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Warehouse, but he could not deliberate. He is in York, and what he himself had done. If he had not been willing to talk to our reporter he could have declined doing so. His statement, as given above, was made unhesitatingly by him. We accepted it as clearing Mr. Ruel of the charge of having permitted Mr. Brown to use Government funds to speculate upon. But it now transpires that Mr. J. R. Ruel, at the time he assured THE TRIBUNE reporter of his having been ignorant of any irregularity, actually held J. C. Brown's note, endorsed by Oulton Bros., for \$32,000 customs duty. We give the public the facts as they come to light. The public will make application of these facts to the persons concerned. Do they elevate the standing of the gentleman whose term of office as Collector of Saint John has probably expired?

Judge Skinner is reported to have claimed yesterday, in opening the case for the defence of the parties under trial for arson, that they were acting under legal advice and, therefore, their doings could not be considered a felony. According to this man who wants to burn a house, or shoot his rival, he need only obtain legal advice, and then burn or shoot.

MURDER IN VICTORIA COUNTY. A Whole Family butchered—The Murderer still at large—The brutal Pierre Lafebre.

PIEDMONT SETTLEMENT. VICTORIA COUNTY, Dec. 3. Pierre Lafebre, a Frenchman, who it will be recalled last spring was convicted of a cruel and inhuman murder in the infant colony, was acquitted, in a charge of murder in the second degree against his young son, a bright little blue-eyed fellow of seven years, has again concluded to make a dash for it. He has been successful. Pierre Lafebre, three years ago, was a well-to-do farmer, the owner of a fine and well cultivated tract of land, a good house, some stock and considerable other property. His wife was the eldest daughter of Jacques Lablanc of Montreal and both in social position and education was much the superior of her husband. She was a girl of well to do parents, and was brought up in the city. "Le Petit Oiseau" and "Ses Filles" are particularly deserving of mention, and her "Birondelet" received the honor of such a name. Lafebre's wife died some few months since. In her youth she was a very handsome woman, but alas! trouble and anguish caused ravages in her once beautiful and thoughtful face. Though but thirty-eight years of age she looked easily passed for fifty. In their early married life, Pierre and Marie Lafebre passed many happy hours together. Pierre possessed a violent, excitable temper, and when infuriated with drink and rage, he would restrain his passionate and his terrible paroxysms of rage. In his more momentary moments of a kind generous disposition, thoughtful in the extreme and loving his wife and children with a love almost amounting to worship. He had been married about fifteen years, and had an interesting family of two boys, Paul and Emilie, and one girl, Amy, aged five years. It is only three years since that Pierre Lafebre commenced to drink to excess, and in that short time he has twice attempted the life of his wife and children. His stock has dwindled down to almost nothing, his house and farm are heavily mortgaged, and he has lost his property. He has been confined in the lunatic asylum for a few short years ago. The neighbors pitying the sad condition to which events had brought Madame Lafebre have been untiring in their attempts to mollify her and her lot. When she lay on a bed of sickness for three months in the winter, prostrated with typhoid fever, she was nursed by her bed-side and ministered to by her burning forehead, and strangers smoothed her heated pillow. And often in the cold, wild nights of March poor little Amy sobbed at her mother's bedside and pressed her tiny doll to her chest and breast and shielded it from the blasts raging without. But the drunkard's heart was not softened and his temper grew more violent as his disposition became morbid and morose. His wife's illness distressed him; he became more and more morose and the wails of little Amy and the piteous pleadings of Emilie drove him wild. Last Monday he came home very much intoxicated. The room was cold and dark. No fire blazed on the hearth. His wife and Emilie and Amy lay on the floor looking in seeming unconscious slumber. The moon stole in as it passed a cloud and the husband comprehended in drunken stupor the sordid scene as it presented itself in the moonlight for a moment. The fends of hell seem to have rushed into his brain in an instant. With a savage yell he seized an axe, brandished it aloft in the air and in one fell swoop down it came on the poor form of Marie, his wife, crashing into her head, leaving her skull in twain. A low moan followed, then all was still, the room was again dark, the moon hid behind a cloud and a spirit sped towards its God. Maddened by blood the monster groped his way toward Paul, who awoke just in time to ward off a terrible blow from the descending weapon. But though the arm was for a time weakened, the work of death was not stayed. The boy fell with a gasp, bleeding to the earth. Emilie and Amy shared the same fate and then the inhuman fiend led the bloody scene of his heinous crime over sick women and defenceless children. The morning dawned and found the bloody corpse sweltering in pools of blood! The neighbors, as usual, came in to offer their services to Madame Lafebre or to bring in some delicacy for the neglected sufferer, and she was the horror that awaited them. The

