

LXII.—1908.

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**THE OPIUM BILL.**

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REPORT of a SUB-COMMITTEE of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL appointed to report upon the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Law with regard to the Importation, Sale, and Distribution of Opium."

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Ordered by the Legislative Council to be Printed.

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Colombo:

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EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Legislative Council dated November 11, 1908.

Resolved,—That the following gentlemen be appointed a Sub-Committee to report upon the Bill intituled “ An Ordinance to amend the Law with regard to the Importation, Sale, and Distribution of Opium ” :—

The Hon. Mr. HUGH CLIFFORD, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. Mr. A. G. LASCELLES, K.C., Attorney-General.

The Hon. Mr. W. H. JACKSON, Principal Collector of Customs.

The Hon. Mr. W. M. ABDUL RAHMAN, )

The Hon. Mr. J. FERGUSON, C.M.G., )

The Hon. Mr. A. KANAGASABAI, )

The Hon. Mr. GILES F. WALKER, )

Unofficial Members.

# THE OPIUM BILL.

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THE Sub-Committee, having carefully revised the Draft Ordinance, suggest the amendments shown in the accompanying copy of the Bill.

2. The more important of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee are the following :—

- (a) Provision has been made for allowing opium to be dispensed as a medicine, on the prescription of registered medical practitioners, by dispensers specially authorized for the purpose by the Principal Civil Medical Officer.
- (b) Registered medical practitioners are allowed to dispense opium as a medicine, in the course of their practice, in quantities not exceeding the amount to be taken during forty-eight hours.
- (c) Penalties are provided for registered medical practitioners who dispense opium without regard to these restrictions.
- (d) More stringent penalties have been provided for the illegal importation, sale, and possession of opium.
- (e) The possession of hypodermic syringes is allowed on the certificate of a registered medical practitioner.
- (f) The schedule of medicinal preparations has been amended so as to include chlorodyne and similar preparations.

3. The Sub-Committee have carefully considered the suggestion that provision should be made to enable practitioners of native medicine to dispense opium, but the Sub-Committee have been unable to devise any method of giving effect to this suggestion, which will not at the same time provide a ready means for evading the stringency of the Bill.

Legislative Council Chamber,  
Colombo, November 17, 1908.

HUGH CLIFFORD.  
ALFRED G. LASCELLES.  
W. H. JACKSON.  
W. M. ABDUL RAHIMAN.  
(Subject to Rider.)  
J. FERGUSON.  
A. KANAGASABAI.  
(Subject to Rider.)  
GILES F. WALKER.

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## RIDER.

We venture to think that there is some way of providing for issue of small quantities of opium to persons practising native medicine for medicinal preparations. We would suggest the insertion of a clause to the following effect, with the necessary alterations in, and additions to, the penal provisions :—

“ Any person practising native medicine desiring to be supplied with opium for medicinal preparations may apply for a certificate to the Chairman of the Municipality or the Local Board or Board of Health of the district in which he practises ; and the Chairman, if satisfied, in consultation with the native members of the Board, that the application is reasonable, may order the certificate to issue ; and on production of the certificate it shall be lawful for an authorized vendor to supply the quantity stated in the certificate.”

2. We would recommend that the word “ forty-eight ” in the second line of section (b) of paragraph 2 be deleted and “ seventy-two ” be substituted in lieu thereof.

Legislative Council Chamber,  
Colombo, November 18, 1908.

W. M. ABDUL RAHIMAN.  
A. KANAGASABAI.

V.—1908.

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DESPATCHES

REGARDING THE

CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM IN CEYLON,

INCLUDING THE

REPORT of a COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and report upon the Importation, Sale, and Consumption of Opium in Ceylon, and to state what changes are desirable in the present Ordinances and Regulations affecting the Importation and Sale of the Drug.

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Ordered by His Excellency the Governor to be Printed.

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Colombo:

PRINTED BY H. C. COTTLE, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CEYLON.

To be purchased at the GOVERNMENT RECORD OFFICE, COLOMBO, price 30 cents.

# CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM IN CEYLON.

## No. 1.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., to Governor  
SIR HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 196.

Downing street, April 25, 1907.

SIR,—WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the consumption of opium in Ceylon, I have the honour to transmit to you for your information copies of a question asked in the House of Commons on the 15th instant by Dr. Rutherford, M.P., and of the reply which was returned to him.

2. I am well aware that this subject has not been overlooked by your predecessors or yourself. In 1893, at the instance of Lord Ripon, the then Governor (Sir Arthur Havelock) instituted a searching inquiry into the question of the importation, sale, and consumption of opium and bhang in Ceylon, coming to the conclusion that it was undesirable, except by supervision, to interfere with the use of opium in the Colony. Correspondence continued into 1896 and 1897. In 1897 an Ordinance was passed "To increase the Duty on the Import of Opium and to prohibit the Importation of Bhang and Ganja."

In 1898 a Select Committee of the Legislative Council inquired into and reported upon the importation, sale, and consumption of opium in Ceylon. In 1899 an Ordinance was passed "To consolidate and amend the Law relating to the possession and sale of Opium."

In 1902 the question was raised again. In 1903 Sir West Ridgeway reported on it once more; the correspondence continued until 1905, and in 1905 another Opium Ordinance was passed. Finally, in the middle of last year I called your attention to the subject, and have received an expression of your views.

