

bodily harm and assault of a peace officer. Forty were convicted of more serious crimes: thirty-three of robbery, five of wounding, two of attempted robbery and one of manslaughter.

The persons given the heaviest sentences were those who committed sex offences. Seventy-five per cent of the sexual offenders were imprisoned, and one imprisoned sex offender in three was sentenced to two years or more.

The study followed the 2,071 persons for five years, primarily to see how many would be convicted of subsequent crimes and to see what, if any, connection there might be between reconviction (called recidivism) and the original sentencing. Of the whole group, 26.5 per cent (or 548) were convicted a second time in the five years.

Of the 1,412 novice offenders convicted of non-violent property offences in 1967, more than seventy per cent did not commit another indictable offence during the next five years.

Forty-four per cent of the property offenders who were imprisoned committed a second crime; only twenty-eight per cent of those who were not imprisoned did.

Only twenty per cent of the 287 persons convicted of crimes against persons were reconvicted, most for property offences. The recidivism rate was ten per cent higher for those who had been imprisoned than for those who had not.

The recidivism rate for sex offenders was markedly low. Of the 111 first offenders, only sixteen were convicted of new crimes in the five-year period, and only five committed additional sexual offences. Of course, some of the original offenders remained in prison throughout the five years.

Three Notable Criminals

Norman (Red) Ryan of Toronto. Canada's foremost storybook gangster robbed banks in the roaring twenties, was captured and sentenced to life imprisonment. In Kingston Penitentiary he became a celebrated success after renouncing his evil ways and embracing the virtuous life. Prime Minister R.B. Bennett intervened in his case, and he was released. After proclaiming his rehabilitation in a series of ghost-written front-page newspaper stories, he looked around for something to keep him busy. In 1936 he was shot and killed by police while holding up a liquor store in Sarnia, Ontario.

Albert Guay, of Quebec City. In 1948 he enlisted a jeweler accomplice to make a time bomb with which he planned to blow up a plane carrying his wife. It blew up but not on schedule, and the wreckage came down on land instead of in the St. Lawrence River. Experts noticed the distinctive smell of dynamite, and he and the jeweler were arrested, convicted and hanged.

Lucius "Christmas Time" Parmalee. The most persuasive forger Canada ever produced, he



Norman (Red) Ryan



Albert Guay

dressed up as a clergyman during the Christmas season and cashed large, bad cheques in the name of charity all over North America.

The Ombudsman

In every province in Canada except Prince Edward Island, the Ombudsman, an independent officer who investigates the grievances of citizens, often provides a shortcut to justice.

The word and the idea originated in Sweden in 1809. Finland adopted the system in 1919, Denmark in 1953, and Norway and New Zealand in 1962.

Canadians became interested in the early 1960s, after two glaring examples of bureaucratic insensitivity. In 1963 a seaman with an excellent record was abruptly discharged from the Royal Canadian Navy without explanation. After questions were asked in Parliament, the government announced that the seaman's uncle had been a Communist Party candidate in a federal election and that his superiors had decided that he, therefore, was a Communist as well. Further investigation revealed that the candidate in question was not related to the seaman.

The next incident involved a man who had complained that his acquaintances believed him to be a Communist because the Royal Canadian Mounted Police refused to acknowledge that he had worked for them as an undercover agent. To protest, he entered the gallery of the House of Commons and threw a carton of cow's blood on the floor below. Two days later the Minister of Justice announced that he was considering recommending the appointment of a federal Ombudsman. In 1965 the government did refer the suggestion for study to a planned Royal Commission, but the Royal Commission was never appointed and nothing came of that.

The idea did, however, take hold in the provinces. Alberta and New Brunswick named Ombudsmen in 1967, Quebec and Manitoba in 1969, and Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia followed suit. In