

The year 1895 has been marked by several of the longest trials in our criminal annals. The Hyams murder case, at Toronto, occupied on the first trial 14 days, resulting in a disagreement. The second trial lasted 23 days, with a verdict of acquittal. The Shortis murder case, at Beauharnois, occupied more than a month, although the sole question was whether the prisoner was sane or insane. The jury found the prisoner sane, after an enormous volume of testimony had been adduced, some of which had very little bearing on the case. Lastly, at Montreal, the Demers murder case occupied on the first trial about thirty days, resulting, like the first Hyams trial, in a disagreement. The second trial was considerably shorter, the parties having fortunately concurred and succeeded in the effort to obtain a jury all speaking the language of the prisoner. The two trials occupied fifty-two days, and the criminal term extended over four months and four days.

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The threatened invasion of Mount Royal Park by the trolley has a parallel, though not quite so obnoxious, in Philadelphia. The Commissioners of Fairmount Park, some years ago, granted a license for the construction of a passenger railway within the bounds of the park. For some years nothing was done, but recently the construction of a railway, six miles in length, was commenced. The city council opposed the scheme, and an injunction was taken out in the name of the city to prevent the building of the road. The first court has refused to interfere with the prosecution of the work, on the ground that the park commissioners were vested with full authority by the legislature, and that the consent of the city council is not needed. There is a lesson in this case for those who imagine that all mismanagement of municipal affairs can be cured by vesting the control in the hands of commissioners.