

Blais appeared before Mr. Justice C. D. Richards and jury in Circuit Court at Dalhousie, N.B., on August 26 indicted for Murder, s. 263 Cr. Code. Messrs. A. M. Robichaud and J. C. Van Horn were his counsel while Mr. G. T. Feeney conducted the prosecution. The accused pleaded not guilty, but on August 30 the jury brought in a verdict of guilty of Manslaughter and on September 2 he was sentenced to eight years'

imprisonment in Dorchester Penitentiary.

Though he took no active part in the actual theft, Blais' drinking pal whose name is Hubert Hudson Irvine was a party to the offence (see s. 69 Cr. Code). On Nov. 12, 1947, he was found guilty by a jury, following a plea of not guilty on a charge of Theft of Money, s. 386 Cr. Code, and sentenced by Judge J. L. Ryan at Dalhousie to two years' imprisonment in Dorchester Penitentiary.

### R. v. Cheney and Swetman

*Escape from Lawful Custody—Breaking, Entering and Theft—R.C.M.P.  
Aircraft, Radio, Walkie-talkies and Police Service Dog  
Used in Search for Escaped Prisoners*

On July 16, 1947, in the provincial gaol at Regina, Sask., two prisoners of a work party just returned from the fields were given permission to go for a drink of water. They didn't return, and it wasn't long before they were the object of a wide-spread search. One of the missing prisoners, Donald Cheney, was undergoing one year's imprisonment for theft of car, the other, John Swetman, was serving a 30-day sentence for vagrancy.

The R.C.M.P. were notified, and immediately patrols were detailed to railway yards, along the highway in the vicinity, the railway and city police were advised of the escape, while news of it was broadcast over the air and published in the press.

An R.C.M.P. aircraft, which kept in touch with land operators by walkie-talkies, aided in the search, Reg'n. No. 158-W Police Service Dog Pal was made available in case of need, and R.C.M.P. investigators combed the area. By press and radio residents of the district were warned to be on the look-out as it was believed that Cheney and Swetman would attempt to steal clothes less conspicuous than the prison garb they were wearing.

The morning after the escape, a farmer who lived in Regina and com-

muted daily to his farm 15 miles out, found that his shack had been broken into and two meals prepared and eaten, also that some of his clothes were missing. He thought nothing of the incident until a neighbour told him of the warning which had been broadcast by the R.C.M.P. regarding the escaped prisoners. He at once got in touch with the police and reported that his place had been entered by some person or persons who had stolen two pairs of overalls, a windbreaker and a sweater.

Shortly afterwards, a patrol arrived at the farm and conducted a search which resulted in the capture 24 hours after they had made their break of the fugitives who had taken refuge in a field of weeds near the farm-house. They made no resistance and were returned to gaol.

At Regina on Sept. 19, 1947, they both pleaded guilty before Police Magistrate E. S. Williams, K.C., to a charge of Escape from Lawful Custody, s. 189 Cr. Code, also to a charge of Breaking, Entering and Theft, s. 460 Cr. Code. On the first charge each prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment at hard labour and on the second charge to one year at hard labour, sentences to run concurrently.