INCENDIARISM AND MURDER. Outlawry in Nova Scotia—Harm-barrington—Arrest of one of the Gang on a charge of Wife-murder. (From the Halifax Reporter, Dec. 7.) For some time past the peaceable and law-abiding residents of the villages in the vicinity of Newport, Hants County, have been subjected to a species of terrorism, and the heart-rending story of the murder and the lit-a-bomb seems many a pang into the hearts of the horrified listeners. It was pitiful to hear the child testify against her father. She seemed to realize her sad situation and broke down with grief, and quail and despair she sank down on the cold floor weeping and wailing bitterly. In the morning poor Amy denied that the murderer was her father. It was a man larger and heavier than he, she said. But it is easily understood now that the intense grief is partly assumed, how painful is her situation and how strong is her desire to shield her father from harm. Yesterday the murdered were interred and though strict search has been made no other persons have been found of the murderer. Suspicion also points to the husband. He was seen to go into his own house on the fatal night of the murder, and since that time he has not been heard of. A reward has been offered for his capture in the hope that it may afford some clue to his whereabouts. Pierre Lafebre is about five feet six inches in height, dark hair and mustache. Eyes dark blue; speaks broken English; understands Italian as well as French, and is a farmer by occupation. In his walk he has a stoop and is slightly forward. The most exciting excitement prevails and a feeling of insecurity is alarmingly felt. This is perhaps the most cold-blooded and terrible murder ever perpetrated in our province, and there is no safety promised until the culprit is brought to justice. There will be a terrible retribution when the murderer is captured.

Yours, LEON BOSNY. NOTES AND NEWS. The Council of Glasgow voted the freedom of the city to Diersall, now on the visit there. Charles Locke, of Seaville, Me., while repairing his barn, fell from the roof, a distance of 60 feet, causing instant death. A meeting of Americans in London was held Saturday night to discuss means for paying a tribute to the memory of Horace Greeley. The Catholic Church authorities at Lima, Peru, asked the suppression of a paper which attacked their creed, but the Government declined for want of power. In New York last Friday a gang of pickpockets tried to murder a horse car conductor who warned his passengers against them. Two of them were arrested but discharged.

P. S. Noyes, the stage driver from Patuxent to Fort Knox, Mo., after a roundabout road to get nearly a hundred trees out of the road in a piece of twelve miles. At Portage Lake he gave up cutting his way through, and carried the mail there by foot, being 37 miles, on his back. There is trouble in New Orleans. Two Legislatures—Wormouth and Kellough—and two Legislatures claim to be the choice of the people of Louisiana. Wormouth is in and expresses his intention of staying in Louisiana until the U. S. military authorities have taken possession of the State House and election returns, and there promises to be a lively time. The Republicans of Boston so far have been unable to get anybody to stand for Governor, and the U. S. military authorities have taken possession of the State House and election returns, and there promises to be a lively time.

