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Council and the Members  
of the League.

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(Issued in English only)

Geneva, December 3rd , 1941.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1940.

BRITISH GUIANA.

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.)

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A. GENERAL.

I. Laws and publications.

1. No new laws, orders or regulations were issued during the year on the question of opium or other dangerous drugs.

2. There was no publication, official or unofficial, likely to be of interest to the Advisory Committee.

II. Administration.

1(a). No modifications in the administrative arrangements for the execution of the international Conventions were made during the year.

(b) In this colony it has not been found practicable to establish a separate administration for the purposes enumerated at (a), (b) and (c) of Article 15 of the Limitation Convention of 1931, as trade in these drugs is very small in extent.

(c) No difficulties were encountered in the application of the Convention.

2. The incidence of drug addiction in this colony is low. The approximate number of addicts in the colony known to the Central Office at the end of the year 1940 was thirty-three to thirty-one men and two women. Of this total none were members of the medical or allied professions. The drug involved was opium in the form of tincture.

It should be added that, since the control of dangerous drugs in accordance with the international Conventions was started, the incidence of drug addiction has steadily decreased. So far, such addiction is confined to Chinese of alien origin and a few East Indians.

### III. Control of international trade.

1. The system of import certificates and export authorisations for the control of imports and exports of opium and other dangerous drugs worked satisfactorily during the year and no difficulties were encountered in this connection.

2. There was no change as regards the department responsible for issuing import certificates and export authorisations, as well as diversion or transit certificates.

3. The conditions of issue of import certificates and export authorisations and of diversion or transit certificates were not modified during the year.

4. This colony is not, generally speaking, an exporting country. During the year one half ounce (1/2 oz.) (14 gr.2) of codeine phosphate was exported to Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, but the copy of the export authorisation issued in this connection to the Government of the importing country in November, 1940 has not yet been returned.

5. No cases of forged or falsified import certificates or export authorisations came to the knowledge of this Government during the year.

6. No difficulties have arisen with regard to transit, shipment or diversion, and there are no free ports or free zones in this colony.

7. No transactions took place during the year with countries which have not adopted the system of import certificates.

8. No special import certificate for Indian hemp was issued during the year and no change was made in the application of this system (Article 11 of the Geneva Convention of 1925).

### IV. International co-operation.

Nil.

V. Illicit traffic.

1. No evidence was forthcoming of any organized illicit traffic in the colony during the year. Four cases of unlawful possession of prepared opium (60 grammes) occurred during the year. The Police Department suspect that small supplies of tincture of opium leak from the licit to illicit traffic and are boiled down and converted into a preparation suitable for smoking. This possibility is being thoroughly investigated.

3. As indicated at V (1) above, four prosecutions were instituted in 1940. The defendants were Chinese aliens and three were sentenced to fines of \$ 50.00(x) and costs (\$ 1.20) each or three months' imprisonment with hard labour; the other was sentenced to a fine of \$ 75.00 or three months' imprisonment with hard labour. The opium was confiscated.

6. No information is available as to the prices of drugs in the illicit traffic.

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII. Raw opium. VIII. Coca Leaf.

The opium poppy and coca plant are not cultivated in this colony and no raw opium is produced.

IX. Indian hemp.

1. The Indian hemp plant (Cannabis sativa L.) grows wild in this country, but to a very limited extent. No use is made of this plant, as far as is known.

2. The plant is not cultivated legitimately.

3. The harvesting of Indian hemp is not permitted by law.

4. Illicit cultivation has not been detected.

5 (a) and (b). All transactions in the resins of Indian hemp or in the preparations of which such resins form the base, such as hashish etc. are prohibited by law.

6 and 7. Not applicable.

8. Galenical preparations (extract and tincture) of Indian hemp are now treated in the same way as other dangerous drugs.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal control of manufactured drugs.

1(a) None of the drugs is manufactured in this colony.

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(x) Note by the Secretariat.

The Statistical Year-Book of the League of Nations 1940/41 (in the press) gives the following average rate for 1940 :  
1 dollar = 4.40 Swiss francs.

(b) As regards diacetylmorphine, the requirements of Chapter IV of the Limitation Convention, 1931, have been brought into effect by administrative action.

(c) The control provided for by Articles 13 and 14 (Chapter V of the Limitation Convention of 1931) is applied by the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1937.

2.(a) As dangerous drugs are not manufactured in this colony no manufacturing licences are issued.

(b) The issue of licences for trading in and dealing with dangerous drugs is controlled by the Dangerous Drugs (Licensing Conditions) Regulations, 1937, and licences are issued only to persons belonging to the following groups or classes :

- (i) Professional licences - approved dentists and veterinary surgeons;
- (ii) Drug Store licences - approved wholesale and retail proprietors;
- (iii) Industrial licences - the managers in charge of sugar plantations with certified hospitals or other persons employing labour on mining claims, subject to certain conditions;
- (iv) Special authorisations - by the Director of Medical Services, whether in respect of addiction purposes or otherwise, and subject to specified conditions.

Persons of the following classes, that is to say :

- (a) Registered medical practitioners;
- (b) Persons in charge of laboratories used for the purpose of research or instruction and attached to institutions, schools or colleges approved for the purpose by the Director of Medical Services;
- (c) Public analysts;
- (d) Government dispensers employed or engaged in dispensing medicines at public institutions;
- (e) Persons acting as sampling officers under the Sale of Food and Drugs (Consolidation) Ordinance;
- (f) Persons duly authorised by the Governor under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance;

are authorised by the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1937, so far as may be necessary for the practice or exercise of their respective professions or employments in their capacity as members of their respective classes, to be in possession of and to supply dangerous drugs or preparations.

3. Not applicable.

4. (a) See 2(b) above. There were no wholesalers or other persons authorised to be in possession of dangerous drugs for the manufacture of preparations for the wholesale trade.

(b) Supervision is exercised over persons authorised to possess and use dangerous drugs principally by a departmental committee under the control of the Director of Medical Services. Inspection of wholesale and retail pharmacies and of transactions in the drugs is undertaken as a routine measure by the Inspection Committee and, in addition, any officer of police, or any police constable authorised in writing by an officer of police, has power to enter the premises of any person carrying on the business of a seller or distributor of dangerous drugs, and to inspect any stocks of such drugs and any books or documents connected therewith.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS.

XII. Prepared Opium.

1. The possession and use of prepared opium is totally prohibited. The habit of smoking opium is practically suppressed, but four cases came to light during the year as reported under V. The persons involved were alien Chinese. The confiscated opium was destroyed.

XIII. Other drugs.

There are no facts of importance with regard to any drugs not mentioned in the foregoing report and no action was taken during the year in connection therewith.

XIV. Additional information.

The estimated population of the colony at mid-year 1940 was 343,431 .

(Signed) N.M. MACLENNAN.

Director of Medical Services.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,  
Georgetown, British Guiana,  
February 11th, 1941.

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