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INSPECTOR JOHN MURDOCH  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

SEPTEMBER, 1939

**EXPLANATION AND PUBLICATION  
OF POLICE ACTIVITIES**



# The Canadian *POLICE GAZETTE*

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## *Vancouver Police Department*

THE position of Chief Constable in the city of Vancouver is admitted to be one of the most difficult assignments possible to conceive. Not through any supernatural requirements nor the hours of labor necessary to efficiently head the department but from the everlasting interference of politicians who insist on interfering and "cleaning up" the police department.

The present incumbent, Brigadier W. W. Foster, has received the usual dose of abuse handed out by the King-makers, but contrary to expectations, he didn't resign as has been the custom. It seems that Chief Foster is made of sterner stuff than some of his predecessors and advised all and sundry to bring and prove their charges or go jump in the lake. And in spite of pressure the chief is still in command of the force and has his guns cocked for the next raid on his record.

Chief Foster is a strange mixture of planner and fighter. His courage has never been challenged by his enemies and his war record reads like the imagination of a fiction writer.

Rising from the ranks of his battalion he attained the rank of colonel on the field during which time he was awarded the D.S.O. with bar for acts of bravery. He is listed as the only man in the British forces who refused the Victoria Cross and insisted it be presented to another.

Such a man is Brigadier W. W. Foster.

Under the most ideal conditions the position of Chief Constable in Vancouver is no "bed of roses." Faced with many problems running from control of the unemployed to acting as a buffer between the "Open Town" and the "Closed Town" advocates the hatred of all factions is heaped upon his head. And to further add to the chief's worries the introduction of politics into city affairs has further complicated matters.



BRIG. W. W. FOSTER  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

Politics at any time is a dirty business and Vancouver, until the last few years, has been singularly free from its influences. Civic affairs were carried out with all working for the good of the city and splendid progress was made; politics was shunted into the background and civic pride was the watchword of the Council.

Needless to say the introduction of party politics in any city is a serious matter. Civic government suffers and the only tangible result is hatred and suspicion and the blockade of all worth-while endeavors.

However, returning to the police department: Few Vancouverites realize just what a great institution they have housed in the Cordova Street building where, on the top floor is the Bureau of Science. Under the jurisdiction of Inspector J. F. C. B. Vance

this department is a model of perfection. Questions ranging from ballistics to the cream content of milk are settled in this division—as a matter of fact all scientific questions are referred to the Inspector not only by the city but by outside departments.

With an investment approximating the \$100,000 mark the Bureau of Science has proved an invaluable asset to the city aiding investigating officers in reaching a solution in many cases. A strange yet valuable feature of this department is the fact that many suspects were proved innocent of crimes that circumstances would have convicted.

Inspector Vance is a man of great attainments. An avid reader and intensive student the list of subjects he has mastered in his chosen profession leave one aghast at his ability to absorb knowledge. The difficult cases he has solved are so many and varied that his opinion is much sought and the fact that his evidence has never been refuted in any case is conclusive evidence of his ability. The never-ending list of duties he performs for the city keeps Inspector Vance

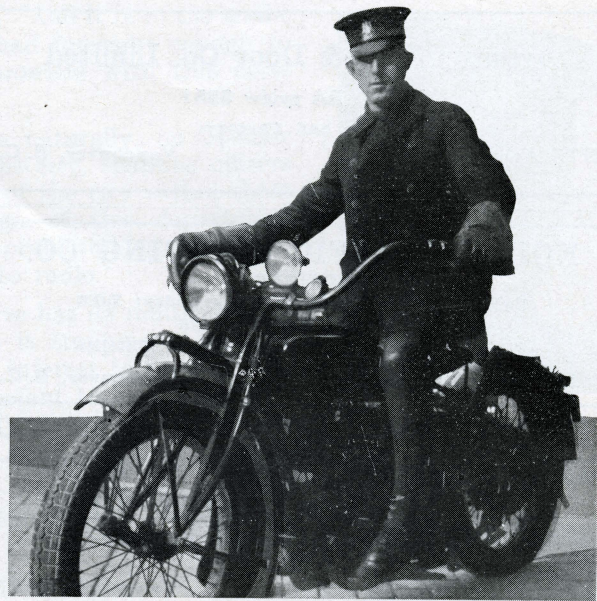




INSPECTOR J. F. C. B. VANCE  
CRIMINOLOGIST — VANCOUVER POLICE DEPT.

and his assistants more than busy and his department has proved one of the best investments Vancouver has ever made.

