

spared. As between the Provincial cabinet, — under whose authority the investigation was started, and stopped, — the lawyers, the so-called Citizens' Committee and the Commissioner, the responsibility for the course and finish of the enquiry might be difficult to apportion; the more so because the Average Citizen, not seeing the ropes, naively believes there was nothing left to unearth. Whatever the cause, the fact is that you could not touch certain men nor poke into certain transactions with a ten-foot pole. Weeks were spent in discrediting Chairman Giroux and Contractor Brunot, both of them new in their respective parts. But the Sicily Asphalt Company, an old friend of Préfontaine's, was not asked to account for its relations with Giroux' rival, Larivière — and thus Brunet's claim that the English firms were spared, was, notwithstanding the Reform Paper's assertion to the contrary, given some semblance of justification. Gadbois' case dragged on for weeks and would not have come up at all, had not Baillargeon, as a last resort, written direct to the Commissioner asking to be heard, and Mr. Cannon, for once, himself insisted on questioning the witnesses.

### ***Did the Oat come back?***

The light and power contracts, known to have been the great source of rot at the City Hall, and which have been lying unsettled for six years, were gone into the last day of the enquiry, after Laflamme had declared that he for one did not want to proceed further, now that the "system" was known. At 3 o'clock p.m., the last day, — that is, one hour and a half before the close, — the cashier of the Forgets, brokers, was ordered to come back at Four with a list of the three-thousand and five-thousand dollar chèques issued by that firm during the negotiation of the 1901 street lighting contract. This, Laflamme said, because the lawyers were informed that such chèques had been paid to