

## Codeine

that was asked for by the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) with reference to the resolution standing in the name of the Minister of Justice, will the minister consider widening the discussion on his resolution to include a discussion of the resolution in my name at the top of page 12 of the order paper, which has been standing on the order paper since the twenty-fifth of February? My point is that the minister's resolution deals with only one phase of amendments to the British North America Act.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. CHURCH: I am quite in order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman can present his views when the resolution is reached.

Mr. CHURCH: I am asking a proper question, Mr. Speaker, under the rules of the house, and am now simply laying the foundation for my question. Shall we be afforded an opportunity of discussing the whole question of amendments to the British North America Act along the lines of my resolution, which involves a much larger question?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, it is not the intention to extend the scope of the resolution as it stands on the order paper.

Mr. CHURCH: I intend to raise that question as to the anticipation rule when the resolution is under consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

## CODEINE

## STATEMENT AS TO CONTROL OF IMPORTATION AND SALE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of Pensions and National Health): During the course of the debate last evening the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Hartigan) made certain statements respecting codeine which possibly he would not have made had he been in full possession of the facts. So far as the figures given by the hon. member with respect to the importation of codeine into Canada are concerned, the facts related by him are strictly accurate. But in so far as during the course of his remarks he reflected to some extent upon my predecessors in office, and particularly upon the present leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett), I think it would be well to read a statement furnished me by

[Mr. Church.]

the department, in order that the house may be in full possession of the facts with respect to this drug.

Codeine was included in part II of the narcotic schedule during the year 1933, which placed the control of the import and export of such drug in the hands of this department, and which drug as a result could be legally imported or exported only by licensed narcotic wholesalers. The whole question of codeine has been referred to the health committee of the League of Nations for investigation into its addiction properties, which question is under study at the present time, and no report has so far been received. The only country so far as I am aware which has placed codeine on the addiction list is the United States of America.

As a result of a discussion with the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and subsequently with a number of narcotic wholesalers, a cooperative scheme of control of sales not covered by any legislative authority was initiated on December 1, 1934, whereby narcotic wholesalers undertook to supply codeine only to those mentioned in section 5 of the Narcotic Act, namely, other licensed wholesalers, physicians, dentists, veterinary surgeons and retail druggists, and report such sales monthly both to this department and to the registrars of the provincial pharmaceutical associations concerned. These figures were to be coordinated, and when in the opinion of the provincial pharmaceutical associations any sales to retail druggists were found to be excessive, they were to recommend that further sales to such druggists be prevented, the wholesalers in turn having undertaken to accept and act on any recommendations which they received through this department. As a result of this cooperative control there are at the present time fifty-nine retail druggists whose names appear on the codeine restricted list, which prevents their obtaining any supply of codeine whatever from licensed wholesalers.

In October, 1935, all licensed narcotic wholesalers in Canada were requested to limit their sales of codeine to all retail druggists to one ounce in any one month, unless special authority to exceed such amount had previously been issued by this department.

During 1919, when the Patent and Proprietary Medicine Act was amended, the use of codeine was prohibited in patent medicines.

The increased consumption of codeine in Canada is due to the effective control of the importation, manufacture and sale of other narcotics such as opium, morphine and its