

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the
Council and the Members
of the League.

C.108.M.108.1945.XI
(O.C./A.R.1943/47)
(Issued in English only)

Geneva, October 22nd, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1943.

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.

On June 10th, 1943, an Order-in-Council was passed revising and consolidating the Regulations respecting the sale and use of Codeine as originally promulgated in September, 1939.

On December 14th, 1943, an Order-in-Council was passed adding Demerol to Part I of the Schedule of the Opium and Narcotic Drug 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 Regulations respecting the sale and use of this drug have materially assisted in rendering control effective.

The scarcity of smoking opium and its resultant high prices have undoubtedly caused the habit of injecting smoking opium hypodermically to remain on a very low level.

Cases have again been encountered of addicts obtaining, by misrepresentation, prescriptions from Physicians and Veterinary Surgeons for Tr.Opium and Olive or Sweet Oil, which ingredients can be easily separated, and a number of convictions for illegal possession of Opium, and, uttering forged prescriptions, in relation thereto were obtained.

No cases have appeared where addicts obtained Galls and Opium Ointment, the ingredients of which can be separated with comparative ease.

III. Control of International Trade.

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

2. Nil.

3. Nil.

4. Undoubtedly due to shipping and war conditions generally, the return of Export Authorisation Certificates, particularly from the British West Indies, takes somewhat longer than was usual under normal circumstances.

5. No.

6. Nil.

7. No such trade

8. Nil.

IV. International Co-operation.

1. None.

2. The usual highly satisfactory co-operation with other countries, especially Great Britain and the United States, continues.

V. Illicit Traffic.

During 1943 illicit manufactured narcotics from abroad were not encountered, although there was a considerable number of cases involving raw Opium in the possession of Chinese crew members of vessels entering our Atlantic ports. In some instances such Chinese were arrested on shore in circumstances which clearly indicated their attempts to reach the urban centres, such as Montreal, where \$900 per pound for Opium was obtainable. Severe sentences were imposed in such cases in an effort to offset the temptation to engage in this traffic by reason of the huge disparity between the price obtainable in Canada and that at which the Opium was purchased on the other side of the Atlantic.

The large proportion of the narcotics used by addicts in Canada was obtained from the legitimate trade by such criminal means as burglary, hold-ups and the forgery of prescriptions, etc. There was a continued upward trend in prices paid in illicit circles for such drugs. During the whole of the year, \$20 per grain, for example, was the price paid for Morphine on the Pacific Coast, or \$8,750 per ounce, as compared with the lawful price approximating \$10 per ounce in retail stores. Such a huge disparity resulted in an increase in the number of professional, non-addict criminals who systematically blew safes, or burglarised drug stores and hospitals, finding such activities more remunerative, and possibly less risky, than robbing a bank, for example. Others systematically robbed doctors' offices and bags, although this class of crime came more particularly within the orbit of the addicted, petty thief. During a twelve-month period there were 289 successful, and 70 unsuccessful robberies as follows :

	Wholesalers	Retail Druggists	Physicians	Hospitals	Veterinary Surgeons	Total
Thefts	4	114	123	45	3	289
Attempted thefts	6	24	34	6	-	70

There were 104 convictions under the Narcotic Act, as compared with 98 in the previous year. 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. Eight of the total number of convictions involved professional men, two physicians, one dentist, one veterinary surgeon and four druggists.

In the 104 convictions under the Narcotic Act, 98 involved jail sentences ranging from six months to five years.

In the cases relating to possession, transporting and trafficking the drugs involved were:

Smoking Opium	9
Opium Poppy Heads	1
Opium in other forms	4
Morphine	57
Heroin	20
Cocaine	2
Marihuana	3

The quantities of narcotics received from illicit channels were :

<u>Drug.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>Oz.</u>	<u>Gr.</u>	<u>Kg.</u>	<u>Gr.</u>
Prepared Opium	4	6	257	2	1
Prepared Opium Seconds	-	7	-	-	198
Opium Water	2	8	-	1	134
Tincture of Opium	-	6	55	-	173
Opium Powder	-	-	51	-	3
Morphine (pure)	-	5	119	-	149
Cocaine (pure)	-	-	69	-	5
Heroin (pure)	-	1	354	-	51
Cannabis Sativa (Marihuana)	2	-	271	-	925
Poppy Heads	7	8	-	3	402
Poppy Head Brew	1	6	218	-	638
Codeine (pure)	-	1	405	-	55
Alleged Drugs	-	3	5	-	85

Marihuana gave very little trouble. Some illicit cultivation in the Windsor district of Ontario resulted in three jail sentences being imposed.

