

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the
Council and the Members
of the League.

C.105.M.105.1945.XI
(O.C./A.R.1940/66)
(Issued in English only.)

Geneva, October 22nd, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1940.

C A N A D A.

Note by the Acting Secretary-General.

In accordance with Article 21 of the Convention of 1931 for limiting the Manufacture and regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, the Acting Secretary-General has the honour to communicate the above-mentioned report to the parties to the Convention. The report is also communicated to other States and to the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs.

(For the form of annual reports, see document O.C.1600).

A. GENERAL

I. Laws and Publications.

Effective from May 27th, 1940, Desomorphine was added to Part I of the Schedule to the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act by Order-in-Council and in keeping with the provisions of Article II of the 1931 Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs and of the Article 10 of the Geneva Convention of 1925.

Effective April 19th, 1940, an Order-in-Council was issued under the War Measures Act rendering druggists liable to the same penalties as those provided in the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act in relation to breaches of the Regulations requiring medical prescriptions for Codeine and all preparations containing narcotics referred to in the Annual Report for 1939.*

II. Administration.

1. The Narcotic Division of the Department of Pensions and National Health continues to be the "special administration" for the control of narcotic matters in Canada.

2. Addiction to Codeine still exists in Canada but further progress has been achieved in internal control by means of the Regulations and Orders-in-Council issued under the War Measures Act as outlined under heading I of last year's and this report.

*

See Document C.70.M.63.1940.XI. (O.C./A.R.1939/2)

Cases continue to be encountered in British Columbia involving the habit of injecting Smoking Opium hypodermically.

The practice of addicts obtaining, by misrepresentation, prescriptions from physicians for Tincture Opium and Olive or Camphorated Oil which ingredients can be easily separated was again encountered in different locations in Canada, notably Toronto.

A new development in Canada was the obtaining by addicts in Vancouver of prescriptions for Galls & Opium Ointment from physicians. This preparation contains 32.7 grains Opium per ounce or approximately 3 grains Morphine and is another indication of the length to which addicts will go to obtain narcotics in the absence of illicit supplies.

III. Control of International Trade.

1. The Import and Export Licence System continues to function satisfactorily.
2. Nil.
3. Nil.
4. Yes.
5. No.
6. Nil
7. No such trade.
8. No.

IV. International Co-operation.

1. None
2. Highly satisfactory co-operation has been maintained with other countries, notably Great Britain and the U.S.A.

V. Illicit Traffic.

1940 was marked by a pronounced decrease in the supplies of illicit narcotics available, doubtless due to the increased difficulties in relation to shipments from abroad and increased vigilance on international borders due to war conditions. As a result the percentage of adulteration in Morphine and Heroin sold in illicit circles continued to increase until it reached 95%, when supplies ceased. Immediately thereafter there commenced a systematic effort throughout the country to obtain supplies from legitimate sources by means of burglaries and thefts from wholesale and retail drug stores, forgery of prescriptions and attempts to obtain narcotics from several physicians at one time by certain addicts who used many aliases and simulated medical conditions. Many convictions were obtained in relation to these types of offences.

Smoking Opium however still continued to be available on the Pacific Coast although at a very high price. One-tael cans of second grade Opium maintained a steady price of \$110.00.

There were 182 convictions under the Narcotic Act as compared with 183 in the preceding year. The following analysis indicates the types of cases encountered:

| | | |
|---|-----|-------------|
| Possession | 137 | 11 decrease |
| Selling or distributing | 28 | 2 increase |
| Transporting | 3 | - |
| Cultivating Opium Poppies | 4 | 4 increase |
| Frequenting Opium den | 1 | - |
| Possession of Opium Pipes | 2 | 1 increase |
| Obtaining drugs from more than one physician | 6 | 5 increase |
| Cases against professional men | 1 | 1 decrease |

182

In the 182 cases, fines only were imposed in ten instances, while in the remaining 172 cases the sentences were as follows:

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Up to 1 year | 113 |
| 1 - 2 years | 24 |
| 2 - 3 years | 26 |
| 3 - 4 years | 6 |
| 4 - 5 years | 3 |

Of the 182 convictions obtained, 69 were in Ontario, 60 in British Columbia, 28 in Quebec, 11 in Alberta, 7 in Manitoba, 6 in Saskatchewan and 1 in New Brunswick. 164 males and 18 females were involved.

