

driver, who acted in behalf of the new partners. Lariviere himself employed a Montreal truck driver named Leo Marcel Devost, whom he supplied with money and ration cheques so that he could make deliveries of sugar to specified places. Before long the infractions against sugar rationing spread in almost the same proportion as had those in connection with butter.

But the whole structure of these violations began to crumble when, for some reason best known to himself, Dubuc signed several ration cheques, O. Roy. As there was no account in that name, Collette did not honour or falsify them when they turned up at his bank. However, apparently desiring to keep account No. 131 out of the limelight he, in what seems to have been a feeble effort to throw a red herring across the trail, changed the account number on the counterfeit cheques to 181 and returned them to the audit centre.

Continuing investigation disclosed that a butter retailer named Philippe Page, of Louiseville, Que., had solicited butter coupons from Sabourin's agent, Houle, word of whose dealings had got around, and was disappointed to learn that this distributor handled only ration cheques. Being a butter retailer, Page had no use for cheques; however, he conspired with Houle to drum up trade by introducing him to various butter makers whom he persuaded to deal with the racketeer by promising to take off their hands some of the butter thus made available. Page subsequently bought cheques from Houle and used them to get butter from these butter makers.

Meanwhile W.P.T.B. officials notified the Force's Montreal Black Market Squad that sugar ration bank cheques of a spurious nature (those put into circulation through the machinations of Comeau and Lariviere) had also appeared. As all sugar cheques were eventually "funnelled" through the Canada and Dominion Sugar Refinery Ltd., the investigators decided that the most likely way

of ensnaring those responsible was to attack the problem at that point. On May 17 the refinery reported that sugar bank cheques thought to be forged had been presented by an unknown person, but that the order was being delayed in accordance with police instructions. Three days later the unknown caller returned, as pre-arranged, for the sugar represented in this order, took delivery of it and was shadowed through the streets until he was observed to transfer the load to a trailer attached to another car which was then driven away. This car and trailer were now followed to a private garage. Upon entering the garage a few minutes later the investigators caught the driver, who turned out to be a local restaurant proprietor named Edgar Thibodeau, in the act of unloading the sugar.

Thibodeau stated that he bought cheques from Auger whom, he said, had on another occasion supplied him with 1,000 lbs. of sugar without coupons. Auger had assured him that the cheques would be honoured without question, and now blaming him for the predicament he was in, Thibodeau agreed to cooperate with the police and arranged to meet Auger at his restaurant the next afternoon, May 21. Auger arrived on schedule but, apparently noticing Thibodeau's nervousness, became suspicious and beat a hasty retreat from the store. Before the investigators closed in and arrested the fleeing man, they saw him throw away seven butter ration cheques all of which were drawn on La Banque Provinciale du Canada and bore the forged signature of Dubuc. Three more butter and ten sugar ration cheques were discovered in Auger's room.

Subjected to rigid interrogation, Auger implicated Lariviere who when arrested the following day was in possession of similar sugar ration coupon cheques. Lariviere acknowledged his conspiracy with Comeau in the forgery and sale of the sugar and butter cheques, and a search of his room yielded a number of