



The Architecture of Order

How Law, Training, and Science Forged
the Modern Punjab Police

METADATA

Period Covered: 1860–1920

INDEX

Focus Areas: Legislation, Personnel
Development, Forensic Science



CRIMINOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

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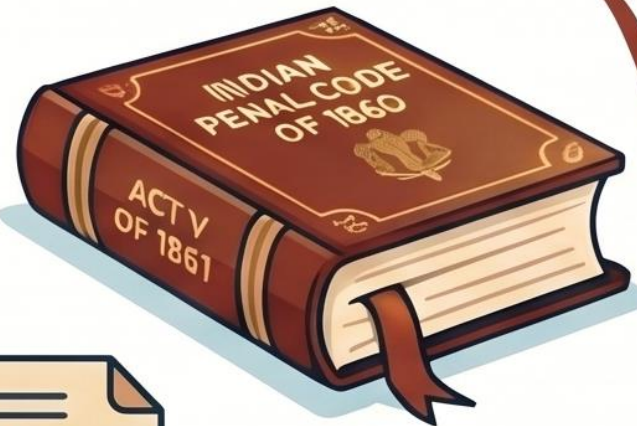
The Modernisation of the Punjab Police: From Custom to Code

Illustrating the historical transition from a custom-based military organisation to a professional force governed by unified laws and forensic science.

FROM CUSTOM & MILITARY ORGANISATION



THE FOUNDATION OF UNIFIED LAW



Reorganisation via Act V of 1861

Rebuilt the force to eliminate gross corruption and establish formal departmental discipline.

COGNIZABLE VS NON-COGNIZABLE OFFENCES

Defined police powers to arrest with or without a warrant from a Magistrate.

TO CODE, PROFESSIONALISM & FORENSIC SCIENCE



Transformed the force from a military organization into a trained, professional civil body.

PHILLAUR POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL (1891)

UPPER SCHOOL
(Sub-Inspectors & Inspectors)

- Law
- Evidence Act
- Musketry
- Photography

LOWER SCHOOL
(Head Constables & Constables)

- Drill
- Suspect Identification
- Traffic Control

GLOBAL LEADER IN DACTYLOSCOPY

Established in 1894, Phillaur housed one of the world's largest Finger Print Bureaus.

SCIENTIFIC IDENTIFICATION TOOLS

Introduced **photography** and ridge analysis to identify offenders from thousands of records.

The Native Government Era (Pre-1860)

Legal Standard:

“No law and less procedure.” Decisions driven by local custom and a Magistrate’s immediate notions of expediency.

The Apparatus:

No prescribed form of trial. Each village maintained an ad-hoc lock-up for petty offences.

Punishments Imposed:

Hanging, beheading, dismemberment by sword, execution via elephant, or crushing the head with a mallet.

The Mandate for Unification

As the English acquired	
territories, rough justice codes	
proved insufficient. Institutional	
stability required stripping away	
local customs and replacing	
them with a singular, unyielding	
architecture of codified law.	

The Modern Police Force

Pillar I: The Framework of Justice (Law)

Date: 1860–1862

Stripping away arbitrary punishment through the strict codification of the IPC, CrPC, and Police Act.

Pillar II: Forging the Force (Personnel)

Date: 1891

Transitioning from a military organization to a specialized, highly trained civic force at the Phillaur School.

