

amongst the native population of the island. They recommended, therefore, that all opium shops should be closed at the expiration of existing licenses, and that the importation, distribution, and sale of the crude drug be made a Government monopoly. This recommendation was accepted by the Government of Ceylon, and approved by Lord Elgin.

I may express a hope that my suggestion to make the retail liquor trade in Mauritius a Government monopoly may come to be adopted, and may be followed by a general acceptance of the principle, in the Crown colonies, both as regards spirituous liquors and narcotic drugs.