

On clause 7,

7. No proprietary or patent medicine shall be manufactured, imported, exposed, sold or offered for sale—

(a) if it contains cocaine or any of its salts or preparations;

(b) if it contains alcohol in excess of the amount required as a solvent or preservative, or does not contain sufficient medication to prevent its use as an alcoholic beverage.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I would suggest that subclause (b) should state 'pure alcohol.' Proof spirit is half water and half spirit. It should be pure alcohol. I see that wood alcohol is not prohibited. On no account should it be used as a preservative, or for the solution of anything.

Hon. Mr. WILSON—I should like the hon. gentleman to tell us what quantity of alcohol is necessary to preserve any article for which it is used? A provision should be made that no medicine should contain alcohol in excess of that quantity; otherwise alcohol might be used with a medicine as a stimulant instead of a preservative of the article. Then in reference to the quality of the alcohol used in the preparation of various articles, as the hon. gentleman from Kingston says, it should in all cases be pure alcohol. Wood alcohol is a very dangerous article indeed, and should not be put into any drug. We have patents where wood alcohol with some preparation of aconite or something of that kind is used as a liniment. It passes from the drug store into the hands of some who do not know better, and is used as a beverage. Two or three Indians in our town have lost their lives by such preparations containing wood alcohol. Every precaution should be taken to protect the lives of those who do not understand the nature of drugs. Therefore, I am in full accord with much that has been stated by the hon. senator from Kingston.

Hon. Mr. ROY—I beg to move that clause 7 be amended by inserting therein immediately after paragraph (c) of subsection 2 the following as subsection 2:

No proprietary or patent medicine containing opium or any preparation or derivative thereof, or morphine or any preparation thereof shall be sold by any retail dealer or by any druggist except on the prescription of a lawfully qualified physician, nor unless the exact proportion of opium or any proportion thereof is specified on the label.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Morphine and the derivatives of opium are on the prohibited schedule. You must get the permission of the minister with regard to any one of these. If you place those on the label you spoil the patent. There is no agent known to science which will quell pain to the same extent as opium and its derivatives. There is no other drug equal to it in that respect.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The clause allows the minister, on an application from the manufacturer, to place in the preparation any article named in the schedule to this Act. Opium is there, belladonna is there, and also a number of other drugs. I would exclude them altogether, with many others, if I had my way. The hon. gentleman takes exception to opium as being now very generally used and being a dangerous agent, and, therefore, it is proper that it should be taken out of the power of the minister to allow it to be used in a patent medicine unless the proportion of the opium is defined on the package. In addition to the justification given by the hon. member who introduced this amendment this morning, hon. gentlemen will be surprised to know what an opium consuming country we have become in recent years. I have the returns for nine months. The crude opium imported in that time amounts to 67,464 pounds, which is over 30 tons, for which \$54,000 in duty was paid. Then of the powder opium, there has been imported in the last six months 306 pounds, on which they paid \$366. It is time we placed some restriction on the trade.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—The gum opium is used by Chinamen.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—I would suggest to the hon. mover to strike out of his amendment the words 'by any retail dealer or druggist.' We otherwise open the door to it being sold by others. You should prohibit the sale. This clause does not seem to me to be in harmony with subsection (c). You have a great many other things in the schedule which are quite as offensive as opium. Subsection (c) commenced by permitting you to do what afterwards subsection 2 prohibits.