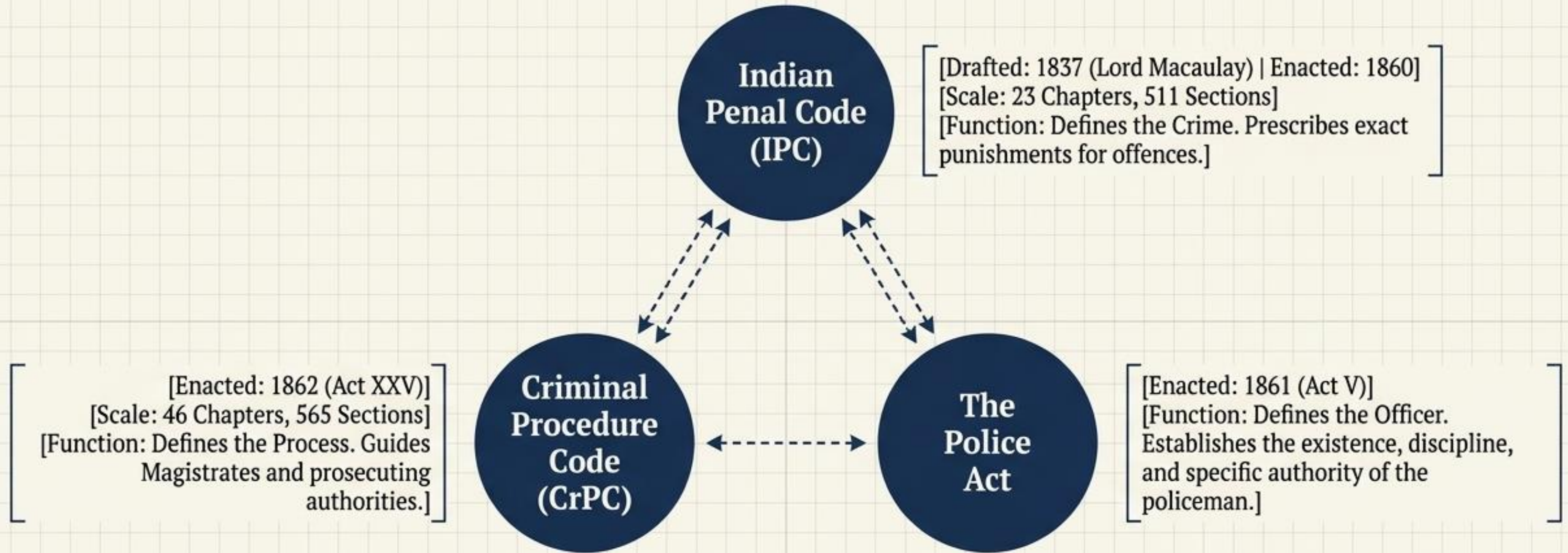
Pillar III: The Science of Detection (Forensics)

Date: 1894–1898

Replacing unreliable eyewitnesses with immutable biometric identification (Dactyloscopy).

