

the accelerant for keeping the fire going after it had been ignited. From the stump the dog continued toward the still-smouldering ruins of the barn to the point from which the man had been seen running after the fire had been first noticed.

Charged with Arson, s. 511 Cr. Code, Stokes appeared before Judge A. A. Dysart and jury at Dorchester, N.B., on June 4, 1947, and pleaded not guilty. T. T. Goodwin, K.C., of Moncton, N.B., conducted the prosecution, and J. M. McIntyre of Sackville represented the accused.

Included in the evidence offered by the Crown was testimony regarding Wolf's behaviour and actions in retriev-

ing the coat. Defence counsel objected strongly to the introduction of this evidence, citing *R. v. White*, 37 B.C.R. 43, but His Honour, overruling the objection, held that the evidence was admissible in that it was corroborative and not to be compared with the case of *R. v. White* in which a man was convicted almost wholly on evidence of the actions of two bloodhounds. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty and the Court sentenced the accused to four years' imprisonment in Dorchester Penitentiary.

(For other cases published in *The Quarterly* in which the admissibility of dog-tracking evidence is discussed, refer to *R. v. Hawley* 11 R.C.M.P.Q. 88 and *R. v. Roberts et al*, 12 R.C.M.P.Q. 21.)

## Is Judge Crater Alive?

THE disappearance on Aug. 6, 1930, of the Hon. Joseph Force Crater, Justice of the Supreme Court, State of New York, was the subject of widespread inquiries in Canada by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as it was in the United States and other countries by their own police forces.

A circular issued by Commr. Edward P. Mulrooney, Police Department of the City of New York, announced at the time that the city would pay a \$5,000 reward for any information resulting in the locating of the missing man. This offer was withdrawn a year or two later, but the file has continued to remain open though no fresh information has been elicited.

Born in the United States, Justice Crater was 41 years old when he vanished. A big man, six feet tall and weighing 185 lbs., he had a semi-dark complexion, brown eyes, upper and lower dentures, and apparently was in good physical and mental health the night he stepped into a taxi never to be seen again by his relatives or friends. His dark brown hair, which he wore parted in the middle and "slicked down", may now be white, or he may be bald, for even then it was greying and getting

thin on top. The tip of his right index finger had recently been crushed and, if the judge is alive today, probably bears the scars of that mutilation.

The missing man was a natty dresser and invariably wore his hat at a rakish angle; being only size 6 $\frac{5}{8}$ , his head was unusually small considering his height and weight. He seems to have had a *penchant* for bow ties, and usually affected coloured shirts. The Missing Persons Bureau announcement specified that Crater "wore tortoise-shell glasses for reading, a yellow gold and somewhat worn Masonic ring; may be wearing a yellow gold, square-shaped wrist watch".

Discreet investigation by the R.C.M.P. from Vancouver to Halifax, and by officers of the Immigration Department in their examination of persons entering this country, have failed to uncover any trace of Crater during the intervening years. From time to time some persons have claimed they saw him and been proved wrong. The last dozen years have shed no new light on this baffling case so far as Canada is concerned, but the following from a recent issue of the *New York Sun* seems to show that the question of Crater's whereabouts is far from being a dead issue: