

Chief Constable who, in turn, was responsible to the Chief Inspector (later the Superintendent). With minor changes, this system continued until 1923 when, by the Police and Prisons Regulations Act 1923, semi-military ranks were adopted and the Province was divided into Divisions, Districts and Detachments for administration purposes. On Jan. 1, 1949, the Province was divided into 12 police Districts, each under the command of an Officer. Previously, there had been five Divisions, sub-divided into Districts and Detachments. Under the new system—and to keep abreast of changing conditions—District Officers Commanding, with less territory to supervise, are able to devote full-time attention to field work and supervision of police Detachments. This has greatly increased efficiency and has speeded up communication between Detachments and District Headquarters where advice and instructions can be quickly issued by the Officer Commanding.

The present strength of the Force is 490 all ranks.

A Criminal Investigation Branch is operative at Headquarters together with a training school. Shortwave radio is used extensively connecting 23 key stations throughout the Province and eight police boats patrolling the coast are also equipped with shortwave and voice transmission.

Provincial Police also assist Federal as well as Provincial Departments seeking their aid and municipalities in 1925 were afforded the opportunity to contract Provincial Police Protection; 45 cities have signed these contracts.

The Provincial Police contributes invaluable help to youth activities. Talks are given on such subjects as behaviour, good citizenship, traffic safety, firearms and explosives, camping and camp precautions, first aid, etc. Voluntary assistance is also rendered to promote sports and games, and youth organizations call upon individual members of the Provincial Police for instruction.

Police vehicles on the Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island are all equipped with three-way radio. New units are either in the process of installation or planned in many other sections of the Province.

### Section 3.—Municipal Police Statistics

In 1947 police statistics were collected from 191 urban centres of 4,000 population or over. The aggregate population of these centres was 5,116,427 (1941), the total number of policemen in 1947 was 7,413 or one for every 690 of the population.

A total of 589,569 offences were reported to the police, 145,887 arrests were made and 389,054 summonses were issued. More automobiles were reported recovered (8,871) than stolen (8,744). This happens when the stolen vehicle is recovered before the owner has missed it or a lost car of a previous year is found in the current year. Of the 14,945 bicycles reported stolen, 12,550 were found. The value of other stolen goods reported was \$5,640,133 and the value of stolen goods recovered \$2,649,183.

In the 72,271 motor-vehicle accidents investigated, 534 persons were killed and 17,010 injured. In other accidents reported, 599 persons were killed and 8,826 injured. Persons given shelter in police stations numbered 60,358 and 7,284 missing persons as well as 9,963 stray children were found.