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MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICE

STORY No. 2

Part A—Some Police Facts regarding Three English Cities.

Within the next few weeks the Board of Control and City Council will be called upon to consider the Police Estimates. What the Police Department needs in the way of more and better equipment, of more men in the detective and patrol staffs, and of strengthened organization when and where desirable, the citizens of Toronto want the Department to have and are not disposed, in fairness to themselves and the Police, to withhold the necessary funds. The Board of Control, the City Council and the taxpayers themselves in arriving at sound conclusions should have available impersonal facts not only for Toronto but elsewhere. In order to promote impersonal consideration of police problems the Bureau presents herewith some facts typical of the sort of facts which should be available in the consideration of the Police Estimates.

The fact that two cities have comparable populations is not necessarily or even usually an indication that they should have police forces of comparable size. More important elements than population are "crime habit", racial composition of population, attitude of the general population toward law enforcement, control of the police force, i.e., whether political or non-political, the character of the city, whether prevailingly residential, commercial or industrial, whether situated inland or on a sea or lake harbour, and

Some Facts Concerning Three English Cities (Continued).

whether a great or subsidiary railway centre. The cities mentioned are chosen not only on account of their populations, but because their general features are fairly well known to many Toronto citizens.

Great care must be exercised in treating police information from various cities and countries on a comparative basis. Such information, however, is valuable for any city if it suggests devices or changes in methods which might be worth considering for that city.

Judging from the Statutory Rules and Orders governing England and Wales, conditions of employment are very similar in the following cities to those obtaining in Toronto.

The Bureau, therefore, presents, in paragraph not in tabular form, some salient facts gleaned from Annual Reports and other documents of police departments in three cities of Great Britain.

Sheffield.

Population, 526,900. Area, 49.4 square miles. Police force, 634. Force per 10,000 population, 12.1; per square mile, 12.8. The force has mounted police numbering 14. The Criminal Investigation Department numbers 31. The department has a police school presided over by an Inspector and a Sergeant. Recruits are received into the force in batches of 20 and undergo 13 weeks' instruction in Police Duties and Law, Educational subjects, Swimming, Ambulance work (3 examinations later), Jiu-jitsu, Traffic Control and Court Attendance. This probationary period is further extended by nine months during which time the candidate is required to equip himself for final approval. All the constables on the force in turn are again passed through the school for one week's course in certain subjects mentioned above.

The department is at present undergoing reorganization. Among the things taking place are:

1. The six police divisions are being reformed into four.
2. All the beats are being remodelled.
3. Nine police stations are being sold or relinquished. Five stations only are being retained.
4. 150 police boxes are being erected. These are to be in effect miniature police stations, each five feet square, sectional and

Sheffield (Continued).

capable of being removed from place to place. These boxes are equipped so that all patrolmen may report at fixed intervals and in emergency at will, and with electric light signals on the box operated from the divisional switchboard so that headquarters may get in touch with patrolmen at will.

Bristol.

Population, 386,400 (est. 1925). Area, 28.8 square miles. Police force, not including fire brigade, 628 (authorized). Force per 10,000 population, 16.2, and per square mile, 21.8. There are six women police in uniform and plain clothes, as well as three permanent female Warders at the central station. The force has the assistance of the First Police Reserve, which consists of 67 able-bodied Police Pensioners and 142 Special Constables from the Second Police Reserve. The Chief Constable is directly responsible to the Watch Committee of the Council and addresses his annual report to the Chairman of that Committee. It is interesting to note that the Chief Constable is also Director of the Fire Brigade, in which are employed 1 Superintendent, 1 Inspector, 6 Sergeants and 55 Constables.

The number of "indictable offences" known to the police in 1926 was 1,518. Included in this were burglary, 5; housebreaking, 108 (persons proceeded against, 0); breaking into shops, warehouses, etc., 114 (persons proceeded against, 5); attempts to break into shops, warehouses, etc., 13. Apparently there were no cases of murder or manslaughter.

Liverpool.

Population, 802,940 (1921). Area, 33.15 square miles. The force numbers 2,076, exclusive of the fire brigade of 150 officers and men. Force per 10,000 population, 25.9; per square mile, 62.6. The force has as an auxiliary the so-called special constabulary numbering in all ranks on Dec. 31st, 1926, 1,021. The force is also assisted by a voluntary body called "Women Patrols", who receive a municipal grant, but are not an official sworn-in part of the force. They do social service work and directly and indirectly are a great aid to the Police. All Constables go through careful courses of training and are very carefully selected. Out of 8,000 applicants during 1926, 551 were called up for medical and educational examinations, of whom only 168 were finally attested. "There was an improvement in the quality of the recruits accepted. Every year

Liverpool (Continued).

the educational test is of a higher standard, the aim being to secure the best educated of those applying, while the physical requirements are not lessened in any degree."

The Criminal Investigation Department has since 1924 conducted monthly conferences with C. I. D. officers from surrounding forces. These have proved most useful in maintaining close personal touch and in the interchange of ideas through discussion of current crimes. The Chief Constable writes in his report: "We have again been fortunate in securing some most interesting and instructive addresses by experts in various branches of criminology. It is significant to note that the more important prosecutions during the year have resulted not so much from sudden brilliant individual work, but rather from patient and long sustained teamwork."

In 1926 the "indictable crimes" numbered 11,260. Of this number 457 were various offences against the person (including 2 murders, both of children thrown into canal by mother afterwards proven insane), and 1,861 offences against property with violence. In connection with these crimes 2,873 persons were proceeded against. There were also 30,841 non-indictable offences. In connection with these offences 21,324 were convicted, 6,097 were "discharged, etc., under Probation of Offenders Act", 3,177 cases were withdrawn or dismissed and balance dealt with in various ways.

In considering the size of municipal police forces in the cities of the Old Land, it must be borne in mind that, in Britain, the control of municipal police is somewhat highly centralized through legislation and regulation, while there is co-operation of local police organization with "Scotland Yard" and with other police organizations in the apprehension of dangerous criminals. It would appear that with such close co-ordination and co-operation local forces in Britain would not need to be so large as might otherwise be the case.

The comparative difficulty of eluding police by escape from the country owing to its insular position would also tend to reduce the number of police required in Britain.