

Geron, charged with Theft of Motor Car, s. 377 Cr. Code, and pleaded guilty. Each was sentenced to one year in gaol with hard labour.

Lauzon voluntarily explained how he and Peltier had made their getaway from the Waterloo County Gaol which up till then had been considered escape-proof. He had secreted four saws on his person, which the guards didn't find and, with a pal in an adjoining cell singing to drown the noise, used them to saw through the bars, filling the resulting slits with soap as he progressed. When the singing stopped, it was a warning to cease operations quickly. The bars revolved, he said, which made them extremely hard to hold. He fashioned a 30-foot rope of blankets, also a hook from a spring off his cell cot, to scale an 18-foot wall that surrounded the building and which he had sized up when entering the place on the day his incarceration began. In the escape, the rope with the hook attached was thrown over the wall and the escapers shinned up it.

On November 19 at Kingston, Ont., Lauzon, Peltier and Koresky appeared before County Magistrate J. B. Garvin, with Ontario Deputy Attorney General C. L. Snyder, K.C., Toronto, Ont., representing the prosecution, and J. S. Allan, K.C., Windsor, and H. A. McNeill, Kingston, representing the defence.

Peltier and Lauzon were charged jointly on three separate charges of Robbery While Armed, s. 446 (c) Cr. Code, as follows: (1) Canadian Bank of Commerce, Ayr, Ont., May 9, 1945, in which the total haul consisted of \$53,700 in bonds and \$19,600 cash—up to that time the biggest bank robbery in Canadian crime annals; (2) Canadian Bank of Commerce, Port Perry, Ont., Aug. 6, 1945, which netted \$2,832; (3) Royal Bank of Canada, Bath, Ont., Aug. 20, 1945, where the take totalled \$300,000 in bonds and securities and about \$11,000 cash—creating a new record as the biggest robbery in Canadian history. They were also charged jointly with Escaping Lawful Custody at Kitchener, July 19, 1945, s. 189 (b) Cr. Code.

Both pleaded guilty to all charges and each was sentenced to 12 years on the first charge, the same on the third, eight years on the second, and three years on the

fourth—all sentences to run consecutively, making a total of 35 years' imprisonment.

When recaptured in a Montreal bank on August 21, Peltier had been shot in the back by the teller, the bullet almost severing his spinal cord and leaving him a paralytic for the remainder of his life. He had been wheeled into court on a stretcher to face trial with Lauzon. Made consecutive to the eight-year term he is serving for bank robbery at Windsor in the summer of 1945, his new sentences render him subject to a total of 43 years' imprisonment.

Koresky was charged jointly with Peltier and Lauzon for his part in the hold-up of the Port Perry branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce on August 6, and the Bath branch of the Royal Bank of Canada on August 30. He pleaded guilty to both charges, and received three years' imprisonment on the first, and 12 years' imprisonment on the second—both sentences to run consecutively, making a total of 15 years' imprisonment.

All terms will be served in Kingston Penitentiary. At the request of the Crown, five lesser charges against Lauzon and Peltier were withdrawn—including one for stealing revolvers from the Bank of Toronto, Preston, Ont., on May 4, 1945, and another for robbery at Port Perry. Mrs. Lauzon was released from custody on November 5, following withdrawal of the holding charge on which she had been held.

In the afternoon of Jan. 22, 1946, Constables Warner and Keefe were presented with the King's Police and Fire Service Medal by Lt.-Gov. J. A. Bernard of Prince Edward Island. The ceremony took place in the Confederation Chamber of the Parliament Buildings at Charlottetown.

After pinning the medals on the breasts of the two constables the lieutenant-governor said:

"Actions such as you have performed while in your line of duty as guardians of the law have been regarded by your superiors as being worthy of special meritorious consideration and this investiture therefore gives me much pleasure.

"That the action occurred in our province brought to it as well as to you constables unexpected and favourable publicity and it is to the credit of the Royal Canadian Mounted