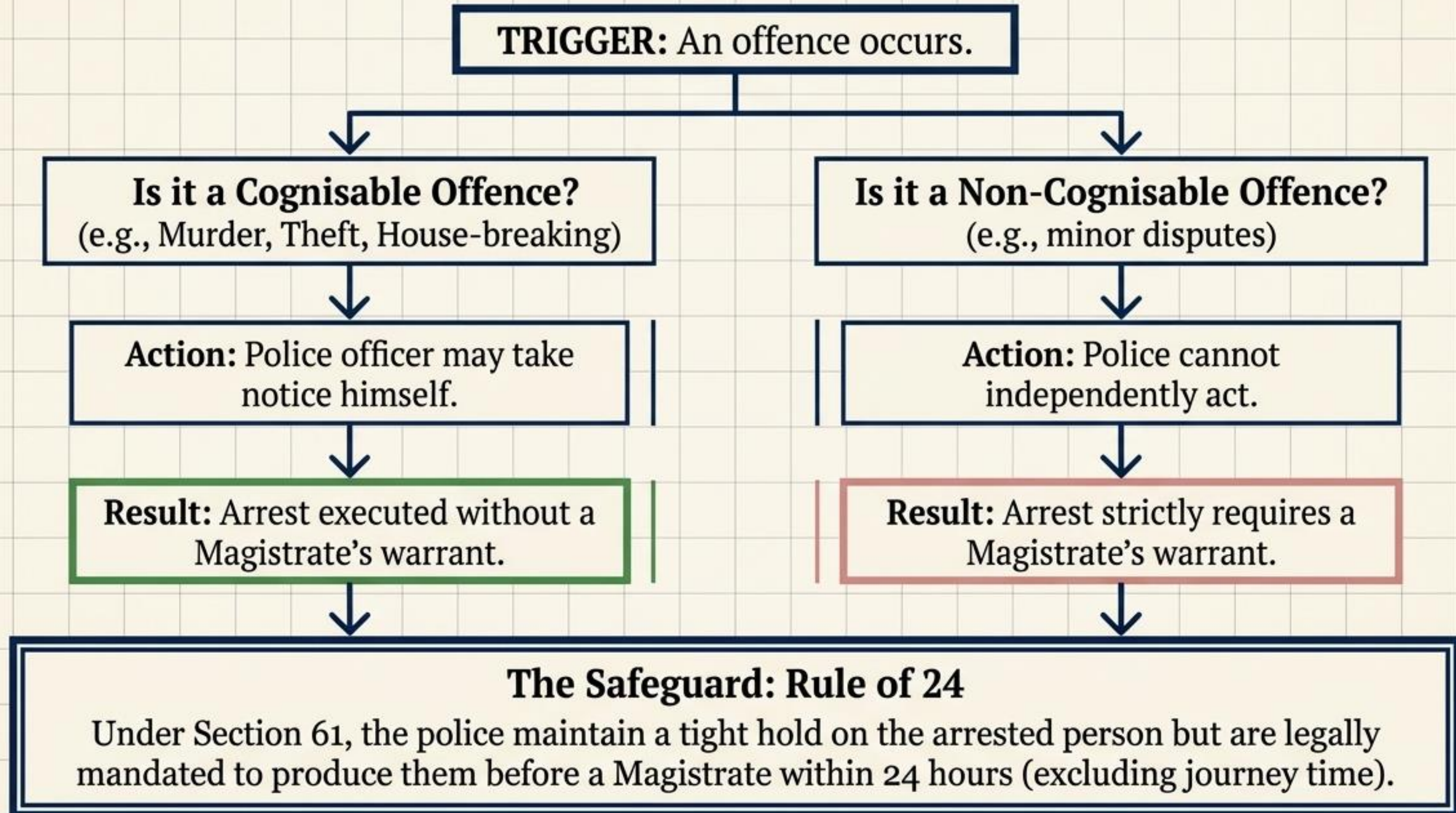
A system is only as strong as its weakest pillar. Rules require trained men to enforce them, and trained men require science to prove their cases.