The drugs involved were :

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Opium in | 45 cases |
| Opium Poppy Heads | 3 " |
| Opium Poppies | 4 " |
| Morphine | 39 " |
| Heroin | 67 " |
| Cocaine | 2 " |
| Cannabis | 3 " |
| Codeine | 1 case |
| Unclassified | 8 cases |

The narcotic drugs seized or received from illicit channels in 1940 were :

| <u>Drug.</u> | <u>Lbs</u> | <u>Oz.</u> | <u>Gr.</u> | <u>Kg.</u> | <u>Gr.</u> |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Prepared Opium | 2 | 14 | 357 | 1 | 327 |
| Prepared Opium Seconds | - | 1 | 48 | - | 32 |
| Opium Powder | - | - | 167 | - | 11 |
| Opium Water | 1 | 14 | 218 | - | 865 |
| Tincture of Opium | 1 | 13 | 109 | - | 829 |
| Morphine (pure) | - | 2 | 104 | - | 64 |
| Cocaine (pure) | - | 2 | 103 | - | 64 |
| Heroin (pure) | - | 8 | 32 | - | 229 |
| Cannabis Sativa (Marihuana)* | - | - | - | - | - |
| Poppy Heads | 121 | 6 (and four sacks) | 55 | 55 | 56 |
| Codeine (pure) | - | - | 178 | - | 12 |
| Alleged drugs | 2 | 5 | 225 | 1 | 63 |

Note : The above statement includes decks, pills of Opium and capsules at 5 grains each. Pills of other drugs $\frac{1}{2}$ grain each and tablets averaging $\frac{1}{2}$ grain each.

* 170 Marihuana cigarettes and six Chinese Tea Cakes containing alleged Marihuana.

Prices of illicit drugs were in some districts difficult to obtain on account of shortage and the different degrees of adulteration encountered rendered only generalization possible but the following is considered reasonably accurate. In localities where a drug is not mentioned it is unobtainable.

MONTREAL:

Morphine - \$1.25 per 3-grain capsule.
Heroin - \$1.25 per 3-grain capsule (adulterated)

QUEBEC CITY.

Morphine - \$2.50 per deck.
Cocaine - \$2.50 per deck.
Heroin - \$6.00 for 6 one-quarter grain tablets.

TORONTO:

Morphine - \$1.00 per one-quarter grain.
Heroin - \$1.25 to \$2.00 per capsule. Badly adulterated.
Opium - \$3.00 per deck.

WINDSOR :

Marihuana - \$1.00 for 3 cigarettes

WINNIPEG:

Morphine - From 50¢ to \$3.00 per $\frac{1}{2}$ grain tablet. From \$10.00 - \$20.00 per tube of 25 tablets.
Heroin - From \$1.25 per $1\frac{1}{2}$ grain capsule (badly adulterated) to \$3.00 per $\frac{1}{4}$ grain tablet, the highest price ever paid for such drug in Canada. From \$10.00 - \$25.00 per tube.

EDMONTON:

Morphine - \$2.00 to \$4.00 per grain.
Heroin - \$2.00 to \$3.00 per grain.
Dilaudide - \$5.00 - \$15.00 per grain.
Tr. Opium - \$2.00 - \$3.00 per dram.

VANCOUVER :

Morphine - \$3.00 - \$3.50 per grain
Opium - \$3.50 - \$4.00 per deck.
\$110.00 per 1 tael can.
\$380.00 - \$400.00 per 5 tael can No.2 grade.

Thirty aliens, of whom twenty-six were Chinese, were deported during the year after having served sentences imposed for narcotic offences.

Cannabis

This plant was not encountered to any great extent and was destroyed wherever found. It was found growing in six provinces, the growth being wild in Eastern Canada, while in the West it was usually found being cultivated as a garden border or windbreak. The prosecutions were in relation to trafficking in the Windsor district. In one instance where 167 marihuana cigarettes were involved a sentence of four years was imposed.

Opium Poppy Heads

There were no convictions involving Poppy Heads, as compared with 15 in 1939, although several seizures were made, principally in British Columbia, in circumstances not warranting prosecution, the Poppies being grown, by people of Eastern European birth, for the seed and oil which they were accustomed to use domestically. In such instance a warning, and subsequent inspection of the premises, was deemed sufficient.

Chinese Medicines.

All shipments of Chinese medicines arriving from the Orient were analysed for narcotic content, which was found in a few instances, in which event the shipment was refused entry. Similar shipments destined to Canada via U.S. ports were seized in the United States.

Race Track Traffic.

As was the case in 1939, there were no convictions in direct connection with race track activities, although saliva tests of horses were taken at many race meetings. In two instances positive reaction to a narcotic was obtained, resulting in the suspension of the owners and in one case the trainer as well.

Hypodermic Injection of Smoking Opium.

This habit still continues among both Occidentals and Orientals on the Pacific Coast despite the exceedingly high price of Opium. Many convictions have been obtained of both Chinese and white traffickers who cater to this vice. In the majority of instances great difficulty is experienced in the development of the necessary evidence by means of the employment of women to convey the decks of opium from place to place - same being concealed within their persons.

