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Council and the Members  
of the League.

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Geneva, October 22nd, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1941.

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).

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A. GENERAL.

I. Laws and Publications.

On December 9th, 1941 an Order-in-Council was passed altering the definition of the Opium Poppy on the schedule to the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act in such a way as to include in its terms any plant which contains Morphine. Such change became effective January 19th, 1942.

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 as a result of Orders-in-Council passed in previous years under the War Measures Act the situation is well under control.

Cases continue to be encountered, mainly 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.

In last year's report reference was made to a new development in Vancouver, namely, the obtaining by addicts of Galls and Opium Ointment from physicians. It has been found that addicts in some other localities of Canada have been resorting to the use of this preparation in the absence of their drug of addiction, but the practice has not reached large proportions by any means.

### III. Control of International Trade.

1. The import and export licence system continues to function satisfactorily.
2. Nil
3. Nil
4. The return of Export Authorisation Certificates, particularly from the British West Indies and contiguous countries has taken twice longer than usual, due doubtless to shipping and other difficulties.
5. No
6. Nil
7. No such trade
8. Nil

### 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.

During 1941 the supply of illicit manufactured drugs in underworld circles dried up entirely. Opium continued to be available on the Pacific Coast, but was very scarce and sold at still higher prices than those mentioned in 1940. At the same time, there was an increase in the systematic efforts made throughout the country to obtain supplies of narcotics from legitimate sources by means of burglaries and thefts from wholesale and retail drug stores, armed hold-ups, the 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. As was also to be expected, there was an increase in the number of prosecutions of physicians and druggists in relation to the diversion of narcotics from the legitimate field.

Decks of Opium containing five or six grains sold at the all-time high price of \$5.00 each, while a five-tael (seven and one-half ounce) can of reasonably high grade quality Opium has fetched between \$600.00 and \$700.00. Prices such as these place Opium completely in the luxury class so far as the retention of a regular habit is concerned, and considerable numbers on the Pacific Coast, both Oriental and Occidental, could only afford such quantities as to almost render the term "addict" a misnomer, and certainly in many instances there is no slavery to the drug. It may also be assumed with reasonable certainty that the practical disappearance of the habit of smoking Opium on the Pacific Coast and its replacement by hypodermic injection thereof, has been largely influenced by the price factor and the necessity for getting the more complete effects obtainable by the use of the hypodermic needle.

Prices quoted above in relation to illicit Opium pale into insignificance when compared with those paid in illicit circles for the high-powered legitimate drugs. In more than one locality there has been a steady demand for one-quarter grain Heroin tablets at \$3.50 each, and towards the end of the year at \$4.00 each. At the latter price an ounce of Heroin, legally obtained by members of the authorized professions at an approximate price of \$10.00, has an illicit retail value of slightly less than \$7,000.00, which perhaps naturally accounts for the heavy increase in the number of cases involving concerted efforts to obtain any kind of narcotic drugs from physicians and druggists by fair means or foul. The campaign it was necessary to wage in that regard was considerably strengthened by a number of convictions for illegal possession, it being held by the Courts that the possession of a narcotic drug, furnished in good faith by physician No.2, was illegal when it was shown that he had no knowledge of the fact that the same medical condition, simulated or otherwise, had been the reason for physician No.1 supplying narcotics on the previous day.

There were 165 convictions under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act as compared with 182 in the preceding year. The following analysis indicates the types of cases encountered:

Possession	139	Increase	2
Selling or distributing	9	Decrease	19
Transporting	2	Decrease	1
Cultivating, gathering or producing Opium Poppies	-	Decrease	4
Smoking Opium	-	-	-
Frequenting Opium den	2	Increase	1
Possession of Pipes, etc.	-	Decrease	2
Sending drugs by mail	1	Increase	1
Obtaining drugs from more than one physician	4	Decrease	2
Professional cases under Sections 5, 6 and 9 of the Act and 8 of the Regulations	8	Increase	7

There were 8 cases involving professional men, 5 physicians and 3 retail druggists, as compared with one in the preceding year. In addition there were 3 convictions involving druggists under the War Measures Act Regulations and one of a physician under the Criminal Code.

