

Notes on Recent Cases

R. v. Beaudry

*Opium and Narcotic Drug Act—Wily Drug Trafficker Outwitted
by the Police—Portable Two-way Radio Sets*

Upon his release from jail after serving a sentence for trafficking in narcotics, Louis Stanislas Beaudry of St. Josaphat, Que., elected to return to his old habits. Though not an addict himself, he was one of the most persistent narcotic peddlars around Montreal, Que., and R.C.M.P. investigators kept him under surveillance in the hope of gathering sufficient evidence for a conviction and thereby relieving society of a dangerous menace.

Beaudry took clever precautions against police interference. He lived in a sparsely-settled district on the outskirts of Montreal and made all his deliveries in daytime on the highway in open country where no car could approach without him seeing it while still some distance away. This fact and his tactics of using various routes from his home at different times when making deliveries rendered it practically impossible to maintain a continuous watch over his activities, and little hope of catching him by ordinary methods was entertained.

Eventually a plan was worked out involving the use of three portable two-way radio sets. As a result of a careful survey of the district in which the suspect operated, strategic points over a distance of about three miles were selected from which his movements could be observed. A garage commanding a clear view of his premises was rented and became one observation post; the other two posts were in the open with the investigators taking advantage of all available cover.

On May 22, 1945, arrangements were made to purchase narcotics from Beaudry. The investigators were stationed at their various posts, with a radio in the garage, another approximately halfway between Beaudry's home and the place where he was expected to transact his

business, and a third near the highway where he usually stopped.

The purchaser arranged to meet Beaudry on the highway at 12.40 p.m. Ten minutes before the appointed time the suspect left his home and drove to the meeting-place, going by a circuitous route over which it was impossible to keep him under observation all the time. Arriving on time he stopped his car almost opposite the hiding-place of two of the investigators and one of the radios. Getting out he entered some bushes on the side of the road, reappeared in a few moments and returned to his car. Shortly afterward the purchaser and an addict companion joined him and the three men disappeared into the bushes from which Beaudry had just emerged. Upon returning to the highway Beaudry turned his car around and drove home. The purchaser reported that in the woods Beaudry had picked up two small vials each containing the exact number of tablets ordered which were handed over to the Narcotic Squad.

Subsequently in comparing notes the investigators learned that Beaudry had taken ten minutes to reach the rendezvous and only two minutes to return home. Obviously he had stopped some place during his outward trip.

On May 24 another purchase was made under exactly the same conditions; then next day a third purchase was negotiated, but on this occasion two of the radios were re-allocated beforehand in an attempt to follow every movement Beaudry made from the time he left his house until he returned. The plan was thwarted however because the suspect took a different route. On May 26 the radios were again re-allocated and a truck was used to shadow the trafficker part way. This time he went directly to the meeting-