

# The Canadian POLICE GAZETTE

A Magazine Devoted to the Explanation of Police Activities in Canada

Subscription, \$3.00 per Annum

Advertising Rates on Application

Vol. 13

MAY, 1938

No. 2

## LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SUDBURY

(Past and Present) by REG. PITT

### Foreword:

(As a newspaperman, more used to dealing with current events and the swift changes in trends of thought and action which mark our modern day life, I find it no easy task to turn back the pages in the book of years to glean therefrom the facts which deal most specifically with the early days of law enforcement and police administration in Sudbury. Much of the material used in the foremost paragraphs of the following narrative has been gathered from rather incomplete records and from those residents of Sudbury whom we now affectionately term "old-timers". To these members of "the old brigade" I feel greatly indebted and it is through their assistance in contributing pieces to the jig-saw pattern of an early mining town that I am able to present what appears to be fairly complete and accurate picture of police work in Sudbury before and shortly after the turn of the century.)

**V**ISUALIZE if you can a dark night in Sudbury in the year 1890. Town lights glimmer fitfully and threaten to go out in the gusts of wind which sweep through the dusty streets. Most of the townsfolk are asleep but not all. Behind the drawn shades of Alex Beath's jewellery store a light shines. The blind is not pulled all the way down and Constable John Carmichael who has been "tipped off" that something is due to break, steals to the window and peers into the semi-darkness. A rather interesting performance is going on inside the store. Hugh Paris, employed by the jeweller, can be seen tinkering with a box-like contraption which he carries close to the window and places on a small table. He produces a sheaf of plain white paper, cut the same size and shape as one dollar bills. Making no sound the police officer watches Paris "feed" the paper into a small set of rollers which disappears out of sight into the box. Glancing stealthily about him, Paris

reaches into the other side of the box and extracts a brand-new dollar bill. Apparently unaware he is being observed he holds the note to the light and examines it carefully.

"Counterfeiting," ejaculates Constable Carmichael under his breath.

Fascinated, the police officer watches Paris repeat the performance, and once again the "counterfeiter" holds the new note to the light for examination.

"Open this door in the name of the law!" cries Constable Carmichael, accompanying his remark with a great deal of banging when Paris appears to take his time about opening the door.

The door does open slightly and Paris peers around the edge.

"What do you want?" recognizing the policeman.

"You know what I want. I saw the whole performance through the window." You're under arrest for counterfeiting."

Rather than weary the reader with more of the dialogue which took place between the police officer and the "wanted man," let it suffice to say when the story finally broke Constable Carmichael found he had been the victim of a practical joke, carefully concocted

and worked out by a number of townspeople, most of whom have now passed Beyond. The "counterfeiting" mechanism was nothing more than an innocent set of rollers, such as one might find in a child's toy washing outfit, mounted on a box. It required but a little sleight of hand to make it appear that brand new dollar bills were being printed on plain pieces of white paper.

Residents of Sudbury who recall the incident declare it almost acted as a boomerang on those who participated and required a mixture of diplomacy and gentle persuasion to secure Paris' release from the long arm of John Law.



DAVID LOUDEN  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
SUDBURY, ONTARIO