

Provincial Legislature, used for the board, support and treatment of people deprived of their reason. These unfortunates expected from others that protection which they could not of themselves secure. At the time of the said fire, that part of the building where it originated, was occupied by female patients to the number of 420, of whom, immediately after the fire, 26 were missed.

In the hope that some of them might have escaped during the excitement that naturally prevailed at the time, public notices were published asking for information to that effect, but they remained unanswered. Whilst intelligence as to the whereabouts of such patients was expected with the greatest anxiety, a search in the ruins which had been commenced on the very morning of the fire, was zealously pursued.

The searches resulted in the discovery of human remains, charred and disfigured; also, a quantity of fragments of bones which are now before you, and which will be submitted to the inspection of a surgeon, who will establish their number and nature.

After the question of the identity of these remains, and after establishing the spot where they were found, the exact place where the fire originated will be a matter for your consideration. It will be your duty to ascertain if it was the result of an accident or whether it was kindled with design, which would, it is useless for me to tell you, amount to murder, if the party setting it had the use of his free will, and consequently was responsible for his acts.

Your duty, in the case of this fire being quite accidental, is to inquire if at the time of said fire there were rules and regulations tending to prevent such occurrence, and if so,

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