

# Illicit Drugs Pouring Into Every Port and Border Town

Authorities Admit Helplessness in Face of Conditions Which Make Smuggling Easy---Dope Traffic Breaking All Records With Most Notable Gains Since Prohibition Was Adopted ---Estimated Number of Addicts in This Country Is Nearly Two Million---Detectives Tell How the Smugglers and Pedlers Work---New Remedies Sought

By W. A. DAVENPORT.

IN analyzing the difficulty American League baseball sluggers experienced with the pitching of Walter Johnson, Ty Cobb said that it was most difficult to hit what you couldn't see. And while it is somewhat less difficult to trap a Government or municipal health or police authority into admitting that he is less than adequate to the maximum discharge of the requirements of his job, the same philosophy, or "alibi," if you choose, applies to them in their battle with the traffic in habit forming drugs.

New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and San Francisco admit that more morphine, heroin, cocaine and straight opium is used illegitimately by persons transiently or permanently living in those cities than ever before. In fact, the police and health authorities of these municipalities admit that it is so much more that they're scared. They have the laws necessary to deal with the situation. There is no proof that they are men incapable of enforcing those laws. But they complain that they cannot stop something that they can't see. To raid one dope agent and confiscate his merchandise requires much time, many men, considerable sleuthing and lots of courage. The ability to convict him depends upon many things.

## Showing How Easy It Is To Smuggle Drugs Into Country

When you consider that one man can sneak across the Canadian border or across the Rio Grande and, without altering his appearance in any manner, return with several thousand dollars' worth of cocaine, morphine or heroin, or even straight opium, concealed about him you begin to realize the magnitude of the thing the national and municipal authorities are fighting. Furthermore, when you know how ludicrously easy it is for a sailor to fetch the stuff in through any port you must be impressed all the more.

Add to this background of the general situation, the fact that the illegitimate use of habit forming drugs has increased in the large American cities anywhere from twenty-five to fifty per cent. since the Eighteenth Amendment became an appendix to the Federal Constitution. Then take it for the fact that it is, that despite the effort made at the latest meeting of The Hague Tribunal, there is no international agreement between America, Europe, Asia, South America and Africa limiting or even supervising the traffic. Even if there were such agreements the dope trade would go merrily on and in only a somewhat smaller volume. Before citing statistics, quoting authorities and setting forth what is being done to fight back the rising tide, the following instances of morphine smuggling are offered for the most obvious of reasons. They sound absurd. However, they are taken from Government records and have been corroborated.

## Thriving Traffic in Dope In the Mexican Border Towns

There was a thriving traffic in dope being piled in San Antonio, El Paso, Nogales and between. The Government threw extra men along the Rio Grande, with instructions to do nothing else but catch the smugglers. It was taken for granted that the stuff was coming in from Mexico. For a month the Government's men watched and waited. They resorted to all the accepted tactics of catching the dope pedler. They arrested and thoroughly questioned suspicious persons. Under their dazed eyes the traffic increased and scandal was hinted at. The detectives became panic stricken. An investigation was under way, for there were those who insisted that some of the watchers were permitting the stuff to pass, for a financial consideration, of course.

By the merest chance one of the Secret Service men followed an American across the border one morning. He supposedly was a thoroughly reputable citizen, living in El Paso, though employed on some engineering job just south of the border—a mining construction job on which he held a responsible technical position. In the shack where this man and his associates changed their clothing every morning and night the young engineer removed a couple of fine woollen underhirts. These he plunged into containers of water. They quickly absorbed the water, and were left where they lay to dry.

Forty-eight hours later this young man carefully buttoned the shirts around his body and returned to the United States. The shirts were immersed in distilled water, and from that water six ounces of morphine was precipitated.

## Secrets of Montreal Letters Revealed by Chemical Tests

Right here in New York the Secret Service operatives began investigating the huge amount of correspondence that a Montreal concern was carrying on with individuals whose places of business, if they could be thus designated, and whose homes were not of a character warranted to attract extensive business correspondence from a rich Canadian importer. Many of the letters were received by proprietors of small cafes, restaurants and billiard parlors on the lower East Side, in Harlem and Williamsburg.

Investigation revealed that the letters came from a place in Montreal not much more impressive than a Williamsburg billiard room where pool may be played for two and a half cents a cue on the only table in the place. Some of the letters were intercepted. They were most inoffensive—sometimes offering books for sale on the instalment plan and sometimes offering the recipient great bargains in snappy art photo-

At the right is Dr. Carlton Simon, Special Deputy Police Commissioner, who is organizing a nationwide war on drug sellers. Below is part of the material seized in one of his raids on illicit dealers. Note the opium pipes, scales, lamps and vials filled with heroin, cocaine, etc.



graphs recently imported from Vienna, Paris, Berlin and Genoa.

