F. C. B. Vance. Directing all phases of scientific investigation from health to crime, the inspector after 42 years' service bids goodbye to the laboratory of which he was such an integral part.



INSPECTOR J. F. C. B. VANCE
Police Bureau of Science
Vancouver, B. C.

Inspector Vance was instrumental in building the present scientific laboratory, which is classed among the first half dozen in the world, to its present stature. It has been through his efforts and many unrewarded labors that today the people of Vancouver have at their doorstep an avenue for scientific decision far beyond most cities in the world.

While primarily Inspector Vance's activities were concentrated in the coast city, his fame was such that countless calls were made upon his time by outside departments who were faced with problems which could only be solved by scientific investigation. Murder cases, hit-and-run, breaking and entering and others too numerous to mention where visual clues were non-existent, was his forte. If science held the answer, Inspector Vance could find it.

Inspector Vance will be greatly missed by the Vancouver Police Department, for his counsel was uniformly sound. Never given to the dramatic, to the inspector facts were only facts when they could be proven. His code of ethics would not allow any variance from that ideal.

While Inspector Vance is no longer to be seen in his beloved laboratory, that great institution on the top floor of the Vancouver police station will forever remain a monument to his lifetime of unselfish service to the citizens of Vancouver.

ABOLITION REGRETTED

The New Zealand Justices of the Peace Association has demanded the restoration of capital punishment, abolished by the Labor Government in 1941, because of the increase in the number of murders. They also asked the Government to declare Communism illegal.