

making of these clubs served to associate Berrigan with Beaton at the subsequent trials. In sawing these clubs from oar handles and so forth, they had permitted tongued ends to remain on the butts, which were discarded and allowed to remain on the garage floor to be recovered later by the investigators and matched with the clubs found in the automobile used by the trio on this adventure. Fate, otherwise, was indeed unkind to them on this predestined journey for not only did they lose their way and become storm bound on a strange highway but were forced to abandon their vehicle on the return when the engine seized. Although this incident came to the attention of detachment personnel at the time it was not until Beaton made his disclosures that the Police were able to determine the identity of the occupants of the vehicle or the purpose of the clubs.

Following these revelations sufficient supporting evidence was found to warrant charges of "conspiracy" being laid with an additional charge of "receiving" being laid against Berrigan when it was learned he, a store-keeper, had advanced monies to Beaton on the strength of security in the form of stolen pelts. Obviously the only defence open to these accused was to discredit our principal Crown witness and their former ally, which they did, despite a strong charge from the Trial Judge in favor of conviction.

These trials did not pass without incident, for within the precincts of the Supreme Court itself Berrigan was found in possession of a small quantity of liquor and when appearing on the stand in his own behalf was forced to admit he had received it from Gallant, then on bail. For their respective indiscretions they were each sentenced to six months.

One cannot pass from these cases without feeling that the fur agent associated in these transactions was more than a casual purchaser; therefore, the Police

were not surprised to learn that the journey west to the ranch of this fur buyer-rancher had been motivated in a spirit of revenge for the failure of the buyer to keep to his end of the bargain. With this information available, it was the intention of the Crown to proceed against this individual, but when it was learned he had compensated the owners for their losses nothing further was done.

Curiosity on the part of a ferry employee on the P.E.I.-N.B. run gave investigators their first lead to the Crossman Ranch thefts at Cape Traverse. For some unexplained reason the carrying of an odd sized suit-case by a pedestrian on and off the ferry caused this employee to remember the incident but not the carrier, so that when he heard of these thefts this incident came to the attention of the Police. Once it was learned from Crossman that he had an employee then vacationing in neighboring New Brunswick investigators were able to associate the two together and their inquiries received a further fillip when it was learned from a freight train conductor in New Brunswick that he was acquainted with this employee's family—Estabrooks—and had in fact carried one of its members on his train the day previously, but not this employee. Thus the trail of the suit-case began. The employee—Wesley Estabrooks—and his brother Lawrence were located on their farm at Midgic, N.B., but both denied any knowledge of the existence of such a suit-case or having been on Prince Edward Island the previous day. And a search of the premises failed to uncover the suit-case.

Interrogation into the wee hours of the morning brought results and the suit-case—with pelts—was located under a snow covered tree some distance from the house. Both accused were returned to Summerside where following "Speedy Trials" and pleas of "guilty" each was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

Probably the most outstanding and interesting fox theft case handled by the