3. In spite of all the correspondence that has passed I do not see how the introduction of apparently ever-increasing quantities of opium into Ceylon is to be defended, and I regret that I must ask for further inquiry and report. I would suggest that another Committee should be appointed to take evidence and make recommendations; or I am prepared to consider any other course which you may be able to recommend as likely to minimize and eventually prevent, except for medicinal purposes the consumption of opium in Ceylon.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN.

Enclosure in No. 1.

### Question.

Dr. RUTHERFORD,—To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Sinhalese people grew the poppy in Ceylon or used opium under their native kings, or during the Portuguese or Dutch rule, or until the middle of last century, when the British Government established licensed shops for the sale of opium in towns and villages; and whether, seeing that the importation of opium has increased from 1,000 lb. in 1850 to 20,000 lb. in 1905, and that the Buddhist High Priest Sumangala and the Sinhalese representative on the Legislative Council, Mr. Obeyesekere, have appealed to the Government to close the licensed shops, His Majesty's Government will take steps to suppress the opium traffic in Ceylon.

### Reply.

Mr. CHURCHILL,—I cannot undertake at this moment to dispute nor confirm the facts which the Honourable Member has assembled; but the increase of imports of opium into Ceylon under British rule has already formed the subject of official inquiry and correspondence, and is engaging the serious attention of the Secretary of State.

## No. 2.

The Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY to the PRINCIPAL CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICER, the Hon.  
Mr. S. C. OBEYESEKERE, the Hon. Mr. F. C. LOOS, the Hon. Mr. J. FERGUSON, C.M.G.,  
and Mr. R. MORISON, J.P., Neboda.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Colombo, June 12, 1907.

GENTLEMEN,—I AM directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint you a Committee to inquire into and report upon the importation, sale, and consumption of opium in Ceylon, and to state what changes in your opinion are desirable in the present Ordinances and regulations affecting the importation and sale of the drug.

2. I am to request that you will be good enough to complete your investigations and submit your report on the subject within three months.

3. Sir Allan Perry, Principal Civil Medical Officer, will be Chairman of the Committee, and will make the necessary arrangements for meetings, &c., in direct communication with the other members.

I am, &c.,

F. J. SMITH,  
for Colonial Secretary.

## No. 3.

The Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY to the CHAIRMAN OF THE OPIUM COMMITTEE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Colombo, September 6, 1907.

SIR,—I AM directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Sir Stanley Bois to act on the Opium Committee in place of the late Mr. R. Morison.

F. J. SMITH,  
for Colonial Secretary.

## No. 4.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE OPIUM COMMITTEE to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Colombo, December 7, 1907.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to submit the Report (with seven Appendices) of the Committee on Opium.

A. PERRY, M.D.,  
Chairman, Opium Committee.

Enclosure in No. 4.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON OPIUM.

Part 1.—*Historical.*

*Former Customs Duties.*—We find that on assuming the Government of Ceylon the British authorities either continued or imposed a Customs duty of 20 rixdollars per pound on all opium imported. This was equivalent, nominally, to 22½ rupees per pound, but in reality to much more, considering the higher value of money a hundred years ago. The duty was some years later reduced to 5 rixdollars, and by 1840 to one shilling per pound, but the total value of opium imported that year is given at only £1,561, and from the year 1843 to 1849 it seems to have fluctuated between a value of £1,051 and £2,657. From July 1, 1885, the import duty was made one rupee per pound, and from November, 1897, it was raised to two rupees, whilst from July 1 of the current year it was further increased to four rupees.

2. *Establishment of Opium Shops.*—In the year 1850 we learn for the first time of the existence of an "opium shop" in the Island, viz., at Chilaw. It is impossible to say by whose authority this shop was opened, but the total quantity of opium imported into the Island that year was only 850 pounds. About 1860 a second shop was opened; this time at Hambantota. Besides these, one shop is entered for Negombo in the official return with "date of opening not known" (see Sessional Paper XXVIII. of 1901). Not until 1867 was there, so far as we can learn, any legislation permitting the opening of licensed opium shops. This was done by Ordinance No. 19 of 1867, and the licenses then issued were apparently the first allowed for opium shops in the history of Ceylon. From this time onward shops began to be opened freely for the sale of the drug, four being established in Colombo and four in Kandy in the year 1868. During the next decade, or between 1872 and 1879, a shop was opened in each of six provincial towns and in five villages. In 1890 we find there were 31 opium shops, in 1897 56, and the latest return gives the number as 65.

3. *Public Meeting in Protest.*—In December, 1893, at a large public meeting held in Colombo, attended by representatives of all races and classes, a memorial to the Legislative Council was adopted, praying for restrictions on the sale of opium, and stating, *inter alia*, "there was nothing in the case of Ceylon or its people to prevent the application of the same regulations for the sale of the drug as have been granted in the United Kingdom." This was signed by 13,957 Sinhalese, 11,878 Tamils, 1,265 Eurasians, 265 Europeans, and 465 other residents, the signatures being confined to persons who could write. With reference to the suggestion that the Ceylon regulations should conform to those in the United Kingdom, it may be mentioned that the Ceylon Poisons Ordinance *includes* opium, and no one should therefore sell opium, or any preparation thereof, except under the special conditions therein laid down. Owing, however, to the introduction of special legislation, and in connection with the issue of licenses to opium shops, this drug has apparently been tacitly, though not specifically, exempted from the operation of the Poisons Ordinance.

4. *Subsequent Action.*—No change was, however, made by Government as a result of the above memorial from 1894 to 1896, but on November 15, 1897, Sir West Ridgeway's Government doubled the import duty, raising it to two rupees per pound, while the importation of bhang or ganja was prohibited.