Finally one of the Government men suggested chemical analysis of the letters.

One letter produced twelve grains of morphine, another eight grains of heroin!

## Carrying Heroin in Crucifix Is One of the Latest Dodges

These typify only the more extraordinary measures the smugglers and dispensers resort to. A dozen more might be told about the use of motor car tires, water soaked logs set adrift in the harbor and so on. Only four or five days ago three presumable Sisters of Charity were arrested in Chicago. Each wore, suspended upon a gold chain, an unusually large crucifix. Each crucifix was found to contain its capacity of heroin.

Therefore, the figures obtainable from the Public Health Service in Washington are of little value to a general treatment of the habit forming drug traffic, for the simple reason that they represent only the legitimate traffic. It is estimated that for every ounce of cocaine and opium and the latter's derivatives, morphine and heroin, legitimately trafficked in the United States last year four ounces were illegitimately traded in.

Practically all the opium lawfully fetched into this country comes from London and Edinburgh. In these cities three manufacturers send out more opium than all the rest of the manufacturers in the United Kingdom. The Public Health Service issues figures showing that in 1910 the United States received 449,239 pounds of opium from England; in 1911, 629,842 pounds; 1912, 399,837 pounds; 1913, 508,423 pounds; 1914, 455,200 pounds; 1919, 730,727 pounds, and last year we received about 1,000,000 pounds from England. Moreover, we received 94,409 pounds from Japan last year, while Japan was receiving 127,048 pounds from England.

Where all opium product goes to is not listed on the Government's books. Much is exported, only to be smuggled back again. What portion of it arrives at length into the possession of the street pedler and the addict is not officially known.

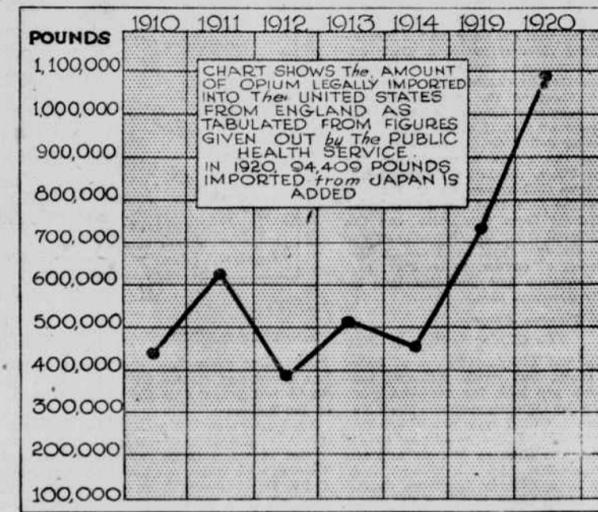
Thus far the United States has no inter-city cooperation in the fight against the illegal traffic. The first steps toward such a positive drive against the smuggler and trafficker were taken on February 9, when Dr. Carlton Simon, Special Deputy Police Commissioner in New York, and Superintendent of Police Mills of Philadelphia conferred in the latter's office. There the advisability and efficacy of a national picture and Bertillon index of all known addicts and pedlers were considered. They discussed the value of cataloguing and keeping track of drug pedlers and users just as the police do pickpockets and burglars. When one of the dope handlers left his home town the police of all the country would be apprized of the fact. He'd be under constant surveillance.

## Planning New System to Keep Better Tab on Drugs and Pedlers

Moreover, they discussed the idea of limiting the legal dispensing of habit forming drugs to a few large firms so that every sale of the stuff might be officially recorded and all parties thereto made immediately available. Under the plan New York would be the centre of news distribution regarding the movements of known or suspected traffickers. This far the scheme is nothing more than an exchange of information between Simon and Mills. They hope to extend it to Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Denver, San Francisco, and throughout the country. And from that they hope to see it become an international system.

The man who was given credit for doing most to cause Congress to adopt the Harrison anti-narcotic law was the late Dr. Hamilton Wright of Washington. And Dr. Wright was fond of insisting that he was spurred to greater efforts by his wife, Mrs. Wright, who is still most active in the general fight against the illegitimate drug traffic. He says that nothing short of an immediate agreement between the United States, England, Japan and China will stop the universal increase in the habit of indulging in narcotics.

"The Jones-Miller amendment, which is before Congress at this time," Mrs. Wright said, "and which I most strongly oppose,



prohibits without any reservation the importation or the exportation of the drugs in question, except importation by the United States Public Health Service. This is not wise, and it is not just because there is a legitimate need for these drugs. I believe the gentlemen in Congress who are backing this latest amendment to be sincere in their opinions, but it will not reach the desired ends.

"The shocking conditions in the Far East which this amendment seeks to relieve really do exist. I went out to China myself in 1918 to see how the laws proposed by my husband were working and whether the Hague Convention had put them into effect. I found China deluged with drugs of American, English and Japanese manufacture.

