

McLachlan such that it was thought at first that an inquest was unnecessary.

The mayor of the town and his wife going to their home passed the house of McLachlan about midnight and noticed smoke from the upper part of the building. They called at the kitchen door where a light was burning and McLachlan was asked if his house was on fire. He said he did not know. He appeared dazed and came out with his little girl. He said he could give no account as to where his wife and two boys were. He pretended to be unable to say in what rooms they slept. The fire company arrived, and after an hour's work put out the fire, before the body of the wife was burned up. The floor of the room had been saturated with coal oil to secure this result. Two days after, an examination of the books of a local druggist shewed that the husband had purchased strychnine on the morning of the murder, and strychnine in large quantities was found in the stomach of the wife. It was a close race between the fire and the strychnine, and had the mayor passed a half an hour later, the body would have been so consumed that all traces of poison would have been destroyed.

If so, and the ruling of the judge in the Cobourg case had been followed, there could have been no conviction. Fortunately the man was convicted and was the first person to be hanged in the county of Ontario.

This case shews the necessity of strictly enforcing, by druggists, statutory provisions as to the registry of poisons, and also the necessity for an inquiry by inquest in all such cases. The examination of the records of poisons sold by druggists should be frequently and carefully made by some detective peace officer.

The large number of statutes as to the various crimes and the number of amendments to the same which experience has shewn were necessary, rendered it very desirable that there should be a criminal code in which the criminal laws and their amendments should be consolidated. In these latter days, the