The Legal Triad



In the absence of the **Criminal Procedure Code**, the Indian Penal Code would stand comparison to an unmanned boat resigned to the caprice of the wind... The CrPC acts as an engine to propel the boat.

The Arrest Protocol (CrPC Sections 4 & 61)



The Accountability Mechanisms: The Diary Diagnostic

The General Diary

- Vernacular: Station Diary / Roznamcha
- Custodian: Officer-in-charge of the police station
- Contents: All complaints, preferred charges, names of arrested persons, weapons seized, and witnesses examined.
- Inspection: Freely called for and inspected by the District Magistrate.

The Case Diary

- Vernacular: Special Diary / Zimni (CrPC Sec. 172)
- Custodian: The investigating officer
- Contents: A daily chronological record of information received and places visited.
- Purpose: Designed explicitly to prevent the investigating officer from tampering with earlier portions of the record, curbing corrupt 'rough and ready' native police practices.

The Fortress of Discipline: Phillaur Training School

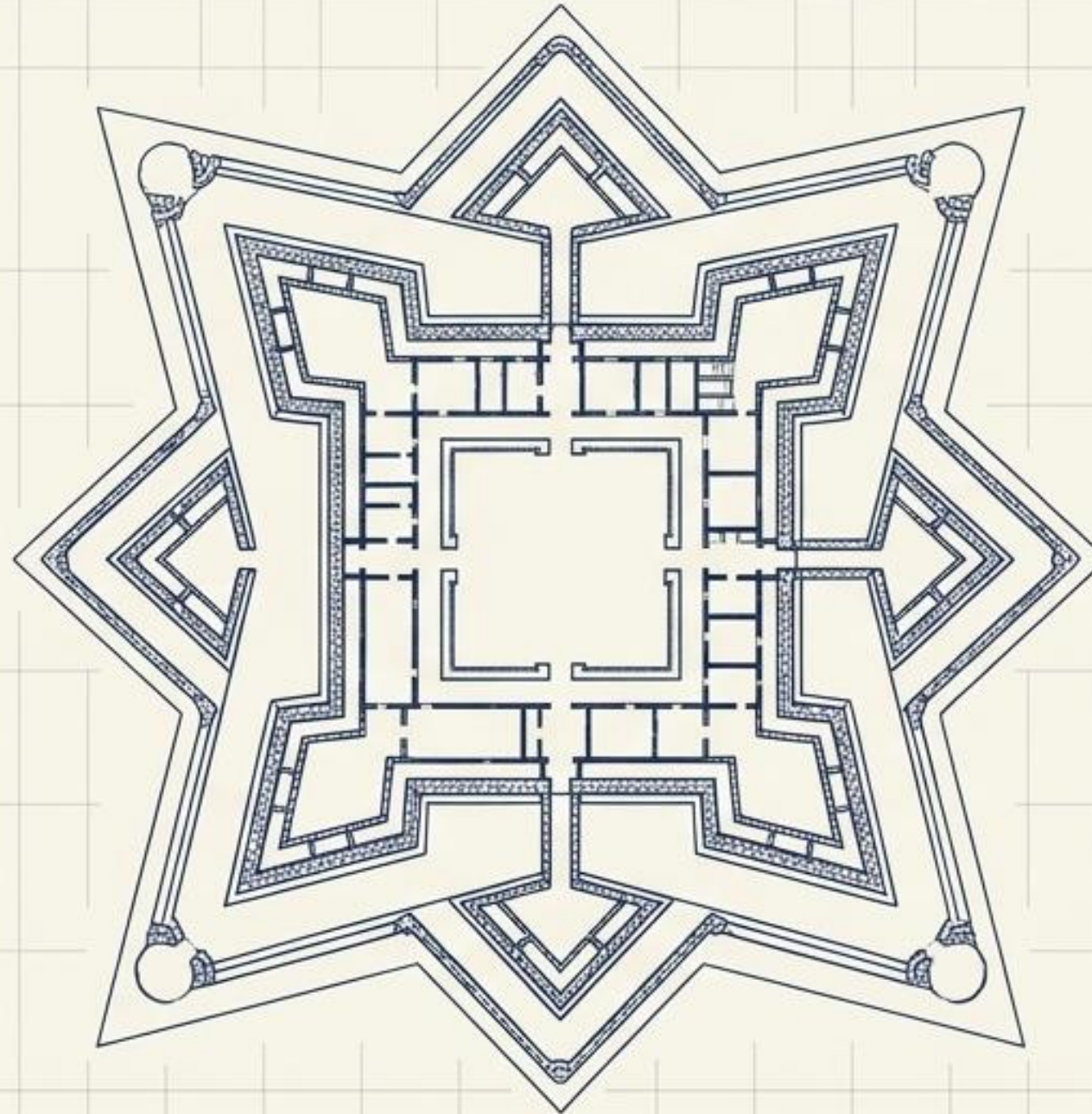
Context Statement: Before 1861, police were purely military. Until 1890, recruits were sent directly to stations with zero formal training, resulting in systemic inefficiency against evolving criminals.

Origin: Built as a Serai by Shah Jahan on the Delhi-Lahore road.

Evolution: Expanded into a formidable military fort by Ranjit Singh.

Capture: Taken without opposition by the English in 1846.

Transformation: Handed over to civil authorities in 1890; opened as the Provincial Police Training School in 1891.



Institutional Scale

Evolved from an initial staff of 5 officers (1891) to a massive residential complex housing a Principal, 8 Inspectors, 11 Sub-Inspectors, 18 Head Constables, and dormitories for hundreds of students.

The Institutional Hierarchy

The Upper School

- **Candidates:** Probationary Inspectors, European Sergeants, Sub-Inspectors.

- **Duration:** 1 Full Year (with a 1.5-month recess for fort maintenance).

- **Language:** English and Vernacular classes.

- **Curriculum Focus:** Deep legal theory (IPC, Evidence Act), Medical Jurisprudence, Plan Drawing, Finger Print Systems.

The Lower School

- **Candidates:** Constables and Head Constables.

- **Duration:** 6 Months (with a subsequent 7-week physical refresher).

- **Language:** Purely practical instruction.

- **Curriculum Focus:** Practical application. Watch and ward duties, traffic control, escort duty, musketry, and track training.

Insight Note: The physical divide mirrored the curriculum. Upper ranks resided in separate, furnished quarters, while Lower ranks slept in large 4-to-6-person dormitories inside the fort.

