

The Montreal Graft Enquiry

BY

OLIVAR ASSELIN

(From the "Toronto Sunday World," with the addition of a few sub-heads for the rest of the eye, and the omission of a few misprints for the ease of the mind.)

The dear Old Spot.

When Royal Commissioner Cannon started enquiring into the municipal affairs of Montreal, a strong stench had been coming out of the City Hall for some time thru several issues, but public attention centered chiefly on one department. Ever since the invention of the Alderman, the suspicion has lingered in the people's mind that, as the Constitution follows the Flag, Graft will accompany Brass Buttons. This suspicion, a whole chapter of unsavory incidents had developed into a certainty with most Montrealers. A well-known detective elbowed out of office by vain officials whom he did not court and rogues whom he had exposed; a \$25,000 police station built by the brothers of Alderman Proulx, Chairman of the Police Committee, under assumed names, and found, after heavy payments, to be ten feet smaller than the plan called for; open carousing by police inspectors with fast women in liquor-saloons, after legal selling hours; and, above all, the manifest protection enjoyed by a number of disreputable resorts — these and kindred facts had spread the conviction abroad that the police of Montreal was rotten. So, there was little else for the Commissioner to do but to begin with the Police Department.