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Geneva, October 22nd, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1942.

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.

During 1942 no changes were made in the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, nor were any changes effected in the Regulations made in pursuance thereof, nor in the Regulations under the War Measures Act.

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 is still encountered in Canada, but the Orders-in-Council passed in previous years under the War Measures Act continue to render control effective.

The habit of injecting smoking opium hypodermically continues to be encountered, mainly in British Columbia, but the scarcity of smoking opium and its resultant high price have undoubtedly caused a decrease in the prevalence of this habit.

Cases continued to be encountered whereby addicts obtained, by misrepresentation, prescriptions from physicians

or other professional men for Tincture Opium and oil which ingredients can be easily separated, but in view of many convictions obtained involving this "racket" the number of persons resorting to this practice has noticeably decreased.

On the other hand the comparatively recent development of addicts obtaining by subterfuge prescriptions for Galls and Opium Ointment, the ingredients of which can be readily separated, is encountered in Western Canada, and every effort is being made to eradicate the habit.

III. Control of International Trade.

1. The import and export licence system continues to function satisfactorily, having due regard to war conditions.

2. Nil.

3. Nil.

4. As mentioned in last year's report, difficulties continue to be experienced in effecting the return of some Export Authorisation Certificates, notably from some British West Indies countries, undoubtedly due to shipping and other conditions.

5. No.

6. Nil.

7. No such trade.

8. Nil.

IV. International Co-operation.

1. None.

2. Highly satisfactory co-operation continues in effect with other countries, notably Great Britain and the U.S.A.

V. Illicit Traffic.

During 1942 illicit narcotics from abroad were practically non-existent, while there was only one known instance of an introduction from the United States, in which case there was joint investigation, and arrests were made on both sides of the International Border-line. Practically all the narcotics used by addicts in Canada, the number of whom definitely decreased, were obtained from the legitimate trade by such means as burglary, hold-ups, and the forgery of prescriptions. In spite of a great

increase in the number of thefts from hospitals and doctors' bags, for example, there were frequent periods in many communities during which no narcotics at all were available, and prices paid in the underworld assumed even more fantastic proportions than in 1941. On the Pacific Coast, for example, "decks" containing a few grains of Smoking Opium were quoted at \$10 each, double the highest price of the preceding year, with a 5-tael can of Smoking Opium quoted at \$950, as compared with \$700 a year ago, and considerably less than \$100 a decade ago. There were long periods on the Pacific Coast when no Opium at all was available.

Similarly, the price of Morphine achieved \$20 per grain, and remained fairly constant at that figure. With 437 1/2 grains to an ounce, it can be realized that the tremendous range in price from approximately \$10 per ounce in legitimate trade, to \$8750 per ounce in the illicit traffic, creates a situation which interests professional criminals not necessarily addicted to, nor previously associated with, narcotics, and has resulted in a large increase in the number of burglaries of hospitals and other concentrated sources of supply. At the same time, the criminal addict has also devoted more attention to retail drug stores, while it has been found that the immense potential profits were sufficient to tempt a small proportion of professional men, such as physicians, veterinary surgeons and druggists, who normally handle narcotics and obtain same from legitimate sources at legitimate prices. Energetic action has been taken, not only to arrest the law-breakers, but to raise the standard of protection normally accorded to narcotics in legitimate channels, which is not in all cases sufficient to off-set the attempts made to illegally obtain same. During the year there were 36 thefts from retail druggists, 33 from physicians, 1 from a veterinary surgeon, 9 from hospitals, and 1 from a licensed wholesaler. The marked shortage of narcotics in illicit circles not only resulted in a diminution in the number of addicts, but in resort on a considerable scale to benzedrine inhalers, which have a normal legitimate use and which were available to the public in most drug stores. The contents of these inhalers were abstracted and utilized for hypodermic injection. While benzedrine is not a narcotic, effective action was possible by adding it to the Schedule of the Food and Drug Act and requiring that in all forms it could only be sold on prescription.

There was a marked decrease in the number of convictions under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, from 165 to 98, although the latter figure includes an increase from 8 to 13 in the convictions affecting professional men. There were also convictions involving narcotics under other legislation, such as the Criminal Code, and the War Measures Act, there being 12 such cases in all, in 10 of which jail sentences ranging from 3 months to 3 years were imposed, and in two instances fines of \$200.

