

section 21 of the preceding year? Is it included in this section? It was left out of the bill last year, inadvertently, was it not?

Mr. BELAND: It is further on.

Mr. STEVENS: The minister, I presume, has covered the point in the bill?

Mr. BELAND: Yes.

Section agreed to.

On section 5—Persons to whom drugs may be sold:

Mr. BELAND: There are added to this clause only two words, the second and third word at the top of page 4: "and dated". The balance is the same.

Mr. MANION: Does this prevent the re-filling of any prescription by a physician for any of the drugs in the schedule, without another order by the physician?

Mr. BELAND: Unless the prescription does not contain any larger quantity of drug than can be filled lawfully.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What does that mean?

Mr. BELAND: That means two grains of opium to the ounce, one-fourth of a grain of morphine to the ounce, one-eighth of a grain of heroin to the ounce, or one grain of codeine to the ounce.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: How is that defined?

Mr. BELAND: It is defined in this bill in clause 9. When we come to clause 9, my hon. friend will find the exact description of preparations which, although they contain some of the drugs which are forbidden, can be lawfully sold because they contain only small quantities.

Section agreed to.

On section 6—Unlawful for physician, veterinary surgeon or dentist to prescribe, give or sell drugs except for medicinal purpose:

Mr. BELAND: No change at all.

Mr. MANION: The question of what is considered proper for medicinal purposes is left entirely in the hands of the physicians, is it not?

Mr. BELAND: It is left altogether to the attending physician.

Mr. MANION: For example, if a doctor considers that a man who has been addicted to one of these drugs is in such a nervous condition that he requires some of the drug, that is left entirely to the physician?

Mr. BELAND: You cannot prescribe smoking.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—Not keeping record:

Mr. BELAND: There are only a few words added to this clause. On page 5 in the first, second and third lines these words are added: or to furnish to the Department of Health any information required by that department.

This is added to make the clause clearer.

Mr. STEVENS: In connection with this clause, there is just one point as regards which I should like to ask the minister his opinion, because I know the point I raise is a very delicate one. If I read the clause aright, it means that physicians, dentists and such like are called upon to furnish information only when required to do so by the minister.

Mr. BELAND: That is right.

Mr. STEVENS: Has the minister considered the advisability of inserting in the bill a provision that they shall give information when asked to do so by the attorney general of a province or the Crown prosecutor or the police authorities? That may seem to be extending the matter too far; but there is no doubt great difficulty in getting proper information for the local authorities to prosecute and to carry out the provisions of the law satisfactorily. I am not prepared to press for this; but I submit it to the minister, and perhaps he can tell the committee whether it has been considered and what his opinion is.

Mr. BELAND: There is in almost every province a provincial law covering this point. For instance, in Quebec, the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the College of Pharmacists have special legislation of their own which would meet exactly the object raised by, my hon. friend.

Mr. STEVENS: I am glad the minister makes that statement, because I was not at all clear as to the advisability. If that is the case, then certainly it would be desirable that it should be made perfectly clear in this act that the police have the right to request the information, especially as this act is looked upon as perhaps, the most important piece of legislation, either provincial or Dominion, of its kind dealing with this class of offence. The suggestion is made that the doctor or the druggist can always be subpoenaed. That is not the point so much, nor is it sufficient that they can get this under some provincial act. The minister, I know,