

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The purpose of this Bill is to revise the *Opium and Narcotic Drug Act* to provide for more effective measures and procedures to insure the availability of narcotic drugs for, and their limitation to, medical and scientific purposes in Canada; to make provision for appropriate offences and penal sanctions respecting illegal transactions in narcotic drugs and other violations of the law as recommended by and contained in the Report dated the 23rd day of June, 1955, of the Special Committee of the Senate Appointed to Inquire into and Report upon the Traffic in Narcotic Drugs in Canada and problems related thereto.

Apart from the rearrangement and clarification of certain of the provisions of the Act and the removal of anomalies therefrom the following are amongst the more important matters for which provision is made in the Bill.

- (i) Increase in the penalties for trafficking in narcotics with compulsory minimum sentences for second and subsequent offences.
- (ii) The establishment of a special offence, with provision for severe punishment, of the illegal importation of narcotics into Canada.
- (iii) Authority for a court to prohibit persons convicted of trafficking offences from driving motor vehicles.
- (iv) Authority to provide by regulations for legal transactions in narcotics, including special measures with respect to members of the medical, dental and veterinary professions, to possess, use, administer and prescribe narcotic drugs in their professional practice.

Unless otherwise indicated, the following section, subsection, paragraph or subparagraph references are to corresponding provisions in the present *Opium and Narcotic Drug Act* with revision changes indicated by the use of the word "Revised".

1. Because the Act is essentially one of control and deals wholly with narcotics, it is considered desirable to change the title.