"At the last international opium conference, held at The Hague in 1914, every nation in the world save two had joined the movement to protect China and the rest of the world from this great calamity of the use of these debasing drugs, and had promised to put the Hague Convention of 1912 into effect. But the war broke out a few weeks later, and the attention of the world was attracted elsewhere. The United States, however, carried out its obligations by passing a series of laws which were in conformity with the Hague Convention.

"Great Britain is trying to meet the problem as well as ourselves, and by acting jointly with her we are much more likely to be successful. An arrangement has been made by the English Government with the United States, French and Japanese Governments whereby no consignment of morphine or kindred drugs is allowed to be exported from the United Kingdom to any of the countries in question except on the presentation of a certificate from the Government concerned, stating that it is satisfied that the consignment is required exclusively for legitimate medicine or scientific purposes and will not be reexported."

## Condemns Loophole in Treaty Permitting Reexporting of Drugs

Mrs. Wright condemned the loophole in existing treaty arrangements whereby the drugs can be reexported from a country and the spirit of the treaty thereby evaded. She declared there has been much criticism in China of the great quantity of opium that is allowed to come from Great Britain and to be shipped in bond across the United States to Japan, where it has at once been reshipped and smuggled into China.

"Japan has not kept her word about putting into effect treaty obligations respecting the reshipment of the drug to China," she continued. "It simply means that we must have some way of enforcing these obligations. The United States took the initiative in the matter twelve years ago and it still rests with us, or the Netherlands Government, or the League of Nations, if that proves an effective instrument, to see that the Hague Convention is carried out." Here in New York Dr. Simon and Ralph

Ogler, head of the narcotics squad of the Internal Revenue Bureau, are cooperating in raids and vigilance against the smuggler, the dispenser, the pedler and the addict. They discover that much cocaine and opium is fetched in by sailors on passenger and freight steamships.

## Easy Matter for Boatmen To Land Drugs in New York

It's a perfectly easy matter for a harbor boatman to load his clothing with a thousand dollars' worth of dope during the day and come ashore with it at night. He is not subjected to daily search. So long as he maintains reasonable care and observance of common sense in his methods he can continue indefinitely. The stuff is easily hidden in women's hair, sewed into men's hat bands, contained in artificial limbs, filling the inner tubes of automobile tires, in consignments of lumber and vegetables, and even in the collars worn by dogs trained to make daily trips across the Canadian border.

Relatively the situation in Chicago overshadows that in New York. For several months Government investigators had been making observations in Chicago. They completed their work two weeks ago. Since then twenty well known druggists and physicians have been arrested in the Illinois city. The same sort of an investigation is going on here at present. Before prohibition became a national law, the Chicago police say, the traffic in habit forming drugs was looked upon as a nuisance. To-day it is a serious menace.

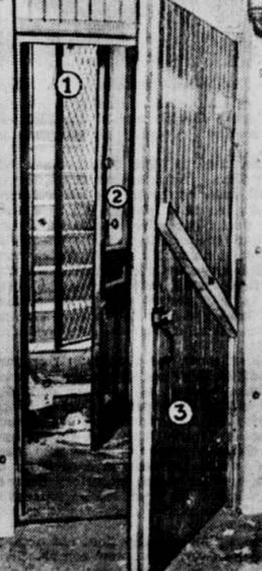
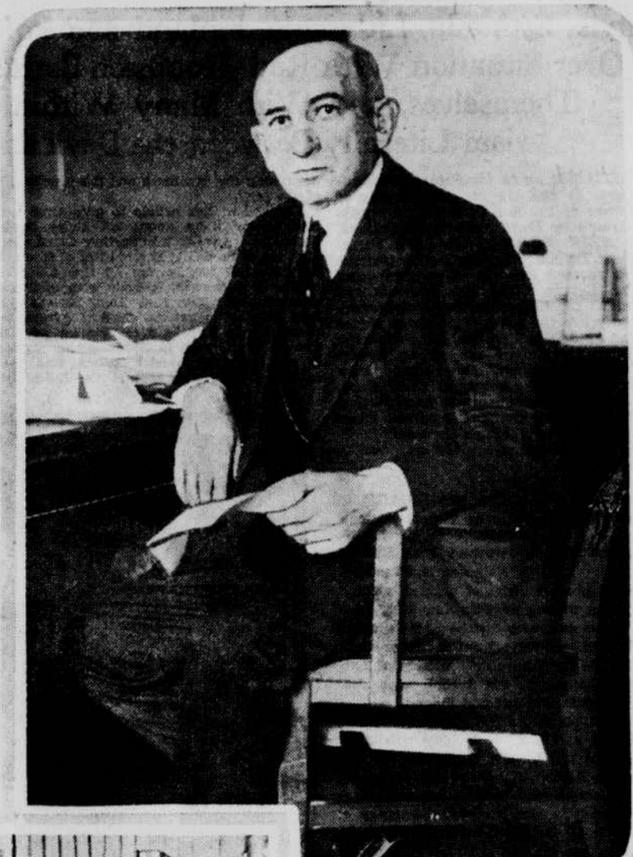
## Cocaine Rapidly Taking Place Of Booze, Authorities Say