Of the 86 Narcotic Act convictions involving jail sentences,

45 were for periods up to 1 year,
19 were for periods of from 1 to 2 years,
17 were for periods of from 2 to 3 years,
2 were for periods of from 3 to 4 years,
1 was for a period of from 4 to 5 years,
2 were for periods of from 5 to 6 years.

Of the total of 98 convictions, 39 were in British Columbia, 30 in Ontario, 14 in Quebec, 6 in Manitoba, 6 in Alberta, 2 in Saskatchewan, and 1 in Nova Scotia. The drugs involved were :

Smoking Opium	22 cases,
Opium Poppy Heads	1 case,
Opium in other forms	7 cases,
Morphine	28 cases,
Heroin	18 cases,
Cocaine	6 cases.

The total quantities of narcotic drugs received from illicit channels were :

	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Ounces</u>	<u>Grains</u>	<u>Kilos.</u>	<u>Grams</u>
Prepared Opium	1	14	297	-	870
" " Seconds	-	2	15	-	58
Opium Powder	-	-	138	-	9
Tincture of Opium	-	12	-	-	340
Opium Water	-	7	-	-	198
Morphine (pure)	-	6	347	-	192
Heroin (pure)	-	1	416	-	55
Cocaine (pure)	-	-	72	-	5
Poppy Heads	312	8	-	141	750
Codeine (pure)	-	-	166	-	11
Alleged Drugs	-	10	390	-	309
Galls & Opium Ointment	-	4	-	-	113

Maribhuana gave very little trouble. No cases of illicit trafficking were encountered. The plant was found growing on two premises in New Brunswick, two in Saskatchewan, one in Alberta, and eight in Ontario, action being limited to the destruction of such growth.

No Chinese medicines containing narcotics were encountered, although all imports thereof were analyzed before release.

Saliva tests were taken at various race meets, but no opiates were detected. The only reaction obtained disclosed the use of Caffeine, in which case the race authorities imposed a 30-day suspension and forfeited the first prize money.

Two convictions were obtained, involving the illegal

possession of Poppy Heads, both in British Columbia. Seizures continued to be made of Poppy Heads being grown by people of European origin for the production of seed and oil, as also for culinary purposes. Action in such cases was limited to the destruction of the crop and the issuance of a warning.

The one theft of narcotics from a licensed wholesaler involved 15 ounces of Powdered Opium, 8 ounces of Morphine, 1 1/2 ounce of Heroin, 3/4 ounce of Cocaine, and 25 ounces of Codeine.

Addicts still continue their efforts to obtain prescriptions for either Tincture of Opium and Olive Oil, or Galls & Opium Ointment, from physicians. By the application of heat the Opium is separated from the other constituents and injected hypodermically.

One alien only was deported during the year, i.e., to the United States. This brings up to 1310 the total of aliens deported after serving sentences for narcotic offences. A considerable number of Chinese await deportation which is impossible under present conditions. They are being allowed their liberty under bond until such time as deportation can actually be effected.

VI. Other Information.

Nil.

B. RAW MATERIALS

VII. Raw Opium.

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

(b) There were 117 licensed narcotic wholesalers. in 1942 none of whom actually received any imports of Raw Opium from abroad.

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 117 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 were imported during 1942.

5. Nil.

IX. Indian Hemp.

1. As in 1941 very little Cannabis was found growing in Canada, no doubt largely due to the surveys and destruction of growth of past years. Small quantities found growing in four provinces were destroyed as production is illegal.

2. Nil.

3. (a) Nil.

(b) Stocks on hand of wholesalers at the end of 1942 amounted to 69 kilogrammes 344 grammes.

4. See 1.

5. (a) No.

(b) Nil.

6. Nil.

7. Some evidence is still encountered, but on a decreasing 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 of refining of drugs.

(b) Licences were issued to 117 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 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 includes 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) 117 firms had wholesale narcotic licences in 1942. 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, and who are frequently 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, frequently with electric protection; 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. The illicit introduction of Opium is comparatively negligible at the present time. It is scarce, high in price, and many former smokers are not now using it. Convictions for offences in connection with Opium smoking, in the past twelve 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
1942	-	-	1	1
	103	203	128	434

For penalties imposed see V.

	<u>Kg.</u>	<u>Gr.</u>
3. Prepared Opium Seized :	-	870
Opium Dross seized :	-	58

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.