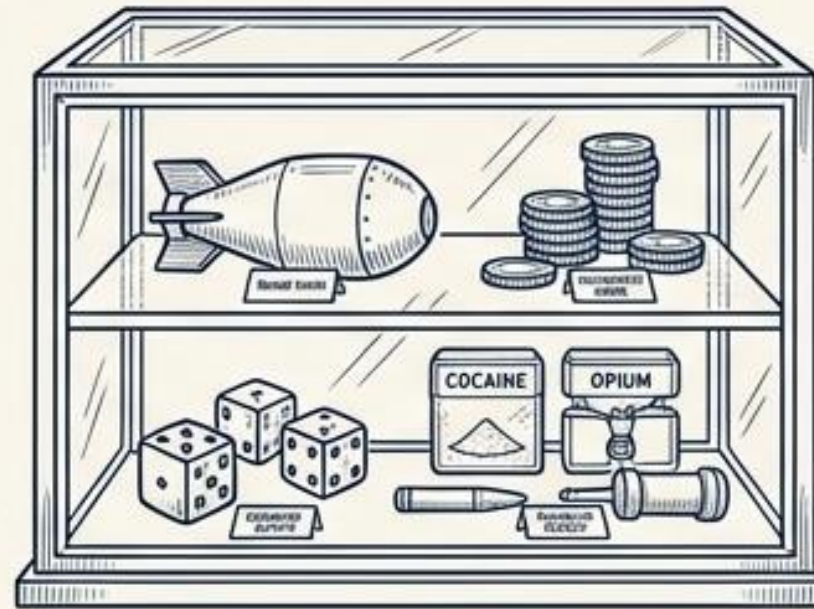
The Curriculum of Detection

The Dramatic Method



To thoroughly equip students for station duties, the school utilized theatrical roleplay. Instructors staged dramatic performances with characters playing complainants, accused, and witnesses to simulate real-time investigations.

The Criminal Museum



A permanent exhibition inside the fort. Exhibits included counterfeit coin molds, forgery tools, empty bomb shells, smuggling devices (e.g., for cocaine and opium), and gambling dice. Instructors used these physical artifacts to narrate the history of specific crimes.

The Philosophy of Facts



“A burglary is a fact, the tools with which it was committed are facts... The science of crime detection springs from the analysis and systematisation of these facts.” ”

Core Doctrine

The Evolution of Identification (1894–1898)

1894: Anthropometric System

- Method: Detailed facial and physical body measurements of criminals.
- Status: Cumbersome and prone to human error.



1896: The Co-Joint Era

- Method: The newly introduced Finger Print System runs concurrently alongside the Anthropometric system for two years as a trial period.



1898: Dactyloscopy Prevails

- Method: Finger prints are deemed universally sufficient. Anthropometry is permanently discontinued.
- The Science: Based on primary classifications (arches, loops, whorls, composites). The variety of patterns is so vast that no two persons possess identical impressions for ten digits.

The Engine of Truth: The Provincial Finger Print Bureau

Speed

5 Minutes

The time it takes to trace a single man's record out of hundreds of thousands of prints on file.

Volume

25k–30k

The Bureau processes between 25,000 and 30,000 new finger impressions of convicted criminals annually.

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Revenue

Rs. 40,000

Annual earnings from civil case verifications, making the institution entirely self-supporting.

The Standardized Station Toolkit



Tin slab



India rubber roller



Printer's Ink



Magnifying Glass



Graphite & Grey Powder

Every police station was strictly equipped with this identical set of tools to ensure uniform biometric capture.

