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Miserly Mother Kills Son's Wife

Shoots Young Woman for Having Heir to Fortune She Hoarded.

New York.—Almost on the very day that Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, gray-haired, wealthy and socially prominent, appeared before a jury in Somerville, N. J., charged with the killing of her husband, Mme. Guillaume Lefebvre, gray-haired, a millionaire and a member of one of the most prominent families in northern France, appeared before the Assize court in the City of Douai, charged with the murder of her young and beautiful daughter-in-law, says the New York World.

The trials were conducted simultaneously for some days, and while in this country a puzzled public was following the grim details of the Hall-Mills murder mystery, all France was stirred by the most sensational "affaire celebre" since the trial of Landru, the French "Bluebeard," five years ago.

The parallel between the two cases is impressive. In both instances the principals were women of sixty, who, because of the dignity of their age and the prestige of the large fortunes they commanded, seemed secure against any misadventure with the law. Both were charged with a capital crime against one of their kin by marriage. And in both trials there was the spectacle of two men, brothers in the case of Mrs. Hall, husband and son in the case of Mme. Lefebvre, defending their women kin against the accusation of a heinous and indefensible crime.

Both cases presented a baffling mystery: the Hall case a mystery of fact, in which the issue was the identity of the murderer; the Lefebvre case a psychological mystery, in which the motive for the French woman's confessed crime baffled the best legal brains of France.

An Amazing Character.

But here the parallel between the Hall-Lefebvre cases ends. For when, finally the aged Frenchwoman's motive was unraveled there was revealed to the world an amazing psychopathic character such as only a Balzac could have created. The Lefebvre murder could have been committed only in a Latin country.

And the Hall trial, muffled in the silence of the defendants, was a dull show indeed compared with the Lefebvre trial, enlivened continually by Latin emotionalism, Latin outbursts of passion in both the principals and the audience and repeated and frantic efforts by the judges to control the uncontrollable exhibitions of French temperament throughout the trial.

Exactly one year ago, in the fall of 1925, Mme. Guillaume Lefebvre learned from her son a secret that he had kept for five months; that his wife, Antoinette Mlle Lefebvre, was soon to give birth to an heir to the combined Lefebvre-Mulle fortunes. On that very day Mme. Lefebvre bought a revolver and, soon after, writing to her son, asked him to call on her, bring his wife with him and take them both for a drive in his car.

The son, obedient to his mother's wishes, appeared several days later at the paternal home with his young wife and the three set out for a drive. Andre Lefebvre occupied the front seat alone. His wife and his mother sat together in the rear. When they passed through the city gates and emerged into the suburbs, Mme. Lefebvre requested that her son drive along the path known as "Solitude road." Andre, without inquiring into the reasons for this strange wish, still in his manhood as pliant before the commanding will of his mother as he was when a child, complied.

But when he had reached "Solitude road" and the car was humming along the deserted lane, he suddenly heard outcry from his mother. Andre looked and what he saw made him jump the car to a quick halt. His wife, immobile, lay back in her seat, a thin stream of crimson trickling down her cheek from a wound in her temple. His mother, spent, her hands paralyzed in her lap, one of them holding a revolver, regarded him stonily. The young man could only ask his agonized question with his eyes. "I have killed her," the mother said quietly.

Without a further word, Andre Lefebvre swung the car around and dashed madly toward the city and a hospital.

Son's Conduct Shows Motive.

Arrived at the hospital, the young woman was at once hurried to the operating room, but it was too late. She was dead. Mme. Lefebvre, making no effort to shield herself, was arrested and her son, Andre, his wife dead and his mother a prisoner, stopped long enough at the hospital to claim his wife's purse, examine its

contents to see that they were intact and inquire whether the ring she wore when she had left home was still on her finger.

Questioned again later in the day, Mme. Lefebvre declared she had killed her daughter-in-law because she was "driving her son to ruin." In reporting the tragedy the following morning, the French newspapers described it as a crime of mother love, another "crime passionnel."

As usual, the case was tried in the French press long before it came to the courts and presently, though still recognizing a crime of passion, the newspapers became aware that they were dealing with something more than a mother's love for her son, a passion just as old, but in Mme. Lefebvre overshadowing any feeling she had for her offspring.

The star reporters assigned to the case got their first clue to the real motive for the crime in Andre Lefebvre's conduct at the hospital, when he showed such concern about his dead wife's purse and her jewels. Their inquiry took a definite direction when it was estimated that the entire outfit of clothing worn by the millionaire at the time of her arrest could not have exceeded in cost more than \$15.

And when it was learned that the young couple had been quite happy and altogether devoted to each other and that, if anything, they had been living beneath their means, Mme. Lefebvre's bitter charge that Antoinette Mlle was "driving her son to ruin" specifically revealed the nature of the passion which had driven her to commit murder.

