

DOMAIN MYSTERY

Russian Found Shot

CORONER THINKS SUIOCIDE

The mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of Matrofan Koropets, 38, a Russian, who was found shot in the Domain on April 1, were investigated by the City Coroner to-day. Koropets lived in Liverpool-street, Surry Hills.

The body was found lying face upwards near Mrs. Macquarie's Chair by a gardener. There was a bullet wound on the left side of the head, but no weapon with which it could have been inflicted was found, nor was there any sign of a struggle.

"Wouldn't Work for Capitalists"

Herbert John Everitt, fletcher, of Fowler-street, Camperdown, gave evidence of identification. Koropets, he said, was a friend of his, and they "knocked about together." He was addicted to drink for about three weeks before his death. He was always saying, "I won't work for the capitalists any longer." He was low-spirited, and in ill-health. He spent his money freely, and when witness re-

his money freely, and when witness remonstrated with him, he said: "I don't want it. I won't leave it to anyone. I'm on my last lap."

On another occasion Koropets said he was going rabbit trapping, and said he had a good rabbit trap in his bag. He did not show it to witness, and witness thought he meant a revolver.

Girl on South Coast

Witness knew he had a girl on the South Coast, and often joked with him about marrying her. He said, "I am no good to her. I am fed up with life altogether. I am not fit to live."

Domain "Fossickers"

Constable Winter said there was no sign of a struggle at the spot.

"I have been on duty in the Domain," he added, "for 15 years. At daylight each morning over a dozen fossickers are about picking up what they can. I wouldn't expect to find a revolver if it was dropped anywhere in the Domain."

Dr. Sheldon gave evidence of his examination, and said he found a bullet in the skull. The wound was above and behind the left ear.

"It was in an unusual position," commented the doctor, "to be self-inflicted. He could have done it with his left hand."

Inspector Robertson: Would it be possible for him to have travelled for some distance after he was shot?—Yes.

Reduced Bank Balance

Inspector Robertson said he searched the locality in the vicinity of where the

the locality in the vicinity of where the body was found. There was no trace of a struggle, and no revolver was found. On April 2 he searched Koropets' belongings, and found a box of cartridges of the same calibre as that found in his head, apparently newly bought. There was also an empty revolver case, and two bank books. In May he had £160 in one book, and £105 in another. The balances left in were 10s 6d and 8s.

The Coroner found that Koropets died from a bullet wound in the skull, probably self-inflicted.