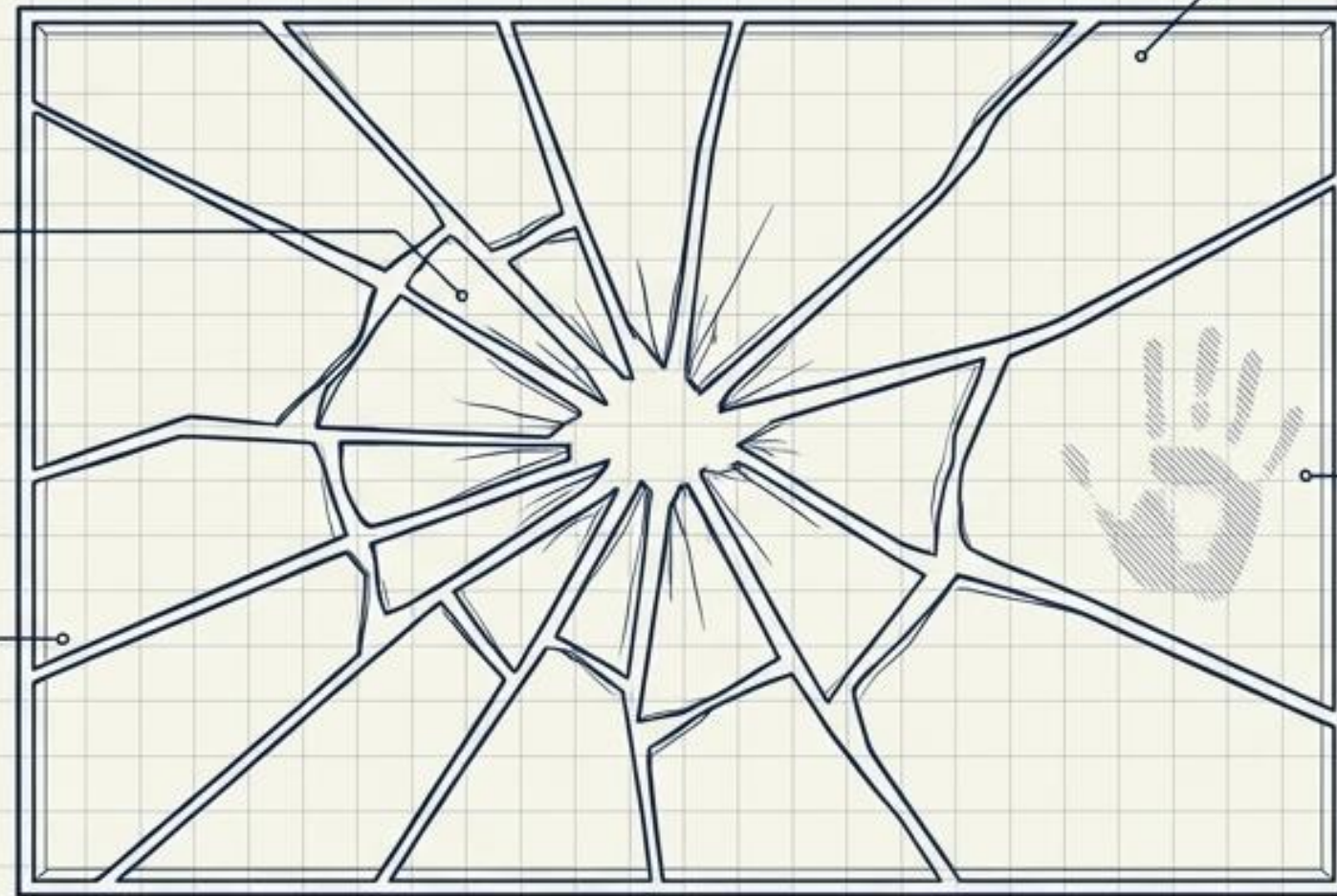
Bureau Case File: The Stolen Silver Cup

Date: April 1914

Location: The Library of the Police Training School, Phillaur

1 The Crime: A thief broke the pane of glass protecting a silver cup and absconded with the item.

2 The Collection: Investigators meticulously collected 19 separate pieces of broken glass from the scene and fitted them back together like a puzzle.



2 The Collection: Investigators meticulously collected 19 separate pieces of broken glass.

3 The Discovery: An examination revealed the faint impression of a human palm on one shard. It was photographed, enlarged, and sent to the Bureau.

The Verdict: The palm print perfectly matched a bugler who was currently under training at the Fort. Confronted with the scientific evidence, he confessed.

Bureau Case File: The Forged Wax Seal

Date: 1915

Location: Post Office at Khanpur, Bahawalpur State

The Crime:

An insured letter was delivered empty of its Rs. 100 currency note. The wax seal on the envelope appeared completely intact.

