

not be met and that the ten grains per day which he was then receiving and which is a very heavy amount, should not be increased, with the authority of the department. If it were increased it would be confirming the fact that this man was being given morphine by government permission just because he was an addict and for no other reasons.

In those circumstances I refused to authorize that this morphine be given to this addict. When I say "this morphine" I am referring to the colossal dosage. But the officers of the department did co-operate with his own doctor, and I think the dosage was gradually reduced to something in the nature of four grains, which when I last heard of the case he was still receiving. That was done on the advice of his own doctors and in accordance with the terms of the narcotics act and the regulations passed under it.

Then with regard to the question raised in the judgment, the hon. member has surely read the plaintiff's assertions and the claims referred to, possibly in the press and possibly in the judgment. The case did not come to trial on the facts. It was tried on what we in Quebec call a demurrer, a point of law, to see whether there was any case in law to go before the court. The court held that on that point of law the action must be dismissed. The facts have never been brought before the court except in so far as they are asserted in the plaintiff's claim.

The facts are substantially as stated by myself from my memory. Having been entrusted with the responsibility for the administration of the narcotics act, and having regard to the dangerous character of the drugs administered and the possibility of any drugs given in large quantities being used improperly, I believe hon. members would feel that any discretion reposing in the minister who administered that act had been exercised properly on this occasion.

## LABOUR CONDITIONS

### CANADIAN CAR PLANT AT AMHERST, N.S.— QUESTION AS TO SUPPLY OF SCRAP MATERIAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to direct a question to the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply (Mr. McIlraith)? I am not by-passing the minister, but I have been dealing with the parliamentary assistant in connection with this matter. My question arises from a telegram received from the director of the steelworkers union. Has the parliamentary assistant or

the minister been advised that the Canadian Car plant at Amherst, Nova Scotia, may close permanently because of their inability to secure scrap material? Secondly, can he advise the house why only 165 tons of scrap have been delivered out of the 500 tons promised that plant in February?

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): With the permission of the inquirer I refuse to be by-passed. The steel controller was not advised of any shortage of raw material at Amherst until after the plant had been closed down. Inquiries were then made as to why production was not coming from Amherst. We were then advised of a shortage of re-lay rails, which is the raw material for the plant.

Instructions were given that the first 500 tons of re-layers produced at Belleville were to be allocated to the Amherst plant and also that the first 500 tons of re-layers accumulated at Moncton were to be delivered to Amherst. I might say that the Belleville re-layers ordinarily go to Burlington Steel Company but they are diverted to Amherst for the present.

Recent inquiries to the company indicate that while the plant has been closed extensive repairs have been made, and the management state that they have every intention of resuming operations. They report to us that they will in future be able to operate on a more continuous basis than has been the history of the plant previously.

Mr. GILLIS: The plant is actually closed for repairs and not for lack of material?

Mr. HOWE: The fact that no complaint reached the steel controller about lack of raw materials until after the plant had closed down would indicate to me that the plant was probably closed for repairs, or perhaps rebuilding.

Mr. GILLIS: The company is kidding the employees.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### GENEVA AGREEMENT—RESOLUTION UNDER GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. HARRIS (Danforth): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. The first item on the order paper under government notices of motion has to do with schedule V to the general agreement of tariffs and trade. When the order paper is cleared of that item we have just one more under the same heading. In the meantime this item has been on the order paper for four and