Bit by bit, in the press and legal investigations and during the trial, there emerged the portrait of an amazing creature, a female Harpagon, such a monster of greed as neither Moliere nor Balzac would have dared to portray lest they too heavily crederence of their publics.

A Love Match.

The marriage of Andre Lefebvre and Antoinette Mlle was, to all appearances, a love match, but Mme. Lefebvre made it plain to her son that she considered it a mesalliance, because the Mlle fortune, though considerable, was not quite equal to their own.

Shortly before the wedding, Andre announced to his mother that he was to leave on a short honeymoon after the ceremony. Mme. Lefebvre threw up her arms in horror. Honeymoons were a waste and a needless expense, she told him. Who had put such nonsense into his head? Probably that awful girl, who already was filling his head with extravagant notions.

However, Andre insisted that it was only decent for people in their position to have a honeymoon and, on the following day, he went to a travel bureau and arranged for the trip. It was perhaps the first time in his life that the young man, thoroughly under his mother's thumb, had ever asserted himself, and Mme. Lefebvre sensed that this alien woman not only was leading her son to extravagance but was threatening her own authority. The resentment she nurtured increased.

She yielded to her son's wishes, but when she learned that he had procured first class tickets for his travels, she immediately repaired to the tourist bureau and had them changed to second class. It did not appear at all grotesque to her that a young couple representing two of the most substantial families in northern France should travel second class on their honeymoon!

The newlyweds had been gone only four or five days when Mme. Lefebvre wrote to her son that it was time he was home.

"You seem to think you are rolling in gold. If your wife won't come with you, come home alone." And this in the second week of the honeymoon.

Madam Grows Panicky.

By now Mme. Lefebvre was growing decidedly panicky. Not only was she incensed that her son had married a "wasteful and improvident" woman, but she began to entertain fears for the security of their own possessions, the Lefebvre fortune, a monument to her greed which she had built, stone by stone, franc by franc, over a period of half a century.

When her son had married, "though it was beneath him," she saw the beginnings of a new fortune which, by saving and self-denial, would swell the Lefebvre heritage to even more impressive magnitude. And here he was traveling, spending freely, "rolling in gold," and perhaps destined soon to make demands upon her to maintain the swift and destructive pace his spendthrift wife was setting.

If the shadow of Mme. Lefebvre clouded the young couple's honeymoon, it completely overcast their

home life after they had returned. Andre's mother was a frequent visitor, casting up the household budget and finding it excessive, urging retrenchment and saving, warning her son that he would land in the poorhouse. She was shocked beyond words when she found that Antoinette laid a fresh white tablecloth for each meal.

"But it is scandalous," she whined to her son. "Think of the laundry bill. White linen soils so quickly. We have always used red tablecloths and napkins at home. They last a long time without washing."

She was stunned when she discovered that her "lavish" gift of "antique" furniture had been consigned by Antoinette to the attic and that the home was tastefully furnished with new and expensive equipment. The discovery led to a bitter quarrel between the women, one of the first of many to follow.

Mme. Lefebvre was not appeased when Antoinette explained that she could not have used the worthless junk her mother-in-law had given her without making herself and her husband the laughing stock of their set. She was not appeased when the young woman explained that she was spending largely out of her own pocket, that her people were well-to-do, and that she had been brought up to live according to her ample means.

Mme. Lefebvre emerged from each of these quarrels with the conviction that her son had married into a family of spendthrifts and wasters and that his wife would lead him inevitably to his ruin. Yet it was brought out at the trial that the wealthy young couple's total expenditures did not exceed \$4,000 a year.

Her Hatred Grows.

In the heart of Mme. Lefebvre there gathered a consuming hatred for her daughter-in-law and for the whole Mlle family which was soon to come to a head. It was hatred which grew as she realized she was alone in her desperate struggle to save the Lefebvre fortune. Her aged husband, seventy-six and long retired from business, was a mere pale, carbon copy of herself, echoing her protests and resentments but helpless and relying entirely on his wife to fight the menace to their wealth. He had been cowed too long by this dominant woman to show any fight now. He was just a whining old man.

Her son, Andre, a war hero many times decorated, was a spineless creature in her presence, his will broken from infancy to respond to her imperious will.

Then one day Andre Lefebvre announced to his mother that an heir was expected. It was the spark that kindled Mme. Lefebvre's hatred to a consuming flame. This alien woman, who was bringing her son to ruin, who was wasting instead of building a fortune, was about to bring into the world another Mlle—another waster.

She bought a revolver and killed the young woman whose condition offered a new menace to her greed.