5. *Further Inquiry.*—Early in 1898 Mr. Chamberlain sanctioned an inquiry, and a Select Committee appointed by the Governor duly sat and reported on August 11. In this report it is stated that the opium habit seemed to have spread among the people in a remarkable degree, seeing the consumption of the drug had increased from 12,713 lb. in 1894 to 18,285 lb. in 1897,\* and the Committee recommended the imposition of certain restrictions as to sale and consumption. One member of the Committee, Sir W. W. Mitchell, desired to go much further, proposing that a register be drawn up of all habitual users of opium to enable them to get their supply under medical authority, which should also regulate the distribution of the drug throughout the Island. The Committee unanimously recommended further "that no addition should be made to the number of licenses already existing in any locality without the express sanction and approval of Government, and in granting and renewing licenses, whether within or without Municipal or Local Board limits, the number should be strictly limited so as merely to meet an existing demand, and not to create a new demand, this limitation being brought about by the licensing authorities refusing to sell or renew licenses unless a sufficient sum is bid for them." Notwithstanding the above recommendations, the licensed shops, which numbered 56 in August, 1898, had increased to 62 by the end of 1900 and to 65 at the end of last year. An opium shop was opened in the North-Central Province for the first time in 1902 and one in the Northern Province in 1906.†

\* For figures of imports from 1893 to 1906 see page 3 of Sessional Paper XI. of 1907.

† It has since been ascertained that this shop was first opened in 1885.

Part II.—*Practical Considerations.*

6. *Risks of Smuggling.*—One of the first considerations in regard to the traffic in the drug is the possibility of its being smuggled through the Customs on a more or less extensive scale. This is exceedingly probable, as the duty is heavy. It is difficult for this Committee to form an opinion as to whether any considerable loss to the revenue has occurred from this cause. It is, for instance, most difficult to understand how with an import of 12,449 lb. and 11 licensed opium shops in 1870, twenty years later (in 1890) the importation was only 12,807 lb., although the shops (31) had nearly trebled, unless the explanation is found in smuggling. If there is reason to suspect that smuggling took place when the duty was Re. 1 or when increased to Rs. 2, much more is it likely to be attempted with the duty raised to Rs. 4. The suspicion of smuggling is further strengthened by the fact that larger sums have been offered this year for the monopoly of selling opium, notwithstanding the increased duty. We learn on inquiry that no special precautions are taken at the Ceylon Customs in reference to the possible smuggling of the drug; at Australian, Japanese, and American ports the greatest care is taken to check and discover any opium smuggling, special officers being employed to examine all who are likely to have opium about their persons or in their luggage. We therefore strongly recommend that special precautions be taken to prevent smuggling in Ceylon.

7. *Opium Shop Regulations.*—Elaborate regulations are provided under the Opium Ordinance to secure special supervision of all opium shops by the proper authority, involving the periodical verification of stocks, sales, and balances of the drug, but we are doubtful whether these regulations have been adequately attended to. It is also questionable whether any active check has been exercised on the opium shopkeepers to prevent adulteration or the mixing of foreign substances with the drug as sold to customers.

8. *Licensing of Opium Shops.*—We cannot find any evidence of a request ever having been made by any Sinhalese or Tamil villagers to have an opium shop opened in their midst, or that their wishes were ever consulted before a license was issued. An Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council moved, early in the present year, that no fresh license should be issued without the previous sanction of the Legislature; but this was not conceded by Government. The call for fresh licenses would seem to come from the opium renters or licensees, whose natural object being increased profit must lead them to attract and capture as many new customers as possible from the men and women of the villages, and so tend to spread the opium habit among persons who never touched the drug before in their lives. Sir Charles Aitchinson said in Burma: "Licensed shops not only supply an existing demand, but artificially create a taste for the drug."

9. *Revenue.*—The manner in which the revenue from opium licenses has risen is suggestive of large profits, and these must be mainly due to an increasing number of customers. An official return shows that whereas in 1893 the Government received for licenses (in the villages) the sum of Rs. 4,100, by 1906 this had increased to Rs. 69,119; while Municipalities and Local Boards (for cities and towns) received Rs. 37,360 in 1893, and no less than Rs. 122,187 last year. In addition, the General Revenue last year received in Customs Duty Rs. 37,770, being Rs. 2 per pound on 18,885 lb. imported.

10. *Consumption of Crude Opium in Ceylon during 1906.*—Out of the total of 18,885 lb. of crude opium imported last year, only 411½ lb. were used in the Government hospitals and by the large firms of chemists and druggists in Colombo. We furthermore have returns indicating that no fewer than 19,847 persons in the Island are known to be addicted to the opium habit, of whom only 697 (a number, we should say, much under the mark) are returned for the town of Colombo (see Appendix). We are therefore of opinion that if the present system of distribution through licensed opium shops is continued, there is the gravest risk of the opium habit becoming general amongst the native population of the Island.

11. *Condemnation by Buddhism.*—The religion of the vast majority of the Sinhalese (Buddhism) condemns the use of the drug, and the Buddhist High Priest has expressed his wish to see every licensed opium shop closed.

12. *Opium Returns and the Hospitals.*—The Government has hitherto attached importance to the fact that no opium victims or patients have been included in the Hospital Returns of the Island; but it must be remembered that habitual users of opium do not suffer from active disease and dread having their opium stopped, as would be the case in hospitals. The tendency amongst the Sinhalese therefore is to conceal rather than disclose an infirmity of which they are heartily ashamed as being opposed to their religion.