Some cultivation of the Opium Poppy was encountered. This cultivation was usually in good faith by immigrants of Central European origin, and for culinary purposes. In such cases a warning was given and the cultivation destroyed. There were cases, however, in which addicts and petty traffickers made a practice of collecting or purchasing the Poppy Heads so produced and in such instances prosecution was instituted.

No Chinese medicines containing narcotics were encountered, although the comparatively small imports thereof were analysed before release from Customs.

Little trouble was encountered in relation to race track traffic. Saliva tests were taken at a large number of race meets, and in only one instance was a positive reaction (to Morphine) obtained.

War conditions rendered it impossible to effect the deportation of a considerable number of aliens with overseas destinations, after serving sentences for breaches of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act. They are temporarily remaining in Canada under bond with the Immigration Department. One alien was deported to the United States, bringing to 1,311 the total number of aliens deported after serving terms for narcotic offences.

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 1943, one of whom imported Raw Opium. This firm, in turn, sells to other licensed narcotic wholesalers. All transactions are 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 are reported to the Narcotic Division and subsequently audited. No Coca Leaves were imported during the year.

5. Nil.

IX. Indian Hemp

1. The Surveys and destruction of growths of previous years are now apparent, as, during 1943, very little Cannabis was found, and it was encountered in only two provinces. As production is illegal in Canada, the plants, where found growing, were destroyed.

2. Nil.

3. (a) Nil.

(b) Stocks on hand of wholesalers at the end of 1943 amounted to 69 Kg. 656 Gr.

4. See 1.

5. (a) No.

(b) Nil.

6. Nil.

7. The illicit importation of Indian Hemp in the form of Marihuana, and the possession thereof, being illegal, arrests follow. During the year, some illicit cultivation was encountered in Ontario and convictions and sentences were obtained in three cases. There is no known export.

8. Nil.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

1. (a) Canada does not manufacture.

(b) As stated in previous reports, Canada does not export Diacetylmorphine or preparations containing same. All Diacetylmorphine entering Canada is consigned to the Department of Pensions and National Health; taken possession of by representatives at Customs, and then delivered personally to a licensed narcotic wholesaler. Any Import Licence for Diacetylmorphine 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 narcotics and preparations. They all supply same to those authorised under the Canadian Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, VIZ: other wholesalers, retail druggists, physicians, dentists and veterinary surgeons. All transactions are reported monthly to the Narcotic Division, and, in addition, wholesalers' books and transactions are audited by two Narcotic Auditors, both of whom are employees of the Department, and who are chemists.

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. One wholesaler, as under, 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>Firm</u>	<u>Preparation</u>
C.E. Frosst & Company, Montreal, P.G.	T.O.A. (Total Opium Alkaloids)

11 Kg. 340 Gr. of Raw Opium were utilised in the manufacture of such product in 1943.

(b) No new drugs were developed.

(c) The 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, and analysis of a finished product or preparation (such as Tincture of Opium) is desirable, the analysis is carried out 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) One hundred and eighteen firms held wholesale narcotic licences in 1943. Of that number, 51 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 in 3(c). Every retail drug store, in addition to furnishing periodical sales reports, is regularly inspected, the special narcotic register and prescription

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, frequently with electric alarm 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 to the habit of injecting Smoking Opium hypodermically has already been made in this report.

(b) Although there were two more convictions in 1943 than in 1942, the habit of Opium smoking (mostly involving Chinese) has greatly decreased, as will be seen in the table following.

The principal reasons for the decrease in Opium smoking are, (1) the heavy cost of illicit Opium in Canada, and (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 by means of Chinese crews on ships arriving at Atlantic Ports has been encountered. 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 thirteen 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
1943	3	-	-	3
<hr/>				
	106	203	128	437
<hr/>				

For penalties imposed see V.

		Kg.	Gr.
3.	Prepared Opium seized :	2	1
	Opium Dross seized	-	198
4.	All seized narcotics are destroyed by fire.		

XIII. Other Drugs.

See V.