The Lefebvre trial lasted only four days, but into that short time there was packed more drama than in a whole month of the Hall-Mills trial. The jury was out only ten minutes, returning with a verdict of guilty. The audience broke into cheers as the judge pronounced the sentence, "to have her head cut off in a public square of the city"—the first woman to die at the guillotine in France in many years.

Says He Has Found How to Square Circle

Beauvais, France.—Solutions of problems which have baffled mathematicians for centuries, including the squaring of the circle, are claimed by Ludovic Lapeere, an amateur mathematician, who offers to give a demonstration before a competent commission.

Lapeere says he has solved the problems of trisection of angles, multisection of a straight line, division of the circumference of a circle and an angle into equal parts; squaring the circumference of a circle, direct superficial quadrature of a circle, development of a circumference into a straight line of equal length, and, conversely, the changing of a circumference of equal length to that of a given straight line.

In addition he says he has solved the problems of duplication, triplication, quintuplication and septuplication of the cube and its reduction to one-fourth, one-half and three-fourths.

U. S. After Fakers Who Get \$500,000,000 a Year

New York.—A determined fight to exterminate fake advertisements of "antifac" remedies, patent medicines for incurable diseases, beauty lotions, creams, soaps, and other cosmetics, "health belts" and industrial schools practicing fraud, will be waged by the federal trade commission. W. E. Humphrey, member of the board, in telling of the commission's plans at the convention of the Subscription Book Publishers' association, estimated that such fraudulent advertisers obtain more than \$500,000,000 annually from the public, a greater part of it coming from the poorer classes.

Movie Stars Have Adopted Whippet Racing



Whippet racing is the latest fad of the screen stars in Los Angeles. Pauline Starke and Matt Moore are shown starting dogs in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer championship race.

Arctic Rodeos Very Attractive

Uncle Sam Conducts Reindeer Shows in Alaska—Sport Exciting.

Nome, Alaska.—Weeks after the state fairs are history the annual arctic rodeos, or great reindeer exhibitions, become big events at Kobuk, White Mountain, Noorvik, Akiak and Shaktoolik, within a day's drive of Nome and St. Michael.

These reindeer rodeos, which for picturesqueness, skill of exhibition and popularity equal the roundups of the western cowboy country, often draw 10,000 natives with many white miners and trappers.

Not a horse, steer, saddle or gun enters in the unique program, yet races, contests and prize-winning entries encourage much spirited competition.

The arctic fairs are staged under the auspices of the United States bureau of education for the natives of northwestern Alaska to advance, primarily the reindeer industry. The rodeos, usually held in January, February and March, add unlimited stimulus to the reindeer business and develop keen interest among Eskimo herders and herd owners.

Contests Held.

Prizes are awarded in contests, as racing, roping, herding, driving, creation and perfection of equipment. All affairs pertaining to reindeer are discussed and government representatives advise on marketing and improving the breed of stock.

In the sports division of these shows interest is encouraged in racing. Awards are made for short and long distance races, speed and efficiency in slaughtering, handling of tandem teams and sleds, breaking to harness wild deer, snowshoe running while driving reindeer, building of sleds and harness. New ideas are examined with a view to passing the good things on to neighbors.

A huge circus tent pitched on the level frozen surface of a river serves as sleeping quarters for visiting reindeer barons and to house the exhibits. The spread of canvas is in itself a big attraction to the Eskimos, who liken

Hurls Canned Goods; Bandit Is Driven Out

Omaha, Neb.—A barrage of canned goods and glass bottled pickles which greeted a youthful and somewhat nervous bandit who tried to hold up the manager and two clerks in a local grocery, proved more effective than the youth's gunfire and the bandit retreated empty handed. Arthur Rubin, the proprietor, was first to hurl cans at the man when he ordered "stick up your hands." The bandit fired once at Rubin, when one of the clerks began throwing bottled goods at him. The bandit fired five shots at his second attacker, all of which went wide, and fled. The man escaped but the day's receipts were saved.

Woman's Prayers Spur on Crew; All Saved

Norfolk, Va.—A woman's faith in prayer maintained the morale of the crew of ten men of the schooner Edna M. McKnight of Boston, while it was sinking 160 miles off Virginia capes. Mrs. A. Loesche, wife of the schooner's master, and the crew were brought here after they had been rescued by the British steamer Radner. The men attributed their rescue to her comforting words and prayers while they were working frantically at the pumps from Sunday to Tuesday with the ship partially submerged.

Build Big Planes

New York.—Two monster airplanes intended for regular transatlantic flights are being built in Germany, the German railroads information office announces.

Long Engagement

London.—After an engagement lasting 25 years, John Wilsner and Mary Marshall were married at a Clapton church in London.

