

Mr. HALES: I think there is a great overlapping between provincial and federal inspection, especially in the food end of it. Has the department tried to eliminate the overlapping of food inspection with the provinces?

Dr. MORRELL: There is some apparent overlapping with the provinces. I do not know the particular field, but I will suggest one—dairy production inspections in respect of cheese, for example. In every case we work very closely with the provincial departments concerned. Under the Food and Drug Act we have responsibility for the safety of food and naturally safety involves bacterial contamination and other extraneous matter in the food as well as chemical additives and so forth. We have worked with them very closely and I think by and large we have their support and concurrence in what we do.

Administratively our policy has been to do a study of a particular group of industries or a particular type of industry, prepare a report of the conditions and send a copy of this report to the provinces and people who have a similar interest or an interest from another angle. After discussion with them it is decided what should be done and who is to do it. Actually we have been asked by provincial departments to take legal action in certain cases, which we have done. If the provincial department concerned, however, is willing and able to take legal action as a result of some unsatisfactory condition which we have turned up, we are very happy to have them do so.

Mr. HALES: I would say this is a field where the taxpayers' dollar can be saved. I have had experience where a federal and a provincial man both came in at the same time and both appeared to be inspecting the same thing.

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): I might add that this particular matter is repeatedly discussed at the dominion council of health meetings. The deputy ministers are at that conference which meets twice a year. Therefore, this subject continuously is being studied. I think it might be pointed out that while we make some tests in respect of this sort of thing, actually I believe that much of the work is done by the provincial authorities.

Mr. McDONALD (*Hamilton South*): If the federal food and drug people are interested in the bad food in the country, is the department giving any consideration to licensing rendering plants so that the federal government will have more control over the disposal of bad meat.

Dr. MORRELL: I do not think we have the authority to licence.

Mr. McDONALD (*Hamilton South*): Might I solicit some information. Who has the authority to license rendering plants? Some of them actually are bringing meat and bone across the border from the United States.

Dr. MORRELL: I would say the provincial government has the authority to license such plants.

Item agreed to.

Item 251. Administration of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act S 247,081

The CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed with this item I would like to thank Dr. Morrell for being with us.

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): We have with us Mr. R. E. Curran, the legal advisor of the department, and Mr. R. C. Hammond, chief of the narcotic control division.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have a statement entitled "Division of narcotic control".

Mr. FAIRFIELD: Heroin is banned for use by practitioners and hospitals in Canada. Was that in 1956?

Mr. CURRAN (*Legal Advisor to the Department*): As of January 1, 1955, in accordance with a change made, no further importations of heroin were