

At George Drysdale's farm they were told that no-one had fired any shots from his land the day before. After visiting almost every farm in the vicinity, the police returned to the younger Drysdale's farm, and after a careful search located the footprints of two men that led to a spot in a field which, from the marks on the ground, seemed to be the place from which the shots had been fired at the aircraft. Here the investigators found nine empty .22 shells. Upon being closely scrutinized these disclosed points of similarity with the shells that had been picked up from David Drysdale's lawn.

Upon revisiting the David Drysdale farm, the police learned from Drysdale's daughter that two airmen, Sgt John Barton and his friend whom he called Johnny, had come to the farm on July 7, taken her father's and her brother's rifles, and gone hunting. At the airfield inquiry disclosed that Sergeant Barton and Sgt John Harrison were A.O.L.

The next day Barton and Harrison were questioned by the police. Both admitted that they were in the field about the time the offence took place, but denied shooting at the airplane, although it was pointed out that there were only two sets of footprints in the field—indicating, of course, that no other person or persons could have been guilty.

Back at the elder Drysdale's farm, further investigation disclosed that the suspects often visited the place, changing into overalls, old shirts and old hats

—from a plane aloft they would naturally look like farmers.

The two .22 rifles were taken as exhibits and together with the damaged cockpit covers and the empty shells were sent to the scientific laboratory for examination.

The method employed at the laboratory is believed to be original and never before to have been used in the field of criminal investigation. A small portion of the metal frame of the cockpit where the bullet had first penetrated was removed, then cut in two so that each half presented a concave surface. Test bullets from the suspected rifles were used to make impressions on some plasticine. The impressions were then compared microscopically with the concave surfaces, and the examination revealed identical major characteristics which enabled the examiner to conclude that one of the rifles submitted could have been used in committing the offence.

Barton and Harrison appeared before Police Magistrate J. C. Crawford at Neepawa, Man., on Aug. 24, 1942. They were charged with Wounding with Intent, s. 273, Cr. Code, and Wilful Damage to Property, s. 510 (e), Cr. Code. Both intended to plead not guilty, but when confronted with the evidence resulting from the laboratory examination they pleaded guilty, stating that their actions had been in the nature of a prank to throw a fright into the student pilot. On the first charge each was fined \$5 and costs; on the second each was released on suspended sentence for three months.

### **R. v. Beaulieu**

#### *Brutal Assault—Firearms Registration—Voice Identification*

Two years in the penitentiary for a pair of shoes is rather costly, yet that is the price being paid by Damase Beaulieu, a teamster in Canton, N.B.,—not because the shoes were too high priced, but because he used brute force to get them.

About 10 p.m. on July 25, Louie Dube, 58-year-old hunchback who lives alone in a small house at Canton, took his money, \$29, from his pocket, put it under a handkerchief on the kitchen table, then lay down on a cot to enjoy a smoke in the dark before going to bed.