

## Notes on Recent Work

### Bottled Witchcraft

**B**ELIEVE IT *or not*, Witchcraft still exists!

It was learned by a police patrol that an Indian had secured some liquor and become drunk while on a fishing trip, eventually falling into his campfire and severely burning his legs.

On his return to the Reserve, in explanation of his damaged condition, he told his interrogators that he had been betwitched and "that some great power had forced him to sit on the burning fire".

### Submerged Evidence

In the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases the ability to weigh the value of the source of information and other factors of equal importance in regard to its accuracy or otherwise, calls continuously for the exercise of good judgment on the part of peace officers. There must always be a sifting of the chaff from the wheat.

Information considered to be reliable was received by an Ontario detachment of the R.C.M. Police that a houseboat was harbouring smuggled malt in defiance of the Customs Act. Weighing the information carefully the police decided on a search. Their first efforts were unsuccessful. Convinced, however, of the authenticity of the information the search was repeated, this time bringing to light, literally and practically, a barrel of six hundred pounds capacity, containing three hundred and thirty-nine pounds of malt syrup.

The barrel had been submerged under the houseboat in such a manner that the malt could be syphoned out whenever required.

A plea of ignorance, at the subsequent prosecution, was of no avail, and the accused was convicted and fined.

### False Accusation

The necessity for checking information received, even while it is being acted upon, is evidenced in the following instance.

On the night of June 13th a woman (A) went to the home of a man (B) in a Maritime city, and placed a bottle of contraband liquor in his kitchen. She then went to the police and said that if a search were made of the premises of "B" at once, a bottle of liquor would be discovered in the kitchen behind the dresser. "A" further stated that "B" was selling liquor by the "drink" to his boarders. Questioned as to how she knew the liquor was there, "A" stated that she had just come from "B"'s home and had seen the bottle.

Previously, "B" had been searched under the provincial liquor act, but a further search was now ordered upon the information given by the woman.

During the search that followed "B" stated that he knew "A" and that she had been at his home, having left for her place a short time before; also that she had been in the kitchen alone while the other occupants of the house had been upstairs.