In the 165 cases under the Narcotic Act, fines only were imposed in 11 instances, while in the remaining 154 cases the sentences were as follows:

6 months to 1 year	92
1 - 2 years	33
2 - 3 years	17
3 - 4 years	7
4 - 5 years	4
5 - 6 years	1

Of the 165 convictions obtained, 71 were in British Columbia, 53 in Ontario, 16 in Quebec, 9 in Manitoba, 8 in Alberta, 4 in Saskatchewan, 2 in Nova Scotia and 2 in New Brunswick. The drugs involved were:-

Opium	62 cases
Opim powder	1 case
Opium in Tincture and Oil	11 cases
Opium in Tincture	3 cases
Opium Poppy Heads	2 cases
Morphine	36 cases
Heroin	22 cases
Cocaine	2 cases
Codeine	2 cases
Miscellaneous	9 cases

The narcotic drugs seized or received from illicit channels in 1941 were:

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>Oz.</u>	<u>Grs.</u>	<u>Kg.</u>	<u>Gr.</u>
Prepared Opium	1	2	191	-	523
Prepared Opium seconds	-	1	149	-	38
Opium powder	-	-	135	-	9
Opium water	2	9	59	1	166
Morphine (pure)	-	2	289	-	75
Cocaine (pure)	-	1	171	-	39
Heroin (pure)	-	4	354	-	136
Poppy Heads	105	1	-	47	656
Codeine (pure)	-	1	254	-	45
Alleged drugs	1	13	291	-	841

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

FREDERICTON:

Morphine - \$1.60 for 3 grains in October 1941.

MONTREAL:

Heroin - \$1.25 to \$2.50 per 3-grain capsule (adulterated).  
\$1.50 per 1/4 or 1/6-grain tablet.

OTTAWA:

Morphine - \$120.00 per ounce in December 1941.

TORONTO:

Heroin - \$1.75 to \$3.00 per capsule (adulterated).

Morphine - \$1.50 to \$2.00 per capsule (adulterated).  
\$1.00 per 1/4-grain tablet.

Powdered

Opium - \$10.00 for 12 grains.

HAMILTON:

Morphine - 50 cents per tablet.

WINDSOR:

Marihuana - \$1.00 for 3 cigarettes in May 1941 -  
thereafter 75 cents to \$1.00 per cigarette.

WINNIPEG:

Morphine - \$1.25 to \$3.00 per 1/4-grain tablet.

Heroin - \$3.00 to \$3.50 per 1/4-grain tablet.

EDMONTON:

Morphine - \$2.00 to \$4.00 per grain.

Tr. Opium - \$2.00 to \$4.00 per dram.

Dilaudide - \$2.00 to \$4.00 per grain in February 1941.  
Not subsequently available.

VANCOUVER:

Morphine - \$3.00 to \$3.50 per grain.

Opium - \$3.50 to \$5.00 per deck.

\$110.00 to \$125.00 per one-tael can.

\$380.00 to \$700.00 per five-tael can.

All shipments of Chinese medicines from the Orient were analysed for narcotic content, and in the event of discovery thereof entry into Canada was refused. For the third year in succession no convictions were registered in connection with race-track activities. Saliva tests were continued at a number of race tracks and three horses were found to have been stimulated with narcotics. In another instance stimulation with caffeine was detected.

Sixteen aliens were deported after serving sentences for breaches of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, as compared with 30 in the preceding year. Fourteen of these were Chinese. In the latter part of 1941 war conditions rendered it impossible to effect the deportation to the Orient of a number of aliens eligible therefor. These men are temporarily remaining in Canada under bond with the Immigration Department. 1 309 aliens have now been deported after serving sentences for narcotic offences since this useful provision was incorporated in the Narcotic Act in 1921.

VI. Other Information.

Nil

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII. Raw Opium

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

(b) There were 118 licensed narcotic wholesalers in 1941, of whom one imported Raw Opium from abroad. This firm, in turn, sells 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
3. Nil
- 4.(a) Nil

(b) As previously stated there were 118 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. During 1941 very little cannabis was found growing in Canada, the surveys and destruction of growth of past years apparently now having their effect. Small quantities found growing in two provinces were destroyed as production is illegal.

2. Nil
- 3.(a) Nil

(b) Stocks on hand of wholesalers at the end of 1941 amounted to 69 kg. 344 gr.

4. See 1.
- 5.(a) No
- (b) Nil

6. Nil

7. Some evidence is still encountered, but on a smaller scale, 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 licence 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 or refining of drugs.

(b) Licences were issued to 118 wholesalers, some of whom import straight narcotic 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 two Narcotic Auditors.

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.

(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) 118 firms had wholesale narcotic licenses in 1941. 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 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 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 eleven years, have been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opium Smoking</u>	<u>Frequenting Opium Dens</u>	<u>Illegal Possession of Pipes</u>	<u>Total</u>
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
1941	-	2	-	2
	103	203	127	433

For penalties imposed see V.

		<u>Kg.</u>	<u>Gr.</u>
3.	Prepared Opium seized:	-	523
	Opium Dross seized:	-	38
4.	All seized narcotics are destroyed by fire.		

XIII. Other Drugs.

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