

## Notes on Recent Cases

### **R. v. Belliveau and St. Amand**

*Breaking, Entering and Theft—Finger Print at Scene of Crime—  
Identification by F.P.S.—Change of Plea*

During the early morning hours of August 7, 1940, the office of the Hull Electric Railway Company near the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, was entered by forcing a rear window. A weighing machine was smashed. A C.P.R. signalman called the Ottawa Police Department when he saw two men acting suspiciously in the vicinity of the office. During the course of the investigation the Police found a finger print of identification value on the window glass. After a long chase two men were arrested—John Belliveau and George St. Amand.

The finger prints of Belliveau, a local criminal with a past record, were sent together with a photograph of the print on the window to the R.C.M.P. Finger Print Section at Ottawa. The comparison proved that Belliveau was the person who left his identification mark on the glass. Belliveau stoutly denied any knowledge of or participation in this crime.

However, he was brought before the Magistrate, G. E. Strike of Ottawa, on August 16. An N.C.O. from the Finger Print Section was on hand to give expert testimony. Belliveau changed his plea to that of Guilty. He was accordingly sentenced to fifteen months definite and one month indeterminate in the Ontario Reformatory.

The detective in charge of the case was at a loss to understand the reason for Belliveau's sudden change of heart, but on the accused being taken to the cells after his conviction a conversation, which took place between him and his girl friend who had obtained permission to visit the prisoner, explained his action. A summary of this conversation is as follows:

She—What happened?

He—I pleaded Guilty.

She—Why did you do that—why didn't you do like George?

He—Did you not see the Mounties in court?

She—The ones in the red coats?

He—Did you see them with a parcel? When you see them in court with a parcel under their arm, you are finished; it doesn't matter if you have a million excuses; that means they have my finger prints!

St. Amand entered a plea of Not Guilty—there was no finger print evidence against him. He appeared before Magistrate Strike on August 16, and was sent up for trial by jury at the next assizes.

### **R. v. Bolduc**

*Robbery and Theft—Co-operation with Q.P.P. and other Police Forces—  
Spectacular Capture of Notorious Criminal*

On August 16, 1940, members of the Rivière-du-Loup detachment received a complaint from a commercial traveller that his car had been broken into at St. Eleuthère, Quebec, and a revolver had been stolen from it. The Quebec Provincial Police could not be contacted at the time, so the R.C.M.P. investigators proceeded to the scene. While the complainant was being interviewed, two merchants of nearby Estcourt entered the hotel and