

REVOLVER KILLINGS FAST INCREASING

Legislative Measure to be Urged for Curbing the Sale of Firearms.

LAW NOT NOW ADEQUATE

Carrying of Concealed Weapons May Be Made a Felony—What Crimi- nal Statistics Show.

A marked increase in the number of homicides and suicides in this city by shooting has led officials of the Coroner's office to start a movement which they hope will lead to new legislation restricting the sale of firearms, especially revolvers. Based upon a study of conditions concerning homicides and suicides for the last thirteen years, George Petit le Brun, one of the Coroner's clerks, has just completed a list of recommendations to the Legislature, which he and his fellow officials believe will result in materially decreasing acts of violence in which revolvers figure.

These recommendations will be embodied in a bill to be prepared shortly, probably by State Senator Timothy D. Sullivan, who is deeply interested in the subject. He announced before election that during the present session of the Legislature he would introduce a bill making it a State prison offense to carry concealed weapons.

"The increase of deaths by shooting in murder and suicide cases in this city, according to the statistics of the Coroner's office for the past year, the shooting down of Maynor Gaynor, and the recent murder of David Graham Phillips, should arouse the public to the immediate necessity of a law governing the sale of revolvers," said Mr. le Brun yesterday. "The law applying to the carrying of concealed weapons is farcical, and does not meet present conditions.

"The other day we had an example of that, when a man ran out of his house, on one of the crowded avenues, shooting off a revolver at imaginary foes, but fortunately no one was hurt. He was arrested and fined \$10 by a Magistrate. Had the revolver been found concealed on the man's person, he could have been punished by not only a fine, but a jail sentence.

"We should have a law, whereby a person having a revolver in his possession, either concealed or displayed, unless for some legitimate purpose, could be punished by a severe jail sentence.

"Thirteen years' experience in the Coroner's office, where I have personally investigated hundreds of homicide and suicide cases, convinces me that a rigid law, making it difficult to buy revolvers, would be the means of saving hundreds of lives. From statistics compiled in the Coroner's office we find that in 1900, 185 persons committed suicide by carbolic acid.

"Within the last few years, since the sale of poisons has been regulated by law and they cannot be purchased as easily as they were some years ago, there has been a marked decrease in suicide by poison.

"I would recommend, first, that a shopkeeper selling revolvers should be made to pay a high license. Second, any one desiring to purchase a revolver should be compelled to go to the police to get a permit. He would there have to give his

name and address, and be questioned as to what use he would make of the revolver."

The annual report of the Coroner's office, made public yesterday, also urges action against the indiscriminate sale of firearms.

"The increase of homicide by shooting," says the report, "indicates the urgent necessity of the proper authorities taking some measures for the regulation of the indiscriminate sale and carrying of firearms."

The total number of Manhattan homicides in 1910, as shown by the report, was 185, an increase of 75 over those of 1909, and the number of those who committed suicide was 485, an increase of only 2 over the number in 1909. Gas was used by 142 of the suicides and 133 took their lives by shooting. Fifty leaped from windows and 28 used poison."

The total number of deaths from all causes reported to the Coroners in 1910 was 5,408, an increase of 186 over 1909, and of this total, 2,483 were of a violent character, following wounds by shooting, stabbing, assault, and self-inflicted wounds, (suicidal and accidental,) and injuries received by falls and other mishaps.

There were also 351 deaths from accident during the year, which were originally charged to the acts of others. The largest percentage of these were caused by automobiles.

FINED FOR SAVING A LIFE.

Tourist Tells What Happened to a Humane German Subject.

Walter Hallamby, a Chicago broker, just returned from Europe, who was at the Waldorf-Astoria yesterday, said that, while Germany had made great strides commercially, he found much red tape in the Government service.

"Here is an instance," Mr. Hallamby said, "that came under my notice while I was in Berlin. A workman going home caught sight of a man lying on the railroad tracks, evidently with the intention of committing suicide. A train was rapidly approaching, and if the man was to be saved immediate action was necessary.

"Waving his handkerchief to stop the train, the workman threw down his basket of tools, climbed a fence, ran along the track, and dragged the would-be suicide out of danger. Then, feeling, no doubt, that he had done his duty to his fellow-man, the workman shouldered his bag and went home.

"Two days afterward he received a letter from the police. It did not contain a medal, a testimonial to his courage and presence of mind, or words of thanks. What it did contain was a schedule of fines to which the humane workman had made himself liable. It read:

	Marks.
Damaging fence by climbing over it.....	3
Trespassing on railway.....	4
Stopping express train without first informing station master or the signalman on duty....	10
Leaving bag of tools to the danger of the public	2

Total

19
"The mark is about equal to 25 cents of United States currency, so that the fines amounted to about \$4.75 for saving the life of a fellow-being, and in Germany the police have supreme power over the life and property of the law-abiding citizen. A German friend who related the incident to me prided himself on the fact that his nation was so businesslike in its methods, and gave the above incident as an apt illustration."

Chinatown Celebrates Its New Year.

Yesterday was New Year's Day in Chinatown. The festivities inaugurated at midnight on Saturday will be continued for a week. Dating from the birth of Confucius as they do, 551 B. C., the Chinese are now celebrating the birth of the New Year 2462. All day the heads of the various Chinese firms were exchanging visits. The visitors followed their usual formal customs, presenting colored strips of paper with New Year's greetings written on them in India ink, and entering the inner rooms of their hosts with hands clasped as in prayer. Extra police were detailed to the quarter last night.