

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

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Council and the Members
of the League.

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Geneva, March 13th, 1946.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1944.

F I J I

Communicated by the Government of the United Kingdom.

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.

1. No laws, orders, or regulations were passed during the year concerning opium and other dangerous drugs.
2. Does not apply. See preceding sub-paragraph.
3. No publications during the year in question.

II. Administration.

1.(a) No important modifications in administrative arrangements for the execution of the international conventions.

(b) The Opium Addicts Board of the Colony adopted several changes in procedure in regard to the issue of Tincture of Opium to addicts. These are as follows:

(1) Compulsory investigation, both police and medical of all applicants for opium permits.

(2) The issue of Standard Drug Addiction Records, recording full particulars of each addict. A copy of this form is attached.*

(3) The issue of a new form of permit with separate entry for each issue of Tincture of Opium; signed both by the

* Kept in the archives of the Secretariat.

Medical Officer and pharmacist. With the old form of permit some difficulty was experienced with addicts attempting to obtain several issues of Tr. Opii in the same week by presenting permits to different Medical Officers and pharmacists. Under the new system this is no longer possible. An unfilled permit is attached to this report.*

(c) There were no important difficulties encountered in the application of any of the conventions.

2. Extent of Addiction. Approximate number of addicts in the Colony.

The number of addicts is presumed slightly greater than indicated by the number of known addicts holding permits. The number of permits now totals 50; this is very low in view of the Chinese and Indian population.

Known addicts hold permits entitling them to a maximum of one fluid ounce of Tincture of Opium per week. A very small number receive an additional ounce per week on doctor's orders. Drying up of illicit stocks now appears to have led to the registration of virtually all addicts. In addition please see sub-section 1(b), section II. Administration

III. Control of International Trade.

1. The system of import certificates for the control of imports of dangerous drugs worked quite satisfactorily during 1944, and no difficulties were experienced. No exports were made from the Colony during this period.

2. The Director of Medical Services, Dr. V.W.T. McGusty, retired late in the year, his place being occupied by the Acting Director, Dr. H.S. Evans, until such time as the newly-appointed Director arrives.

The Director of Medical Services issues all authorisations dealing with dangerous drugs.

3. No modifications in the issue of certificates.

4. All copies of export authorisations for dangerous drugs passed through H.M. Bond, have been endorsed by the Customs authorities and returned to the country of export.

5. All import certificates and copies of export authorisations have been quite in order, no forgeries being detected.

6. No difficulties have been experienced in the delivery of dangerous drugs. All dangerous drugs are bonded immediately they are discharged at the Port of Suva. They are released on an order from the Director of Medical Services providing the copy of the export authorisation from the exporting country has been endorsed by the Customs authorities.

* Kept in the archives of the Secretariat.

7. No exports were made from the Colony in 1944.

8. No Indian hemp in any form was imported into the Colony during 1944.

IV. International Co-operation.

1. No international treaties or agreements were concluded during the year.

2. No new points of interest to mention.

V. Illicit Traffic.

1. The illicit importation of opium into the Colony has ceased owing to war-time conditions in the Far Eastern and Pacific zones. No local source of supply has ever existed and registered addicts have been supplied with a weekly issue of one fluid ounce of Tincture of Opium; a few, with a very strong addiction to the drug, have received a maximum of two fluid ounces per week.

For the same reason the illegal importation of Indian hemp into the Colony has also ceased. The plant, however, can be grown locally. In all the cases detected and prosecuted during 1944, the individual quantities of hemp involved were exceedingly small and were of the crudely prepared local variety. One offence of growing Indian hemp was disclosed, and in this case one plant was discovered and seized.

Only two cases of being in possession of prepared opium were detected, the drug presumably being obtained from supplies legitimately issued to registered addicts.

2. Does not apply.

3. During 1944 there were five convictions for offences against the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance of 1937 concerning opium and fourteen concerning Indian hemp.

OPIUM

<u>Section</u>	<u>Offence</u> <u>Sub-section</u>	<u>Particulars</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>con-</u> <u>victions</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>of</u> <u>finer</u>	<u>Imprison-</u> <u>ment</u> <u>Minimum</u>
12	1(b)	Possessing prepared opium.	2	£30	1
12	1(e)	Possession of utensils for smoking.	2	£20	1
12	1(f)	Smoking or frequenting any place for the purpose of opium smoking.	1	-	1

INDIAN HEMP

<u>Section</u>	<u>Offence</u> <u>Sub-section</u>	<u>Particulars</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>convic-</u> <u>tions</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>of</u> <u>fin</u> <u>es</u>	<u>Imprison-</u> <u>ment</u> <u>Minimum</u>
8	a.	Growing Indian hemp.	1	£5	-
8	b.	Found in possession of or selling.	13	£108	3

No points of special interest regarding occupations of the accused; all were either Chinese or Indians belonging to the working classes.

4. None.

5. Confiscation of Opium: approximately 28.34 grammes
Confiscation of Indian hemp: a small quantity of seeds and leaves.

6. According to police information the "black market" price of Tincture of Opium early in 1944 reached as much as £16 per fluid ounce, the price falling to 50/- towards the end of the year. The police also state that Tincture of Opium is sometimes heated with powdered aspirin, the resulting residue being used for smoking.

The explanation of the above fluctuation in price is that, early in the year, a considerable number of U.S.A. armed forces were still in the Colony, the same forces putting much money into circulation.

VI. No comments.

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII. Raw Opium. VIII. Coca Leaf.

Does not apply.

IX. Indian Hemp.

4. The cultivation of one plant only was detected in 1944; this was seized and confiscated.

(All other subsections of Section IX dealing with Indian hemp do not apply to the Colony).

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

4(b). A thorough inspection of dangerous drugs held by pharmacies in the Colony was made in 1944. Special attention was given to verification of registers and comparison with prescriptions and stocks in hand. All

pharmacies must submit annual returns of consumption of dangerous drugs; these were checked against dangerous drugs registers. At the same time, supervision was made over conditions of storage of narcotics.

POWERS OF INSPECTION.

Article 38 of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance of 1937 states: "Any Government medical officer, officer of Customs, or officer of the constabulary or other person authorised in that behalf by any general or special order of the Governor shall for the purposes of this Ordinance have power to enter the premises of any person carrying on the business of a producer manufacturer seller or distributor of any drug to which this Ordinance applies and to demand the production of and to inspect any books or documents relating to dealings in any such drugs and to inspect any stocks of any such drugs."

All other subsections of section X dealing with Manufactured Drugs do not apply to the Colony.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS.

XII. Prepared Opium.

1(a) No cases of opium smoking have been reported.

(b) Practically non-existent due to the drying up of illicit sources.

Chinese are the only opium smokers in the Colony.

2. Three cases of actual opium smoking or being in the possession of utensils for smoking were recorded in 1944. All three offenders were prosecuted and convicted; two receiving imprisonment and one being fined £20.

3. Quantity confiscated 28.34 grammes.
See section V, subsection 1.

4. Destroyed by police.

XIII. Other Drugs.

No comments of any importance to make.

(Signed) H.S. EVANS

Director of Medical Services.

October 11th, 1945.