The Investigation:

The envelope was submitted to the Postal Department and then the Finger Print Bureau. Microscopic examination revealed the seal had been broken and fixed afresh.

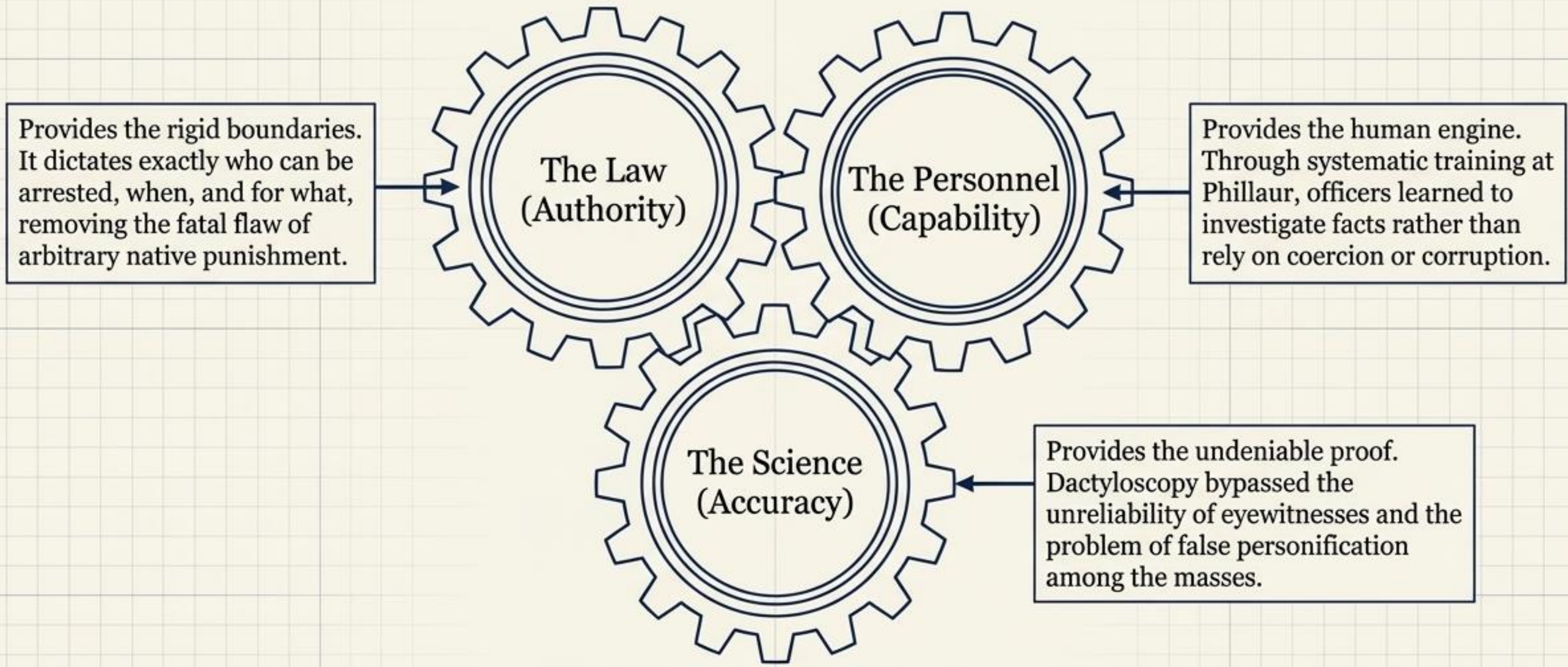
The Evidence:

A tiny impression containing a few ridge characteristics was found pressed into the remelted wax.

The Verdict: The prints precisely matched the right finger (near the nail) of the Khanpur Post Master himself, who had heated the seal, pressed his own finger to it to re-seal it, and stolen the money.
He was convicted based on this microscopic ridge data.



Synthesis: The Machinery of Modern Justice



Concluding Insight: The modern Punjab Police did not merely replace the native system; it engineered an entirely new institutional architecture where Law, Training, and Science became perpetually co-dependent.

No police organisation or administration,
however efficient and well-designed,
can do its work unless there be
clear and well defined laws.

