

The Crime Detection Laboratories — Their Scope

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The Royal Canadian Mounted Police maintains two Laboratories—one at Ottawa, Ontario, the other at Regina, Saskatchewan. This article tells about these Laboratories and the purpose for which they were established.

THE RCMP Crime Detection Laboratories are centres where the Dominion Government, through the Minister of Justice and the Commissioner of the Force, makes available to law-enforcement agencies in Canada those benefits of science which may be utilized to advance successful investigations of criminal offences. "Science", which may be defined as "knowledge co-ordinated, arranged, and systematized", is acquired by observation, research and experiment. Such studies in various fields of scientific research can only be made by trained technicians who have available to them

the necessary resources and equipment. Personnel of the RCMP Laboratories are afforded every opportunity for special courses of study in order that they may at all times be up to date in their techniques, while they lack nothing in the way of equipment to facilitate their work. The cost of operating similar laboratories by smaller police forces would be prohibitive.

The laboratories do not in any way take the place of trained, experienced police investigators. These latter must be quick to appreciate the potential evidence value of anything found either at scenes of crimes or which may be

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