The Executive and finance relief committees in aid of sufferers by the Boston fire, have received and investigated 1500 applications, and the committee for the relief of women thrown out of employment, have received and investigated 4300 applications who desired and needed it, and they must continue to do so for some weeks although the need of help is gradually diminishing. A St. Louis dentist, when he visits an entertainment, always carries a jar of laughing gas. It works successfully but queerly. In his first experience he took a whiff whenever a joke was let off, but it failed to operate until everyone was through laughing; then the smiles would chase one another over his face and finally develop into a full grown, hearty laugh, generally in a pathetic portion of the show. Now, he attempts to participate a joke, and inhales his hilarious mixture a moment before the joke is expected. Sometimes he hits it nicely, but more frequently the joke does not come and he laughs does. It has been computed by sundry philologists who are good at figures, that in the course of some hundreds of thousands of years, more or less, the coal supplies of this and other countries will be exhausted. This subject has given us some anxiety, for we will be amply provided for in the matter of heat in that far off future; but our mind is relieved by the announcement that the stalks and seeds of the sunflower make an excellent fuel, and a two acre field thereof will supply a family for a season. The farmer of 100,000 years or more ahead will raise food and fuel side by side, and we shall not suffer from cold, provided the sun shines out to burn, and the sunflowers continue to grow with their present luxuriance.

arbitrator which would render him justice, and looking upon it, saw that it showed the time which he knew it to be. Then he appeared in a change of character. He gazed at the audience with an expression bespeaking a guilty but not repentant prince. He put himself as much outside of his boss as the laws of balancing would allow, and shaking his wigged head, and very much powder out of it, he laid his jeweled hand on the heart side of his sky-blue velvet coat, and made a bow to the house, so superb in its apologetic pantomime that the audience burst forth into hysterical hurrahing and applauding, and all other possible symptoms to demonstrate their gladness and to express their consent to a full recollection of the prince to the people.

LOCALS. For a list of Agents for the sale of the DAILY TRIBUNE see first page. For advertisements of WANTED, Lost, Found, For Sale, or To Let, see Auction column. New Advertisements. Advertisers must send in their favors before 12 o'clock noon, in order to insure their appearance in this list. Amusements—Flora Myer's Theatre. Layer's Minstrels. Boston Bow. Canada Butter. Notice—Cudlip & Stiller. Just Received—J. & F. Burpee & Co. Prospects of the New York Tribune. Guller's Protection. Hamilton Bros. Royal Krmine Fur. Manchester, Robertson & Allison. Bankrupt Stock—E. McLeod. Brevities. The Common Council meets to-morrow afternoon. The Water Commissioners say that the excavation on Prince William street will be finished ere long. Warren Coleman, of Indianapolis, fell over the side of a schooner and broke his leg last Sunday. The Board of Trade is in session this afternoon. The Y. M. C. A. elect officers to-night. An attempt was made on Watson's ship yesterday. The testing of the will of D. J. McLoughlin was continued in the Probate Court yesterday, F. A. Morrison presiding. The will of Mrs. Jones and Mrs. McCurdy, daughters of the deceased, compiled all day yesterday, and will be resumed at 2 o'clock to-day.

New Lodge of Old Pioneers. At last meeting of Pioneer Lodge permission was given for the formation of a new Lodge in St. John. A few of the old members of Pioneer, and several young members who cannot attend on Friday evening, are the promoters of the new Lodge. Portland Town Council. At last night's Council meeting it was announced that Beverly Evans had been appointed Engineer of the Fire Department at a salary of \$480. The Treasurer was appointed additional time to negotiate with the insurance agents with regard to the aid they are expected to extend towards the reconstruction of the fire alarm telegraph. His Worship Mayor Burpee reported that a sub-committee had communicated with Mr. Kilham regarding the repairs to be made to the Marsh Bridge. The Dangers of Sew Mills. The vicinity of circular saws in motion is always dangerous, and there are very few mills in this country where the slightest precaution is taken. A block, edging, on Friday last, while working in Barnhill's mill, was struck on the forehead with a piece of edging, fracturing his skull and driving several pieces of the ground bone into the brain. Considerable bleeding took place at the time, and several pieces of brain substance escaped from the wound. Drs. Steves and Allison performed the operation of removing the loose pieces and elevating the depressed bone. The pieces were seven in number, two of them being of considerable size, and one of these including a portion of the socket of the eye. Since the operation the boy has progressed favorably, although from the extensive shattering of the bone and injury of the brain, his chances of ultimate recovery are considered very slender.

