

*Narcotic Drugs Act*NARCOTIC DRUGS ACT AMENDMENT
BILL

Hon. H. S. BELAND (Minister of Health) moved the second reading of Bill 72, to amend the Narcotic Drugs Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

On section 2—Definitions, "drug," "opium," "prepared opium" "imports" or "imported":

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Before we go into the sections of the bill, I think it would assist us if the minister told us what is being done by this bill, whether it is a modification of the existing law, or an enlargement, and what the aim of the bill is.

Mr. BELAND: When I introduced the bill I attempted to explain in a few words that this was only a consolidation of the different acts passed by this parliament on four different occasions, I believe. I also mentioned that there would be a slight addition, to which we will come as we proceed with the examination of the bill. The new features are in connection with an appeal in certain cases, and with the identification of those who are detained after a charge has been brought against them, or after they have been convicted. This is provided for at the end of the bill. The other provisions of the bill are mainly a consolidation of the different acts, in an endeavour to make some sections clearer for the interpretation of the courts.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I notice there are some new sections. Does section 2 enlarge the definition?

Mr. BELAND: Subsection (c) gives the definition of "prepared or smoking opium." This provision is designed to carry out a special recommendation of the Opium Conference.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: It is an enlargement.

Mr. BELAND: This part is new and the remainder is the same.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: It is an enlargement of the definition of "drug." Are you contracting the definition, or making it broader?

Mr. BELAND: We are making it broader. Paragraphs (b), (e) and (f) are the same. Paragraph (g) is new and gives the definition of "Minister" as follows:

(g) "Minister" means the minister presiding over the Department of Health of the time being.

In the former interpretation section, there was no definition of the word "minister," and [Mr. Copp.]

all through the act we had to make it read "The minister presiding over the Department of Health".

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: And the Dominion analyst?

Mr. BELAND: That is the same, and the provincial analyst is the same.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: It is marked new here.

Mr. BELAND: (h) and (i) are new.

Section agreed to.

On section 3—Minister may issue licenses, make regulations therefor, and prescribe fees:

Mr. MANION: I think the section should be read.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: It is new.

Mr. BELAND: It is exactly the same section, except the last two lines, which are added to the former section. I have no objection to the section being read.

Mr. MANION: I think these sections should be read. They are important, and it will only take a moment or two.

Mr. BELAND: By all means.

The CHAIRMAN: The new sections?

Mr. MANION: All the sections.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the committee the bill should be read section by section?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. MANION: The only new part in section 3 is in regard to "smoking opium," is it not?

Mr. BELAND: Exactly.

Mr. ANDERSON: No change in the license fees.

Mr. BELAND: There is no change at all.

Section agreed to.

On section 4—Importing or exporting drug without license, etc.:

Mr. MANION: Paragraph (e), is important. I think this is an additional section. I do not think it was in the act last year. That is in regard to whipping. Whipping at the discretion of the judge. That was put in last year, was it not?

Mr. BELAND: Yes.

Mr. STEVENS: Is this the section referred to by one or two of the chiefs of police as