

Kaehler and Stolski, 83 C.C.C. 353, 11 R.C.M.P.Q. 7) form a chapter which is, and we trust will continue to be, unique in Canadian jurisprudence.

A feature common to all trials in which P.O.W.s were defendants was the argument that the acts of the prisoners were acts of war not within the jurisdiction of the civil courts. The legal basis for the contrary opinion, which the courts adopted, is to be found in the Militia Act, R.S.C., 1927, c. 132, the Imperial Army Act, 1881, 44 & 45 Vict., c. 58, and the Geneva Convention, the last of which is broadly based upon the proposition that the P.O.W. should be treated as the law of the detaining power treats his opposite number in his own forces.

Apart from this strictly legal view, it is a striking fact that in more recent days the same argument as to jurisdiction has been advanced time and again without success in the trials of terrorists before civil courts in Palestine. It is equally interesting to speculate upon the extent to which this view, had it prevailed, would have set a premium on sabotage by German P.O.W.s who managed to escape in Canada.

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There has been discussion recently concerning the relation of military training to the incidence of crime, the argument being that such training tends to make men careless of life and property. The *Quarterly* wishes to record its dissent from this view. Some inquiry, admittedly limited and inconclusive, has been made in the United States and has shown that of the group studied the great majority were men without military training while, of the ex-servicemen, a large proportion were men who had criminal records at the time of their induction. It does not follow that increased skill in the use of lethal weapons or aggressive tactics means a greater inclination to use them; to say that it does is to be unjust to the hundreds of thousands of young veterans who have been quite content to settle into civilian life.

The reason for the increase in crime—and we are not trying to minimize it—is to be sought elsewhere. Those people who expected that the end of World War II would be succeeded by a great moral and spiritual revival have been disappointed, for there has been rather just as wide-spread a let-down of public morals as there was after World War I. When all is said, the fact remains that our Western civilization rests upon the ethics of Christianity, and only by cleaving to those principles will stability be regained. It is not coincidence that the outstanding feature of Nazism and the other “isms” which continue to upset the world, is their godlessness.

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The time when the function of the police was solely to prevent and detect crime has passed, and today's policeman has been defined appropriately as “the handy-man of civilization”. “The police”, commented a magistrate in court over a year ago, “certainly have a lot of uses”, and a recent incident which caused us to recall the remark leads us to wonder if there is any limit to the diversity of a policeman's duties.

The case took place near Kamsack, Sask., early in the morning of Nov. 5, 1946. On a routine patrol in the Togo district of Saskatchewan, R.C.M.P. investigators from the Kamsack Detachment came upon a stalled car. Upon making inquiries they learned that it belonged to Mr. Aleck Mick who had run into difficulties while taking his wife to Kamsack for medical attention.

As there was no doctor in the village of Togo and the patient was desperately in need of one, there seemed but one thing to do. The woman was quickly made as comfortable as possible in the back seat of the police car and a few minutes later the party was whizzing toward the home base.

But the stork was faster, and five miles from Kamsack a son was born to the Micks. One of the investigators fulfilled the office of doctor to the best of his ability and the other concentrated on driving while the husband sustained the wife in her travail. It was