

homicide is and will be sought out in the case of suspicious deaths.

Coroners' inquests in England antedate Magna Charta by many years. They go back to a period so remote that historians are unable to determine their commencement.

In France, Article 44, section II, chapter IV, Book I of the Criminal Code, imposes this duty upon the procureur of the Republic, upon his substitutes, judges of instruction and commissaires of police.

In Germany the law of October 1879, on criminal procedure, names the magistrates who should make these investigations.

In Scotland this obligation is incumbent upon a magistrate called the "Procurator fiscal".

In Turkey this task is entrusted to an officer of the judicial police.

13. The importance of the investigations to be made in the case of homicide is so well understood everywhere that this work is not entrusted to ordinary policemen, with only limited resources at their command, but to magistrates possessing far-extending powers, and able to bring to bear the full force of Justice in order to reach the truth.

To this formal recognition by all countries, of their obligation to seek out homicide, to the authoritative word of a celebrity such as Blackstone, supported by eminent jurists of other countries, and to the formal laws recognising this obligation, let us add the fact that for centuries Coroners in England have been charged to hold inquests to seek out homicide, and it cannot be successfully contended for a moment that the State is not bound and obliged to seek out this crime.

14. We will go a step further and add without fear of contradiction that whenever the State, for reasons of economy or otherwise, sets up, by its laws, any obstacle to such search, in any case of suspicious deaths, it does what it has no right to do; it fails in its duty.