

two named being composed of mixed patterns, the whole being summed up in a formula under which they are filed.

Unlike the Bertillon method, there is no uncertainty in the Finger Print System of Identification. The expert has only facts to consider, and can only report on his formula simply what he finds.

In making a comparison the lines of identification are either there or they are absent, and the simplicity of the system is its chief asset.

#### Patterns Persist from the Cradle to the Grave.

If two prints are identical in every hair line and every particular, they were made by the same person; if they are different they were not made by the same person, and any of these combinations of patterns can be located in a few seconds if properly classified and filed, no matter under what assumed name or names the finger print form may arrive, the expert searcher can produce its duplicate if he has it, in the short space of time mentioned, and, no matter how many years after the first set of prints have been taken, the Ridges, Bifurcations and all the characteristics will be found to be identical, for the same patterns in all their detail, persist from the cradle to the final disintegration of the body.

Only recently the writer found a duplicate in all its perfection after eleven years. A prisoner whose prints he had taken in the early part of 1909, was again arrested in 1920 under an entirely different name, and identification was established beyond doubt by this method.

So it is that a man in custody with a past record, and whose finger prints have been then taken, submits with great reluctance to the operation being again performed, as he knows full well that his identity can be proved so that his unsavoury past will be disclosed, and perhaps taken into consideration by the trial judge when sentence is passed.

Photos may be misleading but the accused man knows and dreads the merciless accuracy of the finger prints, and gives any city having an up-to-date bureau a wide berth.

#### The Attitude of Prisoners.

It happens, however, that, after having been identified, the majority of prisoners usually enter pleas of guilty and save the Province many thousands of dollars by avoiding a trial by jury, and incidentally a long wait in jail, at the expense of the government before that trial would take place.

With finger prints being exchanged monthly with the largest cities in Canada and the United States, the Vancouver Bureau of Identification has gained an enviable reputation in the Criminal Identification world, identifications being of daily occurrence and a closer check of all undesirable visitors to the city is made possible by the large number of prints received from outside points.

In addition to the enormous amount of work which all this detail renders necessary, many identifications have been made and convictions secured from latent prints taken from impressions left on glass, etc., at the scenes of crimes by careless burglars.

#### A Case in Point.

A case in point was a finger print mark left on a glass case which had been rifled of its contents after being taken from an antique store on Granville street, Vancouver. The empty case was found in a lane at the rear of the premises burglarized, and, on being brought to police headquarters, a rather well-defined though not complete finger print was found thereon.

This was photographed and enlarged, the print corresponding in every detail with that of a man arrested for another offence, who, on being confronted with this evidence, realized the hopelessness of his defence (as also did his attorney) and a plea of guilty was then entered in the burglary charge, for which he was promptly sentenced.

(Continued on Page 14.)

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