

operation China has a hope of victory; without it she will be perpetually fighting a losing battle.

Besides effective limitation of the manufacture of narcotic drugs, there is another question other nations can help to solve, namely, that of the gigantic traffic in opium and other narcotic drugs in their respective settlements and concessions. We are referring to this problem not in its political aspects, but primarily as it concerns the progress of the campaign against opium in China. The French settlements in Shanghai, Hankow and Tientsin, to mention just a few, are all great centres of the opium and morphine traffic. In the Northeast, one can find in the Japanese Kwantung Leased Territory in south Manchuria over 105 opium smoking resorts licensed by the Japanese Opium Monopoly Bureau at Dairen and thousands of similar dens in other Japanese settlements throughout Manchuria, which are not legalized but ignored by the Japanese authorities. Furthermore, the production of narcotic drugs is, of late, being attempted in the foreign controlled areas. According to statistics issued by the League of Nations, there are more than 130 drug factories in the world including one in Manchuria run by Japanese. The National Anti-Opium Association of China has been reliably informed that there is a Japanese manufacturing factory in Port Arthur, another one in Chungking, while as a result of a recent police raid was discovered the manufacturing of narcotic drugs by some foreign interests in the Legation quarter in Peiping. There is an article in the Hague Opium Convention of 1912, which makes it obligatory for the signatory states to suppress *pari passu* with China the opium dens in their leased territories, settlements and concessions. As conditions have been since the Hague Convention, this particular article is no more than a dead letter, and it is now high time that it should be given serious consideration by the Powers holding settlements and concessions in this country.

Lastly, we come to the question of Chinese laborers in the Powers' colonies, held in bondage to the opium habit chiefly through the operation of government monopoly of opium. Unlike what is being attempted in China, for years the authorities in British Hongkong, Straits Settlements and Malay States, in the Dutch East Indies, in French Indo-China, in Macao and in Formosa have maintained a government monopoly of opium. By selling opium to Chinese residents, and Chinese only, the governments derive an enormous revenue from the drug business, and as the revenue increases year by year, the reluctance to suppress opium grows until now the possibility has infinitely receded, despite the protest of China and the censure of public opinion. Granting all legitimate difficulties that stand in the way of suppressing opium in the Powers' colonies, the time is long over-due for them to carry out the obligations they undertook under the Hague and Geneva conventions. What the

different. Opium is smoked as a pleasure or as a relief from physical fatigue.

It is a curious fact that while the foreign colonial authorities are fully alive to the evil effects of opium among Europeans, they still pretend to ignore the same effects among the Chinese smokers. Opium is legalized not for all nationals in the Powers' colonies but, with some exceptions, for the Chinese only. Thus in British Malaysia, the authorities have prohibited smoking among the Europeans and natives, while at the same time selling opium to the Chinese. According to the report published by the Malaya Opium Committee in 1924, regulations were in existence prohibiting the direct sale of opium to the Malay natives and the buying and smoking of opium from government licensed shops by any person except a male adult Chinese. In the Dutch East Indies, too, smoking by Europeans is prohibited, although Chinese and natives are allowed to smoke.

Since then, however, certain "innovations" have been made by the British authorities, which are widely advertised throughout the world. At present, Chinese smokers are required to obtain smoking permits. But, as a matter of fact, they are readily issued at any one of the government licensed opium retail shops or smoking rooms just for the mere asking. The applicant is not examined by a qualified physician to show whether he is a regular addict or whether he is merely beginning to take opium as a pastime and therefore should be refused the permit. The permit does not bear the photo of its holder and is good for all places in the British Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

The supposed rationing of Chinese addicts is even more farcical. The regulations provide that no smoker is allowed to buy at one time more than 250 packages of opium, each of which usually contains 3 Chinese *fen* in weight and costs 40 cents in local currency. Obviously no smoker ever needs such a generous amount of opium and few are rich enough to pay \$100 a day for opium. Furthermore, the regulations do not state how many times a day a smoker is allowed to buy opium from the opium shops, so one may buy as many times a day as he can afford.

As a matter of fact, the Government is actually encouraging people to buy opium in bigger quantities. Retailers are allowed to sell opium at 45 cents per package of three *fen*, five cents more than the government price. A tin of opium containing in weight 3 *chien* (30 *fen*) of opium is sold by the government at \$3.90 which represents a saving of 10 cents over what the people have to pay if they buy in smaller packages. Also, the foremen in various factories and mining camps are helping to sell among the workers. All these things are done contrary to the government regulations but the authorities pretend to know nothing of the situation.

The legalization of opium in the Powers' colonies is thus exclusively intended for the Chinese and it is upon their misery that the enormous revenue is being annually derived. In Singapore alone 8,396,800 ounces of Indian and Persian opium was bought by the government in 1927 for local consumption, while 10,616,320 ounces was transhipped through Singapore to various colonies, not counting the opium purchased by their governments from Persia and India direct. Of these amounts, worth approximately Mex. \$400,000,000 according to the market value, it is doubtless that 95 per cent is consumed by the Chinese. Similarly in the Dutch East Indies, where the natives are allowed to smoke, 1,500,966 ounces of opium was consumed in 1923, of which more than 75 per cent was smoked by Chinese addicts.

Whatever might be the facts regarding smuggling, they are not sufficient as an excuse for the Powers to shun the obligations to which they subscribed in the Hague and Geneva conventions. In this connection, it may be pointed out that the Philippines is almost as near to China as any of the Powers' Far Eastern possessions. But, instead of establishing a government monopoly, the American administration there has prohibited opium since the territory was acquired from Spain. What America has done in the Philippines, Great Britain can also do in her Settlements and the Federated Malay States, Holland in the Dutch East Indies, Japan in Formosa and the Kwantung Leased Territory and France in Indo-China. The Problem of opium suppression in the Powers' colonies is therefore essentially a problem of will versus revenue. Have the colonial governments the courage to abandon the huge revenue hitherto derived and founded upon the misfortune of an alien people, or have they not?

To sum up, the opium problem in China may be separated into two parts. On the one hand, there are problems which China alone can solve. On the other hand, there are problems which can be solved only with the sincere cooperation of the foreign governments. The extermination of poppy is no doubt China's own problem. The policy now adopted by the central government is a sound one, and it is hoped that with the gradual establishment of order in the country the cooperation between the people and the central government in suppressing opium will bear better fruit. At any rate, the Chinese people will not fail to exert every bit of pressure upon their government to achieve the goal of absolute suppression, and the anti-opium movement in China will persevere until that aim is achieved. But as regards the manufacture of narcotic drugs, cooperation is needed from the Powers, for the simple reason that China does not manufacture them. And unless that cooperation is made effective, a victory over opium will mean a corresponding gain for its allied drugs, and the Chinese battle against opium will be but a vain attempt. Ever since its existence of five years,

"MEDICINE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE OPIUM HABIT," CANTON. IN REALITY AN OPIUM DEN UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OPIUM SUPPRESSION BUREAU.

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