

East was the first to suffer from the scourge, but now it bids fair to overspread the whole world. "The medicinal properties of this narcotic drug appear to have been known at a very early period. From the first to the twelfth century the opium of Asia Minor appears to have been known to commerce." Opium is said to have been brought to China by the Arabs in the thirteenth century. It appears to have been commonly used as a drug before the trade with India commenced.

To the British Government of India belongs the disgrace of encouraging the vicious use of the drug for the sake of the revenue derived from the sale of India grown opium. Chinese Governments, and all their teachers, moralists and persons of education, had long desired to put down the use of, and trade in, opium, as being ruinous to the health and prosperity of the people, and finally all traffic in it was strictly forbidden by the laws of China. In defiance of these laws, English traders endeavoured in every way possible to introduce it into the country, and the British Government, under one pretext or another, sided with the traders. After having endured two wars, with an immense loss of life among the almost helpless Chinese, and the extortion of an enormous indemnity, the receipt of which excited the delight of London, trade in opium was forced on China.

On March 3rd, 1843, five waggons drawn by four horses, and accompanied by a military escort, entered the gates of the mint in London. The mob cheered loudly when they learned that the boxes with which they were laden, were filled with silver coins equal in value to over \$22,000,000. This, with \$6,250,000 previously paid, represented the amount which China was compelled to pay Britain for refusing to admit opium into its ports, and for the destruction of a quantity of this drug. A fouler wrong was never perpetrated on a weak country by a strong one.

Suppose the people of Canada should pass a prohibitory liquor law, and that companies of American traders should be formed to