Lieut. Hughes, head of the Chicago Detective Bureau, says that the traffic has increased fifty per cent. in the past six months in his city. Dr. Simon says that it has increased here quite as much. Both Simon and Hughes say that fully twenty-five per cent. of men and women who used to depend upon booze for their thrill have turned to cocaine. This despite the fact that the effect and the sensation obtained are entirely different.

Col. W. G. Beach, head of the Central States Narcotic Forces, characterizes the drug traffic as "the most desperate criminal problem the Government has to deal with to-day."

The Government is finding that dentists, druggists, veterinarians and even florists are involved in the business of dispensing dope. The profits are tremendous. Sixteen grains of morphine costing the dispenser about fifty cents are retailed to addicts at from \$10 to \$14, and the unfortunates are glad to pay the price. They get the money as best they can.

The dope bootlegger can demand and get as much as \$55 an ounce for heroin or cocaine. The best grade of morphine retails for as much as \$100 an ounce. The pedler experiences no trouble getting his price.



How an opium den is guarded: Note the three doors, one of wire and the last (No. 3) heavy oak reinforced with iron.

world. Measures were proposed to prevent the exportation of raw opium to countries desiring to prohibit its entry and to control the exportation to countries desiring to limit the importation of opium. Furthermore, it was agreed that measures should be taken for the gradual and efficacious suppression of the manufacture and traffic in opium.

## U. S. Lacks Plan to Determine Legitimate Quantity Needed

"The difficulty in this country is that no plan has been worked out to determine the legitimate quantities of opium which should be admitted. As I understand it, the Secretary of State certifies to the English Government how much opium should be received. In his turn the Secretary of State is advised by the United States Public Health officials. I have not the figures for last year, but during 1919 we received into the United States more than 700,000 pounds of opium. This is equal to about fifty grains for every man, woman and child in the United States. The amount received by every other civilized country did not exceed three grains per capita.

"In other words, we are receiving in this country about fifteen times as much opium per capita as any other country receives. Certainly the physicians of the United States are just as competent to treat disease as are the physicians of any other country. I do not believe that opium and its derivatives are used any more commonly by our physicians than they are abroad. We are forced to the conclusion, therefore, that a tremendous majority of the imported opium is used for unlawful purposes.

"What is the source of the morphine and heroin unlawfully sold in the city of New York? This seems to be the answer: The crude opium brought into the United States is manufactured by our chemists into morphine and heroin. It is then shipped to Canada or to Mexico. Upon leaving our country we lose track of it. It is then smuggled across our borders and peddled on the streets of New York. I think it is safe to say that the amount of morphine and heroin of foreign manufacture sold on the streets of New York is negligible. Practically all of the drugs sold here are of American manufacture, which have been shipped out of the country and then smuggled back.

"The solution of this problem lies in Federal act prohibiting the importation, manufacture and exportation of habit forming drugs except in such limited amounts as are necessary for the legitimate uses of the medical profession. They should be dispensed through licensed drug stores. Every honest pharmacist should be made an agent of the Government to handle opium and its derivatives. There need be placed no restriction upon the honest pharmacist or the honest physician. There should be in every community a sufficient amount of these drugs to allay suffering of the sick."

## Fighting for Legislation To Curb Drug Traffic

Representative Henry T. Rainey of Illinois is making a hard fight to have his amendment, House resolution No. 15511, adopted by Congress before he leaves office on March 4, to make an end of the illegal traffic of opium between the United States and the Far East countries. The Illinois Representative gives some interesting information regarding the wide spread of the drug addicts and declares that the existence of the traffic at this time is a positive menace to the nation.

Representative Rainey's bill would amend section 6 of the act of January 17, 1914, entitled "An act to prohibit the importation and use of opium for other than medicinal purposes." The amendment which he proposes hits the trafficker in this country who reships opium and other forbidden drugs to the Far East after its importation into the United States.

Facts which Representative Rainey will present to his colleagues in an effort to obtain an amendment of the Harrison anti-narcotic act include reports from the Health Department officials and police heads in New York. The Health Officer of New York city reported total number of drug addicts at 103,000, which is equivalent to 1.5 per cent. of the population. Upon this basis, Mr. Rainey pointed out, there would be 1,395,000 addicts in the United States.