Merchants' Exchange. The following despatches were received at the Exchange to-day: Montreal, Dec. 9th.—Liverpool flour 3s. 6d. Red Wheat 11s. a 11s. 9d. Corn 28s. 10d. Custom 10d. Consols, London, 91d a 91d. New York—Flour market dull, nominal. No. 3 Spring Wheat \$1.52 a \$1.59. Western Mixed Corn 65c a 65c. Mess Pork \$13 a \$13.50. Market dull. Grain freights 9d. Fair Refining Sugar 9d; Good do 9 1/2; prime do 9 1/2; Cuba Centavago Molasses 17 a 19; Porto Rico 28 a 55; English Islands 30 a 38. Receipts of flour 14,000 bushels; sales 6,000. Sales of wheat 130,000 bushels. Receipts of corn 9,000 bushels; sales 130,000. Montreal—Flour market dull. Ordinary Canada and Welland Canal \$5.85 a \$6.00; Fancy \$6.35 a \$6.40; Extra 6.90 a \$7.00. Receipts of flour 3,000 bushels; sales 1,000 bushels. Oats 23 a 34 cts.; Barley 55 a 59 cts. Chicago—No. 3 Spring Wheat \$1.12. Receipts of wheat 64,000 bushels; shipments 14,000. New York, Dec. 10th.—Gold opened at 112 1/2.

Death by Drowning. The inquest on the body of John McEwen, mate of the Sloop, was held at the Dead House this morning. The two principal witnesses examined were the captain, George Brown, and Patrick O'Brien. The former deposed that the deceased was last seen by him at six o'clock on Saturday evening. He was then under the influence of liquor. O'Brien testified to seeing the deceased in a liquor store at York Point. The verdict returned was of death by drowning.

The Sessions. The adjourned meeting of the General Sessions of the Peace was held this morning in the City Court Room. The Judge of Justice present was not large. The hour of opening both the Recorder Mayor were absent. The most eligible representative of the chair was John Kerr, Esq., Alderman of Duke Street, who presided. Justice Milligan the Alderman assumed the chair and occupied the highest office in the gift of the County. The first business was the consideration of the claims of the men who went to the rescue of the crew of the Pioneer wrecked in Courtney Bay on Saturday week. After some remarks on the subject it was voted that some of the men engaged in the rescue receive \$10, and that a memorial from the Sessions be presented. Some time was occupied in the discussion of a bill to be laid before parliament, in regard to the rights of owners of water lots to claim possession of their property as far as low-water mark. This was regarded by some as an attempt to interfere with the rights of the people and naturally caused an animated discussion. Alderman Kerr moved that the bill be presented for the consideration of such Justices as were too sick or too busy to attend the meeting. This matter was opposed by Justice Milligan and others who considered the expedient wholly unnecessary. After some further consideration the matter was referred to a committee consisting of Justice Marshall and others to report. A motion was made that Samuel Cumming, bound over by Justice Robinson to keep the peace towards Mary Cumming, be discharged from custody. In this case it appears there was some family disagreement, but the wife having removed to the United States the cause of trouble was also removed. A motion was made by Justice Novlin that the prisoner be discharged on his own recognizance. Pending the result of this motion Justice Magee asked if any action had been taken in regard to the recommendation of the Grand Jury that the labor of good prisoners be utilized. It was he said a shame to see honest men toiling in their knees in the sewers in Prince William street while these rascals were warmed and fed at the expense of the county. That such a state of things should exist was a mockery of justice and a disgrace to the public. No argument ensued. Samuel Cumming was then called and bound over, \$50 his own recognizance, in the sum of \$100 to appear before the next Sessions; by which it would appear that the learned Justice entirely ignore the act to establish County Courts. After some further humorous doings the hour adjourned to meet on Saturday week.

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