

Prime Minister or the government so far as the importation of codeine was concerned, not at all. They were not faced with an increasing use of the drug. In 1934 there were imported 28,915 ounces, or an increase of 2,000 ounces. In other words, the League of Nations conventions were flouted; its advice to Canada to cut down the consumption of codeine was not heeded, and in that regard the then Prime Minister of this country may have started the vicious circle by which other dictators in Europe disregarded both the conventions of the League of Nations and other treaties that existed. It would be illuminating to have the papers bearing on this question, the communications passed between this government and Geneva, tabled. I will not call for them. It is sufficient for me to point out the effects of this evil.

The hon. member for Broadview has been speaking of the recklessness of motorists. What else could he expect? You can go to any country store and for forty-five cents obtain twelve tablets containing a grain and a half of codeine. There is not an ethical doctor practising in the dominion who would give more than an eighth or at most a quarter of a grain. He would be satisfied to give an eighth of a grain and repeat that prescription if necessary. But, as I say, you can go to a store in the country and for forty-five cents get twelve tablets containing a grain and a half of codeine. I am aware that resistance can be built up, but who knows the untold suffering caused by the use of this drug? Only someone who is in close contact with the addict and who knows the conditions prevailing in his home. And then people will tell us that there is a youth problem in the country. Yes; and the previous government aggravated that problem to a great extent during the last five years. If you put a grain and a half of codeine into the hands of someone who does not know how to use it, some deluded woman who thinks it is an ordinary headache tablet which can be given to a child, you know very well what to expect. The hon. member for York South (Mr. Lawson) said the other night that he had the happy faculty of judging when anyone was serious. I do not know whether it was as a result of that proclivity that someone put a label on the package advising purchasers not to give the drug to children under two years of age. Just fancy! According to that, it is all right to give it to children of three, four, five or six, or to give it to a man or woman or some girl and let them drive an automobile. The hon. member for Broadview told us ably about traffic

conditions in the cities. Well, what do you expect when you allow people to use this drug? How many mothers are there to-night who are not in sorrow for some son who has been paying for some crime, or who probably has already paid with his life the penalty, for some crime committed under the influence of this drug.

If the government wants to do anything to elevate the people and to improve social conditions it should begin with the prohibition of the promiscuous use of the drug, for at present anyone in the country may obtain it. Anybody can get the drug; when he sits behind the wheel of an automobile there is no coordination between his mind and his muscles, and his vision is distorted. Under its influence such people think they can go over houses or mountains. But apart from the effects the use of the drug is having on the population generally, consider the distress it is bringing to our workmen, the men in the mining districts and in industrial centres. Forty-five cents is not much as far as money goes, but it is a good deal when it is subtracted from the daily budget. The people who become addicted to the drug think it is a harmless headache tablet and they do not hesitate to spend forty-five cents for it. Take men working in the mining districts, getting one day's work a week; when you take away forty-five cents from such a man's wage to pay for this drug you can imagine how he is going to support his children for the rest of the week on the balance. The former government, through its attitude to the narcotic question in the last five years, has driven the workmen of the country into an almost untenable position. And the workman is not to blame. But would-be reformers will get up and offer advice, and it is remarkable that when a Liberal government gets into power advice soon begins to pour in from Conservative sources. The hon. member for Broadview spoke fervently a short while ago; why did he not persuade the government, when his party was in office in the last five years, to do something towards the alleviation of this drug evil? It is said that a conference of youth is needed. What will be done? Will they meet and indulge in platitudes as we have seen in the past?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken forty minutes.

Mr. HARTIGAN: I realize that my time is up, but perhaps you will allow me to say this in conclusion, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister might very well attend a