Thefts from Narcotic Wholesalers.

The premises of one wholesaler were burglarised and, the safe having been forced open, some 16 ounces of various narcotics stolen. In another instance the front door of the large safe was blown off by burglars, but the explosion set off the automatic burglar alarm and upon the arrival of Police a few minutes later the thieves had left, without booty.

Attempts by addicts to obtain drugs from legitimate channels.

Owing to the marked scarcity of illicit narcotics, there was a great increase in the number of attempts made by addicts, usually those with previous criminal records, to obtain supplies from legitimate channels, usually by means of thefts, forgery of narcotic prescriptions or by visiting many physicians under different names, and simulating medical symptoms.

Many efforts were made to obtain prescriptions for Tincture Opium and Olive Oil for ear trouble, as also prescriptions for Galls and Opium Ointment. In both instances it was the practice to separate the narcotic from the other ingredient and inject same hypodermically.

Many convictions for illegal possession resulted as it was possible to prove that supplies had been obtained by one individual from several physicians, and the identity of such individual was established in the evidence of the physicians who prescribed and the retail druggists who supplied the narcotics.

Every physician in Canada was circularised warning them of the increase in the number of attempts of this nature and, with a view to overcoming the use of many aliases, requesting them to insist upon the production of each applicant's National Registration Card.

Codeine.

Canada's imports were smaller in 1940 than in the preceding year and consumption was considerably decreased as a result of the War Measures Act Regulations requiring medical prescriptions for all sales of codeine and its preparations. The manufacture of codeine preparations was also rigidly controlled by a system of quarterly licences

involving quantities which were dependent upon the situation at the end of each quarter from the standpoint of stocks on hand and availability of supplies.

As a result of these two measures of control, the reduction in consumption was as follows :

| Year | Sales of Codeine as such | Utilised in the manufacture of preparations | Total |
|------|-----------------------------|---|------------|
| | <u>Oz.</u> | <u>Oz.</u> | <u>Oz.</u> |
| 1939 | 15,450 | 22,370 | 37,820 |
| 1940 | 10,624 | 14,891 | 25,515 |

Paregoric (Tincture Camphor Compound)

The same War Measures Act Regulations calling for a medical prescription for all preparations containing narcotics resulted in a very marked decrease in consumption of Paregoric as follows:

| | <u>Gallons</u> |
|------|----------------|
| 1939 | 5056 |
| 1940 | 1800 |

VI. Other Information.

Nil.

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII. Raw Opium

1. Nil
2. Nil
3. Nil
4. Nil
5. (a) Nil

(b) There were 120 licensed narcotic wholesalers

in 1940, of whom two imported Raw Opium from abroad. These firms, in turn, sell to some other licensed narcotic wholesalers, all transactions being reported monthly to the Narcotic Division, and subsequently audited.

6. Nil
7. (a) Nil
- (b) Nil

VIII. Coca Leaf

1. Nil
2. Nil

VIII. Coca Leaf (Contd.)

3. Nil

4. (a) Nil

(b) As previously stated there were 120

licensed narcotic wholesalers in Canada, some of whom are licensed to import, and all to sell to one another, all transactions being reported to the Narcotic Division and subsequently audited. No Coca Leaves whatever were imported during the year.

5. Nil.

IX. Indian Hemp.

1. As in previous years a further survey was made during 1940, when Cannabis Sativa was found growing in six provinces, both in wild state and as windbreaks. The production of Cannabis being illegal, all quantities found growing were destroyed.

2. Nil

3. (a) Nil

(b) Stocks on hand of wholesalers at the end of 1940 amounted to 69 kg. 429 gr.

4. See 1.

5. (a) No

(b) Nil

6. Nil

7. Evidence continues to be encountered, but not to as great an extent as heretofore, of the illicit importation of Indian Hemp in the form of Marihuana, and the possession thereof being illegal, arrests follow. There is no known export.

8. Nil.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

1. (a) Canada does not manufacture.

(b) Canada does not export Diacetylmorphine or preparations containing same. All Diacetylmorphine entering Canada is consigned to the Department of Pensions and National Health. It is taken possession of by representatives at Customs, and then delivered personally to a licensed narcotic wholesaler. Any import license for Diacetylmorphine which is issued is also accompanied by a request to the Government of the exporting country to permit such exportation.

(c) The provisions of Articles 13 and 14 of the 1931 Convention are being strictly complied with.

2. Licences.

(a) No licences were issued in Canada for the manufacture of refining of drugs.

