

A province-wide frequency modulation radio-communication system has been established at Montreal. A main station, operating on the top of Mount Royal, directs radio-equipped cars within a radius of between 60 and 80 miles around Montreal, and similar stations operating from the cities of Quebec and Three Rivers direct the mobile units operating in their respective areas. Substations operate at each of the eight bridges giving access to or exit from the city of Montreal and a number of cars, all equipped with frequency modulation three-way radio units, patrol the surrounding country day and night.

Ontario Provincial Police.—The Ontario Provincial Police is maintained by the Ontario Government under the Attorney-General's Department. The Force is responsible for law enforcement in the rural and unorganized parts of the Province and in certain municipalities by contract.

The development of the Force from its beginning in the early years of Confederation to the passing of the Police Act in 1946, is outlined in the 1950 Year Book, pp. 332-333.

The Force, with a strength of approximately 1,453 in 1953, consists of a General Headquarters at Toronto and 16 districts with Headquarters at Chatham, London, Dundas, Niagara Falls, Newmarket, Mount Forest, Barrie, Peterborough, Belleville, Perth, Cornwall, Haileybury, Sudbury, Timmins, Port Arthur and Kenora. Each district has detachments adequate to meet law enforcement requirements. A Criminal Investigation Branch, under the command of a Chief Inspector, is maintained at Toronto to handle crimes of a major nature.

The installation of one of the largest police frequency-modulation radio systems in the world has placed at the command of the police a most efficient method of combating every type of lawlessness. There are in operation 56 fixed stations, together with 437 two-way radio cruisers and three cabin cruisers, one on Lake Temagami, one on Lake Simcoe and one on Georgian Bay. The 250-watt station at each District Headquarters is open 24 hours daily and many of the cars are on continuous round-the-clock patrols.

Up to December 1953, 90 municipalities had availed themselves of the provisions of the Police Act for the policing of their municipalities by the Ontario Provincial Police.

Subsection 3.—Municipal Police Statistics

Police statistics were submitted for the year 1952 by Chiefs of Police in 243 urban centres, 13 district communities, 13 townships and one unorganized district, all of 4,000 population or over.

Criminologists generally agree that the number of offences known to the police is the closest indication of the volume and nature of crime in a country. The number of offences reported as known to the police was 24.5 p.c. higher in 1952 than in the previous year. Of these known offences, 51.9 p.c. were cleared by arrest.

Of the total prosecutions, 5.9 p.c. were for crimes under the Criminal Code and federal statutes, 21.1 p.c. were for offences under provincial statutes; and 73 p.c. were for municipal by-law infractions. Traffic offences accounted for 87.8 p.c. of the prosecutions.