

supervisor with Swift Canadian Co., Limited, Montreal, whom he kept supplied with signed blank cheques ranging in amounts from 5,000 to 20,000 coupons each. Sabourin bought the coupons for 75c and \$1 per 100 and fed the market through sub-agents, namely Lucien Comeau of St. Hyacinthe, Que., Gerard Houle, grocer of Joliette, Que., and Alberic Tousignant, grocer of Montreal. Through these avenues, the ramifications of the racket grew to enormous proportions and enfolded grocers, butter makers and butter wholesalers in a widespread area throughout the province.

Sub-agent Comeau must have devoted some thought to the initial profiteering possibilities of the nefarious traffic in which he was engaged and to how much more lucrative to himself the business could be made. At any rate he decided to cut Sabourin out and, one day toward the end of March, 1946, in partnership with unemployed Ovide Lariviere, also of St. Hyacinthe, branched out on his own.

From Jean Paul Brouillette, a bank employee of St. Hyacinthe, the two confederates obtained two blank ration cheque books, one for butter, the other for sugar, and with these entered into a more flagrant form of offence. With the books as samples to copy from they forged an undetermined number of cheques, and had various stamps made, patterned after those of the bank and some wholesale merchants, which they signed in Dubuc's name.

Where before only butter was involved, sugar now came in for attention, and a flow of thousands of pounds of sugar and butter was "short-circuited" from legitimate stock piles to inundate the black market. And almost at once an alarming volume of illegal butter and sugar coupon bank cheques emanating daily from many rural districts began to accumulate at the Government coupon audit centre.

Sugar ration cheques were sold to Edgar Thibodeau, a Montreal *restauranteur*, by Joseph Auger, a Montreal truck

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