(b) Licences were issued to 120 wholesalers, some of whom import straight narcotics and preparations. They all supply same to those authorised under the Canadian Narcotic Act, namely, other wholesalers, retail druggists, physicians, dentists and veterinary surgeons. All transactions are reported monthly to the Department, and, in addition, wholesalers' books and transactions are audited by a Narcotic Auditor, who is a permanent employee of the Department and who is a chemist.

Before a licence to deal in narcotics is granted, full enquiry is made as to the standing of the person or firm concerned, as also the suitability and security of the premises upon which they operate.

3. Manufacture.

(a) No factories were authorised to manufacture straight narcotic drugs. The following wholesaler was authorised to manufacture for domestic needs only, and did manufacture a preparation made direct from Raw or Medicinal Opium, which contained more than 20% of morphine.

| <u>Name of Firm</u> | <u>Name of Preparation</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| C.E. Frosst & Co., Montreal, P.Q. | T.O.A. (Total Opium Alkaloids) |

18 kg. 144 gr. of Raw Opium were utilised in the manufacture of such product in 1940.

(b) No new drugs were developed.

(c) Premises of all narcotic wholesalers are inspected and their books audited, which include the taking of stock and the checking of all transactions before a balance is arrived at. This enables points (1), (2), (3) and (4) to be thoroughly taken care of.

(5) If, as sometimes happens, owing to an unexplained shortage or surplus in a wholesaler's stock, an analysis of a finished product or preparation (such as Tincture of Opium) is desirable, the analysis is made by a Dominion Analyst of the Department.

Raw material entering Canada, i.e., Raw Opium, is accompanied by a certificate of analysis from the exporting country, signed by an analyst previously approved by the Department. The morphine content as shown in the certificate of analysis is entered in the books of the importer, and each subsequent transaction in Canada in relation to each importation is in terms of such morphine content, which is entered in the books of each purchaser, and taken into account at the next Governmental audit.

4. Trade and Distribution.

(a) 120 firms had wholesale narcotic licences in 1940. Of that number 60 manufactured preparations for the wholesale trade and, in common with the others, sold direct to retail druggists, physicians, etc.

(b) The method of audit and verification of books, stocks, etc., of wholesalers is as outlined above in 3 (c). Every retail drug store in addition to furnishing periodical sales reports is regularly inspected, the special narcotic register audited, prescriptions examined and balance taken. Any omissions or irregularities discovered are usually susceptible of adjustment by correspondence, but power to prosecute is available under the Narcotic Act, and is occasionally made use of. The Department is also in frequent correspondence with physicians, dentists, etc., who are required by law, when called upon, to furnish details as to the use to which narcotics made available to them have been put.

Narcotics in possession of wholesalers have to be kept in an approved vault or safe; those in retail drug stores are required to be kept securely under lock and key.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS.

XI. Chapter IV of the Hague Opium Convention of 1912.

Nil.

XII. Prepared Opium

1. (a) Opium smoking among the national population is negligible.

Reference has already been made in this report to the habit of injecting smoking opium hypodermically.

(b) Among the alien population, opium smoking has greatly decreased, as instanced by the constantly decreasing convictions shown on the table following. The habit is almost entirely confined to the Chinese.

The principal reasons for the decrease in opium smoking are (1) the heavy cost of illicit Opium in Canada. (2) The minimum sentence of six months and a fine of \$200.00, with deportation for aliens, for the illegal possession of opium together with a minimum fine of \$50.00 for the possession of an Opium Pipe or other paraphernalia, or for frequenting an Opium den.

2. No particular difficulty is encountered in combating Opium Smoking, and the practice is constantly watched for. When found, prosecution invariably follows. It is impossible to state to what extent Opium is illicitly introduced. We merely know that it is scarce, high in price, and that many former smokers are not now using it. Convictions for offences in connection with Opium Smoking, in the past ten years, have been as follows :

| Year | Opium Smoking | Frequenting Opium Dens | Illegal Possession of Pipes | Total. |
|------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 1931 | 42 | 39 | 24 | 105 |
| 1932 | 14 | 34 | 17 | 65 |
| 1933 | 17 | 42 | 24 | 83 |
| 1934 | 8 | 44 | 26 | 78 |
| 1935 | 11 | 18 | 13 | 42 |
| 1936 | 9 | 14 | 11 | 34 |
| 1937 | - | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 1938 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 1939 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 1940 | - | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | 103 | 201 | 127 | 431 |

For penalties imposed see V.

| | <u>Kg.</u> | <u>Gr.</u> |
|--|------------|------------|
| 3. Prepared Opium seized : | 1 | 327 |
| Opium dross seized: | - | 67 |
| 4. All seized narcotics are destroyed by fire. | | |

XIII. Other Drugs.

See V. re Codeine, Paregoric, Tr.Opium, and Olive Oil and Galls and Opium Ointment.