13. *Opium among Japanese and Chinese.*—The Japanese, through watching the evil effects of the opium habit among the Chinese, have enacted an Opium Law which forbids the importation, the possession, and the use of the drug except as a medicine, and this law is kept to the letter, although 80,000 Chinese are included in the 47 millions of population in Japan. In Ceylon there are practically no Chinese (only 26 males and 13 females by the last Census) to complicate the question of reform.

14. *Preparations of Opium.*—We have not overlooked the fact that if it be made very difficult for the consumer to secure a supply of the crude drug, there exists the possibility of his turning to various preparations of opium, such as laudanum and morphine, obtainable from any holder of a license to sell poisons. But we consider that this objection would be fully met if the provisions of the Poisons Ordinance are strictly enforced, and if opium and its preparations be transferred from the list under Regulation Section 9, Part II., to the list under Part I., of the Ordinance (No. 11 of 1901), thus making it obligatory that the purchaser is known to, or is introduced by, some person known to the seller, and that an entry is made of every sale and the purpose for which the drug is required.

15. *Duty on Preparations.*—In the Opium Ordinance (No. 5 of 1899) the word "opium" is defined to "include any preparation in which opium forms a component part." This appears to have been totally lost sight of, for we cannot, for instance, ascertain that any special import duty has ever been levied on preparations of the drug, but only on the crude article. We do not consider that this practice need be departed from, so long as neither the Customs returns nor the sales registered by licensed vendors of poisons indicate any abnormal increase. It is evident, however, that this possibility should always have the most careful attention of those responsible for the enforcement of the Poisons and Opium Ordinances.

Part III.—*Recommendations.*

16. We recommend for the favourable consideration of Government—
- (a) That the present system of renting and licensing be abandoned.
  - (b) That all opium shops be closed on the expiration of existing licenses.
  - (c) That the importation, distribution, and sale of the crude drug be made a Government monopoly.
  - (d) That for every opium shop closed the nearest Government dispensary be made available for the distribution of the drug to all habitual adult users of the same who may come forward to register their names for a certain quantity to be periodically given out and paid for in cash, and that suitable remuneration be given to the dispensers for the extra work and responsibility thus cast upon them.
  - (e) That the use of the drug, except for medical purposes, should be entirely prohibited after a definite period.
  - (f) That a system of careful inspection be introduced by the appointment of special officers under the direction of the Principal Civil Medical Officer.

17. We beg to express our regret that the rendering of this report has been delayed so far beyond the date named in the original reference. This has been due to the long delay unavoidably experienced in obtaining the returns necessary, some of which only reached us during the second week in November. A selection from these will be found in the Appendix, together with other information upon which our report is based. We have also to record with deep regret the death of Mr. R. Morison, J.P., who was originally appointed a member of this Committee.

Colombo, December 5, 1907.

ALLAN PERRY, M.D., Chairman.  
 S. C. OBEYESEKERE,  
 J. FERGUSON,  
 F. C. LOOS,  
 STANLEY BOIS, } Members.

## APPENDIX.

## I.—REPORT BY MR. F. R. ELLIS, C.M.G.

IN accordance with a request made to me before leaving the Island, I forward herewith a memorandum on opium.

Some time before I went on leave in 1905 I suggested that it would be advisable to obtain more reliable figures than those then available with reference to the consumption and sale of opium. I pointed out that as the whole supply of the Island is imported, and it is to be hoped passes through the Customhouse, there was a basis from which reliable returns might be prepared. Opium dealers, both wholesale and retail, are, if I remember right, compelled to keep such books and returns as may be prescribed by His Excellency in Council. The necessary forms were with considerable trouble and difficulty drawn up, and I believe printed; a day was appointed on which an accurate account was to be taken of all the stocks of opium in the Island, and some attempt was made to obtain this, but I am not aware that any real attempt has been made to carry out the system. It was decided that the returns connected with the opium business should be kept and made up in the Audit Office; but as no papers have been laid before me, I conclude that practically nothing has been done. As far as I am aware no serious difficulty arose in connection with the scheme, and I would again urge the advisability of carrying it out; it would, I believe, be very advantageous both from an administrative and revenue point of view. At present Government is really in total ignorance of everything connected with the business; it does not know whether the price paid for the right to retail is an adequate one, whether any considerable quantity of opium is smuggled, or at what price it is imported and retailed. There is, as far as I can see, no reason why fairly accurate information should not be obtained on all these points, and why the whole business should not be perfectly controlled. It is more than possible that at present the public may be being defrauded by adulteration and short weight, as well as the Government. It is certain that the trade is entirely in the hands of two or three small cliques, and as the price paid for the right to retail is fixed by competition, it is obvious that Government is not in a position to secure a fair price.

The present system of dealing with opium has all the disadvantages of the arrack renting system, but is without the excuses that can be offered for the latter. It is continued mainly because arrack and toddy are locally produced, and the former at all events could not be obtained elsewhere. No such reason exists in the case of opium; it cannot be manufactured, but must be imported. Under these circumstances it does not seem to me that there is any valid excuse either for the continuance of the system, or for the ignorance which prevails on the material points connected with the trade. The plan originally proposed, and I believe partially carried out, was a simple one. It was decided to send round competent and reliable persons on a given date to take an exact account of all the opium in the Island. This is not a difficult task, as the whole is in the hands of two or three wholesale and some twenty or thirty retail dealers. An attempt was made to do this, but I am inclined to believe that it was not well done, and that consequently reliable and accurate information was not obtained. An unforeseen difficulty arose, and was dealt with in a variety of ways, which deprived the returns of their value. This was the important question of tare.

