

R. v. Davison et al*Breaking, Entering and Theft—Co-operation
Between Police Forces*

A BRANCH of the Royal Bank of Canada in Winnipeg was broken into on the night of Oct. 22, 1947, and jewellery, cash and securities stolen from safety deposit boxes. In addition, an unsuccessful attempt was made to enter the bank's main vault. The haul was a rich one—the securities alone, largely War Savings Bonds, totalled approximately \$200,000.

Winnipeg City Police investigated the crime and as a result four well-known local criminals were arrested—James G. Davison, John Michaelis, Michael Stefanik and Alex Poroznuk. The first two pleaded guilty in Winnipeg City Police Court and were sentenced to six years in Stony Mountain Penitentiary. Stefanik and Poroznuk elected trial by a higher court and were released on bail of \$25,000 each. Subsequently, on information supplied by Davison and Michaelis, about half of the securities were recovered.

While Poroznuk and Stefanik were out on bail, it was learned that they were trying to sell their shares of the stolen bonds in Winnipeg and in Eastern Canada. Eventually Poroznuk jumped bail, was traced through Ontario to Toronto where he was arrested in May 1948.

In April of the same year, an RCMP investigator learned that John Andrick, a Winnipeg underworld habitue, was attempting to dispose of stolen bonds. Andrick was known to be an intimate of Stefanik's, and plans were laid to obtain evidence.

Two adjoining rooms were reserved in a local hotel. In one, a special constable of the Force, posing as a "buyer" was to meet the criminal, while from the other, detectives of the city police would listen in on what took place. In order to convince Andrick that the purchase was a genuine business transaction, the special constable was provid-

ed with a statement on hotel stationery showing that he had \$15,400 in cash in the hotel safe.

The arrangements were that Andrick and the undercover man would meet in the hotel beer parlor. This scheme fell through when Andrick arrived accompanied by two strangers who attempted to engage the special constable in conversation. The latter left immediately, but later received a telephone call from Andrick, who followed up by visiting the "buyer" in his room. The two discussed the selling price of the bonds, and finally came to an agreement. Andrick was to deliver \$22,000 worth of securities next morning, for which he would be paid \$11,500.

At the appointed time, Andrick arrived, but without the bonds. He explained that his partner did not trust him, and wished to make delivery himself. The buyer agreed to this, then shortly afterwards, Andrick appeared again, this time with a paper-wrapped bundle which he tossed on the bed. The package contained bonds and while examining them, the RCMP representative gave a prearranged signal, summoning from the next room the city detectives, who arrested Andrick. Later, in the lobby downstairs, they arrested Stefanik who apparently had been waiting for Andrick to complete the sale.

In this manner, members of the RCMP assisted Winnipeg Police in recovering \$21,850 in securities. Later the bank reported that most of the stolen bonds had been accounted for.

Stefanik and Poroznuk were both tried and convicted, the former being sentenced to eight years and six months, while Poroznuk received a sentence of seven years. For attempting to dispose of the stolen property, Andrick was ordered to serve two years and six months in prison.