

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—That amount of opium does not startle me, because opium is used in every hamlet in Canada, so that it gives one no idea of the amount of opium consumed now. There is Winslow's Soothing Syrup, which is given to children who are teething. This Bill will destroy that business. I think the hon. gentleman is charging the Chinamen rather harshly, I do not think they consume all the opium that is consumed in British Columbia. They are supposed to use a certain amount of it, and many of them use it by smoking, burning it in the same way as people use tobacco by burning, and others by snuffing; but in every direction there is a very large amount of opium used. Unfortunately, I think it is rather on the increase, that many get into the habit of using opium or some of the salts of opium or morphine and also cocaine, and we cannot draw the line too stringently to prevent the habit increasing. It is an injurious habit, like the other acquired habits. It is not a natural habit, and it grows upon the individual who is using it. While I am in full accord with the principle of the Bill I think the minister will find a great deal of difficulty in proving just how much alcohol or spirit may be used in certain articles that are being prepared, and whether the preparation is strong enough in alcohol for drinking purposes. For instance in the Northwest the Indians there regularly use as a drink Perry Davis' Pain Killer, and it will be the same in reference to these drugs, so that the more stringent you make this Bill the better it will be. We ought to be very guarded not to make this law oppressive upon the people in the rural sections. In some of the outlying portions of the country, it is necessary there should be some preparations that the people can use under certain circumstances. My hon. friend from Wellington referred to country groceries, and stated that it was necessary that they should have on hand a preparation of paregoric or some similar preparation for emergencies, and unless we are careful in that respect we will do an injustice. While I am in favour of requiring a physician's prescription or certificate for medicines of this kind, I do not think we should make

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it necessary that they should be obliged to go to the doctor for a prescription and pay the doctor a dollar for it, when they want half an ounce of paregoric. I think that would be wrong.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—There is a difference of opinion among the doctors, and I should like to know what is going to be done about it.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman who introduced the motion certainly suggested to the House that some check should be placed upon the sale of opium. It occurred to me that his suggestion was a wise one and I would have liked to have it extended to a number of other articles; but it was made quite plain to me that opium is being used every day more and more. It is the cause, as the hon. gentleman said, of many thousands of deaths in Canada. I have sufficient evidence of that fact, and we would be remiss in our duty to the public if we failed to call attention to it in that way, by depriving the minister of the right to say that if you make up a drug with it you may conceal it and offer it to the public. We should call attention to the presence of opium in drugs, and then those who purchase such drugs would know what they are getting.

Hon. Mr. DOUGLAS—Not only are the Chinamen in British Columbia producing a certain amount of opium, but it has come under my notice that the Hungarians in the Northwest grow opium for their own use. They use the seeds of the plants in flavouring cakes which they appreciate very much. It is an acquired taste, as a matter of course, still it is very generally used. The specimens of the plant that I have seen in the Hungarian settlements are equal to the very best specimens I have ever seen grown in India. Those specimens come from the north side of the Qu'Appelle river, where there is a colony of Hungarians. If the fact became known generally, I have no doubt a trade would spring up and might be very successful were it not for its mischievous tendencies, so the House should be very guarded in reference to the growth and development of that plant either in British Columbia or the Northwest Territories. However, a Bill is to come before us shortly dealing with