Reindeer's Drawing Power.

One sled reindeer made a pulling test by drawing on level snow a sledge laden with 2,300 pounds of sacked sand.

In voting for prize winners of harness, sleds or reindeer products the ten judges stand with their backs to the exhibits. They turn slowly around one by one, each pointing at their particular choice while a government official records it.

A peculiar rule in racing requires that the driver must bring his reindeer in to the starting point. If the animals balk at pulling the sled and driver, then the driver in turn hauls in the shackled animal. Contestants striving against such odds create an immense amount of comedy that adds as much fame to the luckless one as is accorded great American movie stars.

Other stunts of great interest to these industrious Eskimos is tying cargo onto a sled, new ways of attaching harness to the animals and

trick manners of hitching tandem. The principal products of the industry are reindeer robes, leather goods, calfskins for coat linings, moccasins, reindeer meat, milk and cheese, tallow and sausage, hot dogs and pemmican, and various articles carved from antlers and fresh bones.

Since the herding of deer has been popularized the Alaska natives of the tundra are wealthy and surrounded with comforts. Many are gradually assuming civilized methods of living, using wooden and stone houses with electric lights, eating much the same food as the white population at the coast towns.

Dairy Notes

Calves should have salt as soon as they begin to eat hay and grain.

Feed left in the trough spoils the cow's appetite for the next meal.

A cost sheet is a necessity in any business. Your milk sheet is your cost sheet.

The cow producing five gallons of milk daily cannot maintain her production long without some concentrated feed.

Nearly all feeds are selling at 50 per cent of their former value and liberal feeding makes dairying a good business.



SAVING MADE BY BALANCED RATION

Balancing up the ration which he was feeding to his cows made a difference of \$46.46 a month to one Moultrie county, Illinois, dairyman whose case is cited by dairymen at the college of agriculture, University of Illinois, as evidence that it pays to make sure that dairy cows are getting the right kinds and amounts of feeds. When this dairyman entered his eight Jersey cows in the County Dairy Herd Improvement association he was feeding every cow equal parts of a ration consisting of two parts ground corn and one part ground oats supplemented with alfalfa hay and corn silage. The production for the first month the cows were in the association was 2,494 pounds of milk containing 113 pounds of butterfat worth \$50.42. The feed which the cows ate was worth \$65.96, which meant a loss of \$15.54 without considering any expense other than feed.

Upon the advice of P. J. Smith, tester in the County Herd Improvement association, this member added one-half part of soy bean meal to the ration he had been feeding and cut down the amount of grain and silage to a little more than one-half what it had been. The next month the feed bill on his cows was \$43.16, a saving of \$22.80 compared to the previous month. Furthermore, on the balanced ration, the same eight cows increased their production to 3,597 pounds of milk containing 171 pounds butterfat worth \$7.08 or \$23.96 more than the previous month. This increased value of the butterfat and the \$22.80 saving in feed costs made a total improvement of \$46.46.

Another member of the same association fed his cows \$22.84 worth of clover hay, corn, oats, bran and oil meal during one month and got only 918 pounds of milk containing 46.8 pounds of butterfat worth \$19.14 in return, a loss of \$3.70. The following month a new cow was added to the herd and each cow was fed according to her production. The feed cost was increased only 86 cents to a total of \$23.70, while the production of the three cows was 1,844 pounds of milk containing 94.4 pounds of butterfat worth \$40.47, or a profit of \$16.77. The total improvement of \$20.47, which came as a result of changing a loss of \$3.70 into a profit of \$16.77, was accomplished by feeding the surplus feed which the two cows had been receiving to a third cow.

Money Is Well Spent in Feeds for the Dry Cows

Time was when the dry cow did not get any grain feed, or at best only a small percentage of her usual amount. But that time is past and practical dairymen agree that money spent on feed for the dry cow is money well invested.

Veterinary people say that the blood passing from the heart to the udder carries the food elements which go to make milk. They also tell us that when the cow becomes dry this blood stream turns to the foetus and this same food supply goes to build up and nourish the body of the unborn calf. During the last three months before freshening, about 65 per cent of the development of the calf takes place. What then will be the result if the feed of the dry cow is materially reduced? It means that in order for a cow to freshen in good condition, maintain her original weight and go through her lactation period doing her best, she must be fed enough to put on 75 to 100 pounds of flesh. If an amount of feed for this purpose is not fed, the cow will take flesh from her own back for the nourishment of the foetus and will be thin and in poor condition at time of freshening.

Dry Czar of Finland Is Here



Johannes Wirtanen, prohibition director of Finland, who is here studying United States methods of enforcing the prohibition law. When this photograph was taken he was testing a bottle of beer in regard to its alcoholic content.