

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

(Communicated to the
Council and the Members
of the League.)

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(O.C./A.R.1944/27)
(Issued in English only)

Geneva, September 29th, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1944.

NEW ZEALAND

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 new laws, orders or regulations were issued during
2. the year on matters relating to dangerous drugs.
3. There is nothing to report under this item.

II. Administration

1. and 2. There is nothing to report under these items.

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 operated satisfactorily during the year, and no difficulties were experienced.

2. and 3. There has been no change in the authority responsible for the issue of import certificates and export authorisations or in the conditions of issue of such documents.

4. Copies of export authorisations sent to Governments of the importing countries for endorsement with certificates of importation were duly returned in accordance with the provisions of Article 13 of the Geneva Convention of 1925.

5. to 8. There is nothing to report under this heading.

IV. International Co-operation.

1. and 2. There is nothing to report under this heading.

V. Illicit Traffic.

1. The illicit traffic in narcotic drugs in New Zealand is confined to the prepared opium which is used by the Chinese residents who surreptitiously indulge in opium-smoking. The prepared opium used by these opium-smokers appears to be illicitly introduced into New Zealand from overseas despite the precautions taken to prevent such smuggling. Further information regarding the illicit traffic in prepared opium is contained in Part XII Section D of this report.

There is no evidence of the existence in New Zealand of any illicit traffic in dangerous drugs other than in prepared opium.

Excluding Chinese opium-smokers, the total number of known drug addicts in New Zealand is 38. These addicts obtain dangerous drugs regularly through legitimate channels, i.e. from a pharmacy in accordance with the prescription of a medical practitioner or from a medical practitioner using his own supply of dangerous drugs. There is no reason to suspect that the addicts obtain dangerous drugs from illegitimate channels.

2. Not applicable to New Zealand.

3. There were no prosecutions in respect of the illicit traffic in dangerous drugs apart from the prosecutions against Chinese for offences relating to the traffic in prepared opium, which are referred to in Part XII Section D of this report.

4. and 6. There is nothing to report under these items.

5. Apart from the confiscations of prepared opium, particulars of which are given in Section D of this report, there were no confiscations of dangerous drugs in New Zealand during the year.

B. RAW MATERIALS.

VII. Raw Opium. VIII. Coca Leaf. IX. Indian Hemp.

The opium poppy, the coca plant and the Indian hemp plant are not grown in New Zealand.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal Control of Manufactured Drugs.

1. (a) Not applicable to New Zealand, as dangerous drugs are not manufactured in this country.

(b) Diacetylmorphine is not manufactured in New Zealand. Small quantities of Diacetylmorphine, required solely for medical needs in New Zealand, are imported from time to time in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 10 of the Limitation Convention of 1931. No re-exportation of diacetylmorphine from New Zealand occurred during the year.

There is no manufacture of, or trade in, any product obtained from the phenanthrene alkaloids of opium or from the ecgonine alkaloids of coca leaf.

(c) As dangerous drugs are not manufactured in New Zealand, and as the quantities of dangerous drugs exported from New Zealand are negligible, no comment under this item is necessary.

2. Licences.) Not applicable, as there is no manufacture
3. Manufacture.) of dangerous drugs in New Zealand.

4. Trade and Distribution.

(a) The following classes of persons are authorised to deal in dangerous drugs in New Zealand : licensed wholesale chemists and druggists, superintendents of hospitals and registered pharmaceutical chemists, medical practitioners, dentists and veterinary surgeons and practitioners. There were 39 wholesalers licensed during the year to deal in dangerous drugs. Except for three firms engaged in the conversion of imported raw opium into tinctures, there were no pharmaceutical firms manufacturing preparations for the wholesale trade.

(b) The method of supervision exercised over persons engaged in the sale and dispensing of dangerous drugs is the same as that referred to in the annual report for the year 1935. *

D. OTHER QUESTIONS.

XII. Prepared Opium.

1. The position with regard to the opium-smoking habit in New Zealand is the same as that described in the annual report for 1936.** There is no evidence that the habit has spread or that any large quantity of prepared opium has been illicitly introduced into the country.

2. Vigilance is exercised by Customs officers in order to prevent the smuggling of opium into New Zealand and, with the object of suppressing opium-smoking, premises suspected of being used for opium-smoking are raided by the Police from time to time.

The number of prosecutions and convictions for offences connected with the illicit traffic in prepared opium during the year, and the penalties imposed, were as follows : -

Note by the Secretariat.

* Document O.C./A.R.1935/30.

** Document O.C./A.R.1936/28

<u>Nature of Offence</u>	<u>No. of Prosecutions.</u>	<u>No. of Convictions</u>	<u>Penalties Imposed</u>
Unlawfully importing opium	1	1	£100
Found in illegal possession of prepared opium	33	27	£785.0.0.
Found in illegal possession of opium-smoking utensils	12	9	£310.0.0.
Smoking opium	8	8	£127.10.0
Keeping or permitting premises to be used for opium-smoking	16	13	£800.0.0
Assisting in the management of premises used for opium-smoking	-	-	-
Found without lawful excuse on premises used for opium-smoking	24	22	£285.0.0
	<hr/> 94	80	£2,407.10.0. <hr/>

3. The quantity of prepared opium and dross confiscated during the year was 1 kg. 400 gr.

4. The opium and dross seized are held in the custody of the Customs Department for subsequent destruction or conversion or appropriation for medical or scientific use.
