

death has taken place through the criminal deed or omission of another person.

Is not this formally recognising that the Coroner has but to seek out homicide?

19. But, it may be asked, is it not also the aim of the Coroner's inquest to seek means to prevent a recurrence of the same fatal causes, as is done everywhere more or less, sometimes with appreciable results? If we reply in the negative, we hear it said that, if such is the case, Coroner's inquests are to no purpose.

However, a negative reply is inevitable; the law has nowhere assigned to the Coroner's inquests the duty of seeking means to prevent the recurrence of distressful deaths, whether due to accident or disease.

20. It is true, though, that a verdict sometimes conveys suggestions tending to obviate the recurrence of similar deaths.

Custom, in Canada as in England, allows the Coroner's jury to make such suggestions, and the State has concurred and will concur so long as there is no abuse of its concurrence.

If the inquest, while confining itself to the search for homicide, suggests means for preventing further analogous occurrences, there is no abuse on the part of the jury in suggesting the use of such means. It is in the interests of society.

21. If the Coroner's inquest, having confirmed or denied homicide, is prolonged with the sole aim of seeking means to prevent the recurrence of similar deaths, it exceeds its functions.

No doubt it is of interest to society to know whether there are not means to prevent such and such an accident or occurrence from again taking place; it is of interest to society to find means to prevent certain sudden deaths, or fatal outcomes of operations.