

Solicitor. Owing to certain judgments of Canadian Courts, doubt was expressed as to the power of the Council to pass such a by-law. It is understood however that the Solicitor will report favorably. The City Council of Victoria passed a resolution requesting the Dominion Government to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of opium. This resolution was forwarded to Ottawa.

RESULTS.

It will appear from the above statements that

(1) The Chinese Government greatly desires to put an end to the opium habit among its people.

(2) That the better class of Chinese in Canada are strongly in favor of putting an end to it, and

(3) That the Municipal Councils want to prevent its sale.

When it is remembered also that "The British House of Commons unanimously adopted a resolution urging that steps be taken for the speedy abolition of the system of licensing opium dens in crown colonies;" and that "An International Conference will be held on January 1st, 1909, at which the Powers are to fix upon the details for the cessation of the cultivation of opium within their territories, in order to assist China in the suppression of the use of opium among the Chinese people;" the Canadian Government will surely not hesitate to pass a law preventing the importation, manufacture and sale of opium except for medicinal purposes. Only the Dominion Government has the necessary power to meet the situation, and we trust you will soon make use of it.

I have the honor to be,

Faithfully yours.

(Signed) S. D. Chown.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Volume 8