

necessity for devising new methods of attack, methods which must be susceptible of improvisation at a moment's notice.

The comparatively mild climate which the city of Vancouver, B.C., enjoys almost the year round, brings with it many advantages to its citizens. On the other hand, it is undoubtedly one of the reasons which has contributed to the fact that this Pacific seaport city has a high per capita addict population. Many of the methods by which these people come into possession of their supply of drugs call for visits to caches located in back lanes, alleys, vacant lots and other places out in the open which would not be available in the more rigorous winters of the east.

The gravity of this narcotic situation has been highlighted in recent years when approximate computations have been made of the loss caused by it to the Vancouver business community. At the present high "street" price of heroin, which is the narcotic almost exclusively in demand, an addict must find between \$15 and \$20 a day to satisfy his needs. Few have regular employment and even if they had their remuneration would fall far short of what is required to buy their drugs. The majority, therefore, resort to crime to obtain the money they require.

The Vancouver City Police and the Narcotic Branch of the RCMP have worked in close co-operation over the past two decades in a combined war on narcotic offenders. In recent years the realization of the financial loss to the Vancouver business community has been accompanied by increased activity of the part of the municipal force, and many narcotic cases have been brought to a successful conclusion by members of the city force. Generally speaking, however, the efforts of the two organizations are of a joint nature and information is channelled freely from one to the other. Some result in successful investigations into Criminal Code offences while others may lead to establishing a base for prose-

cution under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act. A case of this nature occurred in Vancouver early this year and resulted in the arrest and appearance in Court of Norman Lionel Hogenson and a 16-year-old girl named Barbara Gail Western.

Late in 1952, information reached the Force's Narcotic Branch that Hogenson had become active as a street pedlar. Observations confirmed this and indicated also that his activities were gradually increasing. As he was a comparative new-comer to the traffic, more direct methods were used in the initial stages with a view to securing evidence of an offence under the Act; he was checked on the street on several occasions, but not once were any narcotics found on his person. It being obvious that he had established a *modus operandi* with which to escape the observations of the police, a reliable source of information was established and it was learned that Hogenson, with Barbara Western, was living at a house on Ontario Street in the city. Observations were maintained on the house in an effort to gain some indication as to the method of Hogenson's operations.

During the night of Mar. 5, 1953, members of the Narcotic Branch took up positions at strategic points surrounding the house at a time when it was known that a prospective buyer would be meeting Hogenson. During this time the suspect was seen to leave the house and walk over to the edge of the sidewalk adjoining the next house, where he bent down. Inspection of this spot later revealed a small hole in the ground where drugs had obviously been cached, but the hole was empty. It was later learned that Hogenson had removed three capsules of heroin, all that remained from that particular cache.

The following day police found that Hogenson and Western had moved and efforts were concentrated on learning their new place of abode. Late that night it was ascertained that the suspects were living in a basement suite on East 22nd