Opium is imported in balls, which are approximately of the same weight; the drug itself is semi-liquid, somewhat of the consistency of treacle. The cover is made of a shell of leaves stuck together quite hard and resembling the rind of a cheese. The balls are weighed on importation or an average is taken, and an allowance is made for what is supposed to be the weight of the shell. I cannot at this minute give figures. I communicated with the Collector, and as far as I could discover the actual weight of the shell had not been ascertained for years, the amount allowed as tare was a matter of tradition, and it could not be ascertained that it had ever been verified. It is obvious that, if during recent years the thickness of the skin or shell of opium balls has been diminished, Government must have been defrauded of an



amount which may be very appreciable. I pointed out to the Collector how desirable it was, considering the high rate of duty on opium, that more accurate information should be obtained. This could easily be done by sending a reliable officer to be present when a ball is opened, see the whole of the contents carefully removed, weigh opium and shell separately, and report results. The Collector made some attempt to do this, but was met by opposition of various kinds on the part of the dealers. I suggested that the tare should be at once reduced by one-half and be left at that figure until the importers had produced satisfactory evidence to prove what the tare really amounted to. I left the Island before the matter had been settled, and do not know what has been done since. I am given to understand that when the opium has been removed from the ball the shell is boiled, and material is thus obtained from which an inferior kind of opium is made. If this is a fact, it is clear that not even the whole of the weight of the shell should be allowed as tare. I had not time to investigate this matter fully.

The question of tare has been dealt with in various ways, both in the accounts sent in of the quantity of opium in the Island and in the returns sent in by the dealers. In some cases no account had been taken of tare at all, the total weight of the ball being given; in others the dealer had given his own tare; in others the opium had not been actually weighed, the statement made by the dealer being accepted as correct. In the dealers' returns similar differences occurred; and these alone were sufficient to frustrate attempts to obtain reliable figures. If I remember right, a trial balance was made up for one month, and the figures showed that the retailers had sold more than their whole stock. This might have been correct and been due either to adulteration or giving light weight. It might also be due to erroneous entries, wilful or accidental. It was impossible to discover the cause of the discrepancy with any certainty. The best way of dealing with tare is to discover in the Custom-house, by actual and repeated experiment, what amount should really be allowed as tare. Dealers should enter in their returns the total weight of the opium which they have in their possession, including the shells; a deduction should then be made of so much for each shell contained in their stocks. Care must of course be taken that the same shell is not allowed for twice over. The accounts should always show the number of shells in stock at the beginning and end of the month. This can easily be checked, as wholesale dealers do not deliver less than a ball. A similar method should be adopted when stocks are checked by Government officers. When this has been done no serious difficulty arises in checking the figures for the Island.

The first account may be drawn up somewhat as follows:—

Statement showing the Quantity of Opium in the Island on the Morning of October 1, 1906, as per Reports of the Special Officers appointed to take Stock.

In the hands of wholesale dealers:—

				lb.	lb.
A	..	..	..	120	
B	..	..	..	280	
C	..	..	..	300	
				—	700

In the hands of retail dealers:—

D	..	..	..	6	
E	..	..	..	4	
F	..	..	..	2	
G	..	..	..	8	
H	..	..	..	2	
I	..	..	..	10	
J	..	..	..	8	
				—	40
			Total Stock	..	740

Subsequent accounts will run as follows:—

				lb.
Stock in the Island on October 1, 1906..	..	..	..	740
Imported during the month as per Custom-house return	..	..	..	2,000
			Total stock for the month	.. 2,740

Stock in the Market on the Evening of October 31, 1906, as per Dealers' Returns.

Wholesale dealers:—

				lb.	lb.
A	..	..	..	300	
B	..	..	..	1,000	
C	..	..	..	700	
				—	2,000

Retail dealers:—

D	..	..	..	7	
E	..	..	..	3	
F	..	..	..	6	
G	..	..	..	4	
H	..	..	..	20	
I	..	..	..	7	
J	..	..	..	3	
				—	50

Total stock for the Island .. 2,050

				lb.
In stock on October 1 and imported since	...	..	2,540	
In stock on October 31	..	..	2,000	
			<hr/>	
Consumed during the month as shown by the retailers' returns	..	..	540	
			<hr/>	
			lb.	lb.
Sold by D	..	..	120	
E	..	..	80	
F	..	..	40	
G	..	..	160	
H	..	..	100	
I	..	..	25	
J	..	..	15	
			<hr/>	540

The wholesale dealers' sales will not appear in this return, because their dealing consists merely of transfers or, so to speak, cross entries, and do not affect the total stock.

It is more than probable that the returns will not come out as above, but that the consumption column will show 500 or 600. A reasonable margin of error, say five per cent., might be allowed for inaccurate weighing; it cannot be expected that all the returns will come out to an ounce, more especially when it is borne in mind that the tare cannot be exactly accurate. It will, I think, be quite possible with a little care to detect where the discrepancy lies. Each retailer's return can be balanced in the same way as the Island accounts, receipt from the wholesale dealers taking the place of importation and being checked on his return, thus: D had at the beginning of the month 6 pounds in stock; he received, say, 120 lb.; he had at the end of the month 7 lb., 126 minus 7 comes to 119 lb., which should be the amount of his consumption. His accounts may be taken as correct. Had his figures by consumption been 110 or 130 lb., further inquiry would have to be made. The retail dealers will soon understand this and will probably begin to cook their accounts, but this can be checked by surprise inspections of both books and stocks by Government servants. This would be neither troublesome nor expensive. I believe that the preparation of these returns will throw a great deal of light on the opium trade, and will make it clear whether it would not be for the advantage of Government to take over the whole business. I am strongly of opinion that it would.

