

important that the members should realize the full significance of the industrial ill to which the workers in match factories are liable in order to appreciate the necessity for this legislation. Mr. Andrews says:

Poisoning from phosphorus has many evil effects. Some are local, others general. The general effect most frequently noted in cases of chronic phosphorus poisoning is anaemia. The daily breathing of air laden with phosphorus fumes and continual contact with the particles of phosphorus result in a gradual lowering of vitality, which in turn invites other forms of disease. This is one of the most prevalent and most serious results of phosphorus poisoning. But such general effects are much more difficult of actual determination and consequently the local effects which are more conspicuous receive the greater attention.

Phosphorus necrosis, the peculiar local form of the disease, is caused by the absorption of phosphorus through the teeth or gums. The generally accepted theory is that minute particles of the poison enter, usually, through the cavities of decayed teeth, setting up an inflammation which, if not quickly arrested, extends along the jaws, causing the teeth to loosen and drop out, and that jaw-bones slowly decompose and pass away in the form of nauseating pus, which sometimes breaks through the neck in the form of an abscess or, if not almost continually washed out, oozes into the mouth where it mixes with the saliva and is swallowed.

Treatment is largely preventive, but when the disease is once established a serious surgical operation is often the only means of arresting the process of decay. In many instances of poisoning it is necessary to remove an entire jaw, and in several cases both jaws have been removed at a single operation. A number of cases of necrosis have resulted in death.

It is the awfulness of the disease and the ease with which it can be prevented that has led many countries where the effects of the disease and the means for its prevention have been studied, to do away with the disease forever.

Mr. BLAIN. Are there any cases in Canada such as the minister has described?

Mr. KING. There have been such cases and I intend to cite several of them. A few years ago the French government made a state monopoly of the match business, and it was found that a great many engaged in the making of matches contracted the disease and became a charge on the state. The authorities became anxious, and the government began to make inquiry to see if some substitute could not be found to take the place of phosphorus, and what is known as sesqui sulphite was discovered by two French chemists and was adopted by the French government. It is an interesting commentary on industrial conditions as regulated by public and private interests respectively that when the government found itself face to face with having

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to use part of the revenue which it was getting from the match industry to maintain some of the unfortunate workers in that industry, it undertook to provide a remedy, but that individual manufacturers, who had no responsibility for the loss occasioned to the worker, continued existing processes without seeking to adopt any substitute for the poisonous material. It was found by the French government that a material quite as good as phosphorus could be used in the making of matches, and having adopted it, other countries which had experience of this frightful disease later followed the example, and gradually enacted laws prohibiting altogether the making of matches with this poisonous substance.

In 1901 there was formed in Europe the International Labour Association, the purpose of which is to bring about, if possible, uniformity in the industrial laws of the different countries of Europe. Speaking on industrial affairs in this House, I have had occasion to point out that this is an age not merely of competition as between industry and industry and locality and locality within a country, but as between the industries of one country and the industries of another country, and that we are fast approaching the day when industrial competition will be not above that of one nation with another nation, but of one continent with another continent. Those who have looked deeply into industrial matters have come to see that any regulation to be really effective must spread over the entire area of competition, and that if one nation is going to improve the condition of its workers it, can only do so effectively by the nation adjoining it, or competing with it, adopting the same standards. This association, founded in Paris, now has its headquarters in Switzerland, and it was founded in recognition of this fact. It was formed with a view of bringing about uniformity in the industrial laws of Europe and the industrial laws of the American continent as well. Branches have been established in the different countries of Europe and in the United States, and the association publishes from month to month bulletins in which the labour laws of the different countries are classified, and it holds annual meetings at which subjects of general interest are discussed. One of the main subjects taken up by the association at an early date was this question of phosphorus necrosis. Through the instrumentality of the government of Switzerland special meetings of the members of this association were called at Berne in 1905 and 1906 to consider the question of the several countries adopting uniform legislation on this occupational disease known as 'phosphorous necrosis,' and eleven different countries were repre-