

ment's Commission should proceed independently and immediately with the investigation of the opium question on behalf of its respective country, with a view, one, to devise means to limit the use of opium in the possessions of that country; two, to ascertain the best means of suppressing the opium traffic if such now exists among the nationals of that Government in the Far East; and, three, to be in a position so that when the Commission meets in Shanghai, the representatives of the various powers may be prepared to cooperate and to offer jointly and severally definite suggestions of measures which their respective Governments may adopt for the gradual suppression of opium cultivation, traffic, and use within their Eastern possessions, thus assisting China in her purpose of eradicating the evil from her Empire. At the request of the British Government, and as modifying somewhat the suggestions made previously by this Government to the other powers regarding the scope of the present investigation, this Government has sent out a further circular suggestion to the interested powers that each commission should be able to inform the whole commission when it assembles^{at} Shanghai January first as to the regulations and restrictions in force