I think that opium in any form, whether as simple opium or laudanum, should be imported only by Government, and that its introduction into the Island by any one else should be liable to very heavy penalties both on the ship and on the importer. A supply could undoubtedly be obtained on very favourable terms by Government, if tenders were called for and properly advertised in the producing districts of India. Opium in any form should always be obtainable by private parties from Government at fixed prices. These should be so adjusted as to cover not only all expenses and the present duty, but also 80 per cent. of the sum now obtained for the rents. When the returns recommended above have been obtained the annual consumption will be known, and there will be no difficulty in fixing a proper price which will comply with these conditions.

Sale by Government should not be compulsory; it should be authorized to refuse a supply in cases in which it is not satisfied that the recipient will make a proper and lawful use of the drug. Under the existing law any one who chooses to write chemist and druggist over his door can deal in opium without control of any kind. I myself have never understood why the chemist should be allowed to sell opium on better terms than the retail dealer. The former pays only cost of opium and duty, while the latter has to pay a high price in addition for the right to retail. I believe it would be quite possible for an enterprising man to set up as a chemist simply for the purpose of selling opium and laudanum, and that he would make a large income. This is manifestly a serious error, which should be dealt with at once. The difficulty that arises is that if only qualified persons are authorized to deal in medicines, vedaralas would be excluded; this at present is very undesirable, and indeed hardly practicable.

If Government imports opium, there are two ways of dealing with the retailer: one is to sell the right of retail, not as now by districts but by shops; the retailer would of course have to get his supplies from Government; the other is to appoint retailers, paying them salaries and requiring them to conform to certain fixed rules and to sell opium at the specified price. On the whole, I think that for the present at all events, the former is the better plan, but the price at which the opium is sold to the retailer should be so high as to leave little more than a fair margin of profit. I have suggested that 80 per cent. of the present rent should be charged in addition to a sum sufficient to cover cost of importation and duty. It is desirable to diminish as far as possible the speculative element in the purchase of the rent. This can be done by raising the price of the opium, as the more the renter has to pay for his supply the less he can afford to pay for the rent. This also makes the amount contributed by the renter dependent to a great extent on the amount of his sales. At present both arrack and opium renters have to pay a fixed sum, however much or little they dispose of, and this sometimes gives rise to difficulties, as in the case of the recent temperance movement.

The opium shops should be liable to constant inspection, and the retailers be compelled, as indeed I believe they are now, to keep accurate accounts of daily and monthly sales. It would not, I think, be advisable to attempt to regulate, at all events at present, the price at which the retailer is to sell. This would be difficult to enforce, and would offer great inducements to adulteration. The retailer must offer his opium at a price at which he can sell it, or he loses the value of his time and the cost of his license; the price paid for the opium is a sufficient guarantee that he will not sell at too low a figure. He may therefore I think be safely left to fix his own price. The wholesale dealers will of course entirely disappear. There is only one danger in this system, and that is from smuggling. If the retailer can obtain a supply elsewhere than from Government, he will make a clear profit of the amount which he pays in addition to the cost of the opium. This will be sufficient to offer considerable temptations. This danger exists now; smuggled opium escapes a high duty. It is at present impossible to say whether Government sustains any considerable loss in this way or not. Under the present system, however, only the duty is lost; under the proposed one both duty and 80 per cent. will disappear. There are, however, several means of checking and detecting this fraud. Before the proposed system comes into

operation there will be reliable returns showing the monthly consumption at each shop. If this suddenly diminishes, it will afford good ground for suspicion and watchfulness. In addition to this there should be continual surprise inspections of books and stocks; it will be very difficult to manipulate these so as to cover any extensive sale of smuggled opium.

At first sight it would appear that it would be preferable to have the opium retailed by men receiving a fixed salary with no interest in increasing sales, but such an arrangement would open the door to many frauds. There would be strong temptations to adulterations, to selling at a price higher than that authorized, by giving light weight; by all of these the retailers would directly profit while detection would be very difficult. If the authorized price were not accurately fixed (and this is a very difficult thing to do), there might and probably would be a margin between the price and what consumers were willing to pay; illicit sale would then become very prevalent, and the retailer would have no interest in checking it. All renters must be ex-cise officers for their own protection. The danger of smuggling would be about the same under both systems of sale, but I am convinced that the safer and better course is the sale of rents, putting a high price on the opium. It may be that after some time so much accurate information will have been obtained that sales by paid retailers may be tried, but experience alone cannot settle this point.

In conclusion, I may point out that the existing regulations by which the consumption of opium in the shop is prohibited is, I think, a very unwise one. It compels consumers to take the drug home, and has, I think, a very great tendency to increase the number of those who use it. When there is a supply in the house there is a temptation to inmates and neighbours to taste it, and the evil habit thus spreads. It is far better that the consumer should, whenever possible, satisfy his craving in the shop, where he is not likely to be the means of corrupting others.