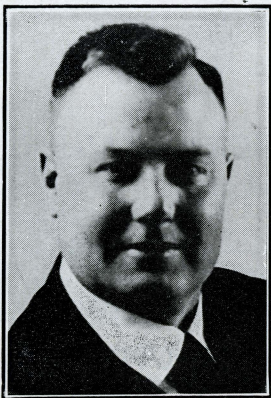
The Department of Criminal Investigation under the guidance of Superintendent Gordon Grant leaves little to be desired. An old-time member of the force, Superintendent Grant knows the ins and outs of his



CHAS. MACDONALD AND MOTOR CYCLE

business, so well, in fact, that every major crime committed since he has headed the C.I.D. has been solved. Soft-spoken and courteous, Mr. Grant's appearance belies his ability and tenacity as a police officer. One would rather take him for a successful mercantile executive more interested in trade and commerce than in law enforcement. Needless to say the imposing record of successful solutions of crimes set up by Superintendent Grant's department has had a retarding effect on criminal operation in the city.

The prowler system of course is equipped with two-way radio, enabling officers and headquarters to keep in constant communication. This feature, so necessary to a police department, has been the means of running down culprits even before they had time



STAFF INSPECTOR TULEY



INSPECTOR A. GRUNDY



HON. GORDON S. WISMER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA





ED. PETTIT  
INSPECTOR C. I. D.



DONALD CAMERON  
PATROL SERGEANT



HERB. HIGGINBOTTOM  
PATROL SERGEANT



DETECTIVE AMBROSE

to leave the scene of the crime. And it is to the credit of the city fathers that they had foresight enough to provide funds to equip the prowlers with this most necessary equipment.

The flotilla of prowlers are naturally, on 24-hour service patrolling all parts of the city, enabling officers to arrive at a call in any part of the city within three minutes. The speedy coverage of this department has resulted in better police protection at low cost, a protection impossible prior to radio.

The uniform branch of course has its multitudinous duties as of old. Whether it is stopping a fight or advising tourists the points of interest to be seen, the man on the beat is fully competent to look after that end. And Vancouver is justly proud of her finest.

All in all, Vancouver has an excellent police department. The officers on the force are fully capable of handling their duties efficiently and without loss of time. Provided . . . . .

The Meddlers will leave them alone.

## Traffic Accidents

THE number of deaths from automobile accidents in British Columbia during 1938 was 110, which is 14 less than the total during 1937. The record of an average of two deaths every week is, however, still far short of the objective of those who are seeking to make the streets of the city and province safe for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Ontario, where a safety campaign has been in progress for many months and where practical and determined efforts are being made to lower the death rate, shows an encouraging decrease from 774 deaths in 1937 to 670 during last year.

Saskatchewan had the lowest provincial death rate from motor vehicle accidents in 1938, on the basis of population, of 5.2 per 100,000. The highest provincial death rate was in Ontario, with 18.1 per 100,000, followed by British Columbia with 14.5. It is significant that Manitoba's death rate of 80 in 1938 was 14 greater than 1937, for it was the growing rate of the death toll that stimulated the city of Winnipeg to the initiation of its 100 deathless days campaign.



DETECTIVE DAVE SHIRLEY



DETECTIVE ALEX BELL



CONSTABLE ROD McLEOD



CONSTABLE J. GRANT



CONSTABLE JOHN DUNN