

the ingredients mentioned in the schedule are contained in the mixture, that fact must appear on the label. The effect of the amendment will be to prohibit the sale of anything containing either opium or morphine, except upon the prescription of a licensed physician. I understand the Bill as it came to us was one regulating the sale of the article, not interfering with the sale so long as the purchaser knew what he was buying. That was the scope and aim of the Bill, and to the extent of requiring the poisonous material contained in the medicine to be shown on the label, so that a person would know what he was buying, there was freedom of sale and purchase. The other would be absolutely prohibitive unless it was given on a license, or on physician's prescription. It seems to me those are two entirely different propositions. It may be that would be an admirable thing, but it is an amendment to the Bill which I do not think was contemplated in the legislation here. I think it would entirely change its character, and although the object may be a laudable one, and one that we will in the future have to introduce, yet I do not think the House is prepared and I am sure the country is not prepared for such a drastic measure.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Clause 7 reads as follows :

7. No proprietary or patent medicine shall be manufactured, imported, exposed, sold or offered for sale—

(a) if it contains cocaine or any of its salts or preparations;

(b) if it contains alcohol in excess of the amount required as a solvent or preservative, or does not contain sufficient medication to prevent its use as an alcoholic beverage;

(c) if it contains any drug which is included in the schedule to this Act but the name of which is not conspicuously printed on, and an inseparable part of, the label and wrapper of the bottle, box or other container : Provided that every manufacturer or importer or agent for the sale of any medicine containing any of the drugs mentioned in the schedule may, when applying for a certificate of registration for any medicine, transmit to the minister an affidavit specifying such drug and the proportion of it contained in the mixture and dose, and the minister may thereupon grant a certificate of registration for such medicine without the printing of the name of the said drug upon the label and wrapper if it appears to the minister that the proportion of the drug used is not dangerous to health.

Hon. Mr. KERR.

You vest this power in the minister, and he is not a professional man. You vest power in one man to say, on an affidavit or representation of facts, that any one of the drugs mentioned in this schedule may be used in the prescription and not printed on the label. I say it would be discreditable to this parliament to let that go abroad. This is simply a fight between the patent medicine men and the public. Are the lives of the public to be compared with value of the money invested in the drug business? If we are prepared to say it shall be in the power of any minister to permit any of these drugs to be put in a prescription without its being on the label—

Hon. Mr. KERR—But it must be shown to be not dangerous, but healthful.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The whole list is dangerous to health.

Hon. Mr. KERR—The minister has advisers and experts and that is the way the Bill comes to us.

Hon. Mr. POWER—If the hon. Secretary of State wishes to be consistent, he will strike out the whole proviso in clause 7, so that opium will be treated in the same way as the other deadly substances mentioned in the schedule. Opium, while deleterious when taken in quantities, is still an essential ingredient of a good many valuable remedies, and I think we are sufficiently protected under paragraph C. So that under ordinary circumstances any proprietary medicine which contains opium must have its name conspicuously printed on the label and a statement of the percentage of opium which it contains. If the hon. gentleman moves to strike out the proviso I shall vote with him.

Hon. Mr. ROY—That was the motion of the hon. gentleman from Kingston.

Hon. Mr. POWER—He moved to strike out the clause altogether. The proviso is a different thing. But it is assumed that the minister at whose instance this measure has been introduced would not do anything to render his own measure useless, and that he must be thoroughly satisfied that no harm will be done before he will grant the certificate which is referred to in paragraph C. The Hon. Secretary of State