I think I have now dealt with the principal points that will have to be considered by any one who is entrusted with the duty of regulating the business throughout the Island. In this case, as in that of salt, the need of a regular department in charge of a responsible head is much felt, and the sooner this want is supplied the better.

F. R. ELLIS,

June 20, 1906.

II.—IMPORTS OF OPIUM, 1840-1906.

	lb.		lb.		lb.		lb.
1840 ..	1,562	1858 ..	4,368	1876 ..	10,174	1894 ..	12,713
1841 ..	1,046	1859 ..	9,028	1877 ..	9,054	1895 ..	12,827
1842 ..	1,749	1860 ..	8,379	1878 ..	9,843	1896 ..	14,976
1843 ..	—*	1861 ..	9,608	1879 ..	7,305	1897 ..	18,286
1844 ..	—*	1862 ..	6,574	1880 ..	10,117	1898 ..	17,260
1845 ..	1,048	1863 ..	9,321	1881 ..	9,178	1899 ..	16,144
1846 ..	711	1864 ..	10,486	1882 ..	7,992	1900 ..	23,755
1847 ..	1,456	1865 ..	10,242	1883 ..	19,867	1901 ..	21,005
1848 ..	917	1866 ..	6,275	1884 ..	10,502	1902 ..	21,278
1849 ..	1,279	1867 ..	10,978	1885 ..	9,900	1903 ..	21,500
1850 ..	852	1868 ..	10,293	1886 ..	9,586	1904 ..	21,692
1851 ..	2,189	1869 ..	6,637	1887 ..	9,976	1905 ..	20,082
1852 ..	2,540	1870 ..	12,449	1888 ..	9,147	1906 ..	18,885
1853 ..	4,668	1871 ..	9,059	1889 ..	10,998		
1854 ..	4,290	1872 ..	12,303	1890 ..	12,807		
1855 ..	3,662	1873 ..	11,970	1891 ..	12,314	Total ..	645,049
1856 ..	10,303	1874 ..	8,408	1892 ..	12,457		
1857 ..	7,512	1875 ..	8,278	1893 ..	12,989		

\* No records.

III.—SMUGGLING AND SECRET UNLICENSED SELLING OF OPIUM,

*Extract from Letter of Rev. J. A. Barker, Wesleyan Missionary, Kalmunai, Eastern Province, October 7, 1907.*

"It seems clear that a large quantity of opium is being smuggled into this port and secretly sold. Coolies are becoming addicted to the habit in large numbers. Native doctors are recommending their patients to purchase it for the alleviation of pain and to induce sleep. In this way many first contract the habit, which they never again shake off."

*Extract from Letter of Mr. S. G. Lee, M.A., City College, Colombo, dated August 6, 1907.*

"Since the suppression of opium dens attached to opium shops several private dens have been opened in Colombo. I visited one of these in Slave Island last Saturday. I find that each member of the private opium den pays as rent on an average one rupee per month. His average earning is 50 cents per day, while he spends on opium from 15 to 28 cents per day. The balance of 35 to 22 cents is barely enough to support himself. He has also to partake of rich and hence expensive food. Further, his wife and children have to shift for themselves. The majority of these opium eaters are Sinhalese. This is a great calamity to the country, as the wives and children of opium consumers are unsupported by the head of the family."

IV.—EVIDENCE OF RESULTS FROM THE HABITUAL USE OF OPIUM IN CEYLON.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO WITNESSES.

1. Have you any knowledge of persons who habitually take or use opium?
2. Has the habit produced bad results, good results, or no results, in the physical, mental, moral, and social condition of the opium taker?
3. Have you any acquaintance with the working of village opium shops?
4. Do the keepers of village opium shops in your opinion spread the opium habit by inducing new customers to buy the drug?
5. Have you any knowledge of domestic servants or coolies becoming addicted to the opium habit?
6. To your knowledge is the habit of taking opium increasing or spreading to any extent in your district?

## ANSWERS BY WITNESSES.

## A.—BY HEADMEN.

*By K. A. Gunasekara, Ratemahatmaya, Balangoda.*

1. Yes. There are both men and women who are addicted to this pernicious habit.
2. No good results; on the contrary it has demoralized the villagers, who never knew the evil results of it till they became slaves to the habit, and now they find that they cannot give it up.
3. There is one licensed shop, but I do not think that the rules are carried out. They sometimes sell a larger quantity of opium than the quantity they are legally allowed to sell, and the consequence is that the opium eaters take larger quantities of the drug.
4. I think they do so, as otherwise they cannot make a profit over the trade. They generally induce non-opium eaters to take opium as a tonic, with the result that they become habitual eaters; and, when they cannot get the drug, they commence to steal or sell even their clothes.
5. I have not known of Tamil coolies taking opium, but the Sinhalese coolies take it; the domestic servants take to it by associating with opium eaters, with the result that they rob their masters to procure opium, and they become perfectly useless to perform any physical work.
6. Yes. It is spreading, and hence the value of procuring licenses for its sale enhances every year.

*By S. D. Mahawalatenne.*

1. Yes. I have also had some habitual opium eaters under observation some time back, as I took some interest in the question, on which I had to report when I was in Government Service.
3. Yes. The system is a very bad one. The drug is adulterated, and is useless for medicinal purposes. No check whatever to prevent adulteration.
4. Not to any great extent. But the opium eater, as a rule, does induce others to follow the habit.
5. Yes. Coolies who carry loads eat opium largely just for the sake of the deadening effect it has on the muscles and nerves; its anodyne effect.
6. Yes, to a large extent. The sooner it is checked the better for body, mind, and soul.

