

the granting of administration with will annexed.

Upon receiving the application Surrogate Court Judge J. M. George of Morden, Man., ruled that probation of the will would require proof in solemn form, and in a letter to him Herbert sharply demanded an immediate hearing for this purpose. His Honour felt fairly sure from a superficial comparison that the applicant's handwriting was the same as that in the alleged will, and on Aug. 23, 1947, sent the disputed document together with known specimen writings of both brothers to the R.C.M.P. Crime Laboratory at Regina, Sask., where expert examination elicited the positive opinion that the handwriting in the will was Herbert Dale's.

Faced with this evidence the suspect signed a statement acknowledging authorship of the will. He was arrested on Oct. 29, 1947, and on the same day

pleaded guilty before Police Magistrate Clyde A. Mackenzie at Boissevain to Forgery of Will, s. 468 (k) Cr. Code, and Uttering Forged Document, s. 467 Cr. Code, Mr. D. L. Cameron, K.C., Crown prosecutor of Manitou, Man., appearing for the prosecution and Mr. C. Y. Mackenzie of Boissevain for the defence. Because of the accused's age and the fact that a heart ailment probably would limit his life expectancy to no more than a year, His Worship imposed relatively light sentences. He was sentenced to six months in Brandon gaol without hard labour on each charge, the sentences to run concurrently.

A peculiarity of this comparatively rare type of offence is that the forger usually fabricates a fantastic tale to buttress his claim, and it is interesting to observe that the accused in this case said he found the will behind a picture on a wall of his brother's bedroom two months after his brother died.

### R. v. Frank

*Breaking, Entering and Theft—Safe Blowing—Crime Detection Laboratory  
Furnishes Essential Clue—Police Service Dogs—Modus Operandi—  
R.C.M.P. Gazette Index—R.C.M.P. Aviation Section—  
Police Persistence Brings Success*

Good police work has always called for high personal initiative, for generally speaking the details of investigation, especially into rural crimes, must be left to the man in the field. Still, new conditions create new methods and render old ones inadequate; rapid transportation and instant communication, perhaps more than anything else, have led to many essential changes. Quite recent years have brought about new techniques for attacking certain investigative problems. That hardy prairie perennial of the harvest season, safe blowing, for example, poses difficulties of its own for the R.C.M.P. each year. Vast distances coupled with sparse settlement have made it possible for the professional safe blower to ply his trade in comparative safety, and usually after pulling a job

such a criminal's chief concern is to place as much distance as he can and as quickly as possible between himself and the scene of his operations. These things being so, the Force has adopted new methods of approach under which broad plans are formulated and laid down in advance.

It became apparent that the sum total of individual efforts, diligent though they were, was not the answer to organized safe blowing by expert criminals, and that overall supervision of coordinated efforts must be developed to eliminate waste effort, duplication, and loss of time.

Under the system presently used by the R.C.M.P. for combatting safe blowing, an officer of the Force who is designated "the coordinating officer"