*By A. Dissanaike, Mudaliyar, late President of Salpiti Korale.*

1. I have come across persons who are in the habit of eating and smoking opium within the last 30 years, when I was Mudaliyar of the Gangaboda pattu of Galle for 21 years and President of Hewagam korale and Salpiti korale for 10 years, and also during my short stays in Matara and Tangalla districts. The use of opium was once in a very limited scale confined to those ailing with some diseases, and is now become a general habit with the people.
  2. It has now become a pernicious habit, gradually and insidiously gaining on the community. I am aware of individual cases in which the opium eating and smoking has proved injurious and ruinous to the constitution, and in almost every case to the character of the individual. Irrespective of the lowering of the moral and social condition of the people, it has in many cases affected the physical and mental faculties of the person using it.
  3. I have little acquaintance with the working of village opium shops. As there are people using it in almost every village it is taken often by a few, who give it to others in the expectation of getting some favour in return. There were no village opium shops in former days, and the present keepers, knowing that when a man gets into the habit he cannot break it off, try to extend their trade and make much profit out of it.
  4. It is chiefly the users that spread the habit to others; and the ravages it is making in men, women, and boys are striking. About fifty years ago there were about five or six in a hundred who used it, but now the number has increased ten-fold, and in some places even fifteen-fold.
  5. It is prevailing mostly among the lower and working classes, frequently as a luxury or as something to palliate their troubles. The corruption of the lower classes is not a little attributable to opium eating and smoking. When I was President of Hewagam korale in 1888 there was a Gansabhawa rule in which smoking and certain other uses were made punishable, and I had to deal with many of such cases. The intelligent and the higher classes are afraid to use opium on account of its insidious nature.
  6. Opium was used in this country formerly for medical purposes after being prepared in a certain way, and only a very few used it, except foreigners, such as Malays, &c. It was not cultivated here, and never used as a luxury. During the last fifty years it has rapidly increased in the towns, suburbs, and the interior villages to such an amount that there must be 50 and even 75 per cent. of the population addicted to it. Some who have felt the harmfulness of the use of the morphia try to get rid of it by taking boiled papaw fruits on empty stomachs in the mornings. The opium smokers or eaters are rather reluctant to acknowledge openly their using it, knowing it is a bad and demoralizing habit.
- The user of opium commonly increases the dose, and the person who uses it becomes worthless and unfit for active work after eight or ten months' use of it; no man can use opium without harm to himself.

*By Arthur Jayawardane, Mudaliyar, Kataluwa.*

1. Yes. Some knowledge of them.
2. This habit enspirits the old, sluggish people, but it slowly, yet imperceptibly, undermines their constitution and makes them eventually complete wrecks.
3. Yes. Some acquaintance with it.
4. All sellers have a tendency to induce new customers to buy their goods. But in shops where opium is sold they cannot have breathing time to do so, the rush of both new and old customers calling for the drug being so great.
5. When domestic servants or coolies find their master or a fellow-servant or cooly takes opium, they follow suit.
6. To my knowledge it is increasing to a fearful extent, particularly among the old people.

*E. R. Gooneratne, Gate Mudaliyar and Justice of the Peace, Galle.*

1. I have. I know of people who used to take it without intermission for over 20 to 25 years.
2. On the whole, the habit has undoubtedly produced bad results. At the onset opium is found to be effectual in alleviating slight ailments, but when taking it becomes a habit, though there may be temporary relief, the taker eventually gets incapacitated for work, and thoroughly so, unless he takes his usual draught.
3. There are no village opium shops in the Galle District. It is sold in the town, and the shops are the regular resort of numbers of purchasers from the villages.
4. No. It is rather the buyers themselves that induce new customers to buy the drug, and the use of it even by the comparatively healthy is gradually becoming extensive.
5. I am aware of coolies and day labourers becoming addicted to the opium habit. The coolies who work in the plumbago pits, and who are at a stretch engaged a day and night to drain the water—a fearful strain on the system—have commenced to use opium largely.
6. I believe it is spreading to a considerable extent, and the only drawback to this is the difficulty of paying for it. The temporary relief they get is an incentive to their continuing to take it.

*By Hon. Mr. T. B. L. Moonemalle.*

1. Yes. One, apparently in robust health, died suddenly from heart failure.
2. In some, very bad results. I know a case in which a young man got through his patrimony in a few years, and is now a vagabond in the streets. I know several coolies who take a certain quantity daily to enable them to do their work. They do not seem to exceed the limit. Result good.
3. Acquaintance limited. From my experience in the courts, town and village shops appear to carry on an illicit trade in opium.
4. I do not think so. The inducement is offered rather by the consumers, who accustom their children and relations to take the drug in small quantities at first.
5. Yes. I have servants who have taken opium habitually, probably as a relief from rheumatism or long-standing venereal disease. I have stated my experience regarding coolies under No. 2.
6. Spreading.

*By S. N. W. Hulugalle, Adigar.*

1. Yes.
2. Has produced bad results physically, but more noticeably mentally. Socially the opium eater has been a useless member, and practically a moral wreck.
3. Yes.
4. Most decidedly it is to the interest of these renters or traders to increase the number of their customers, and this they do in every instance within the range of my knowledge.
5. Yes.
6. It is both increasing and spreading.

*By T. B. Madawala, President, Village Tribunal, Weudawili Hatpattu.*

1. Yes.
2. I have noticed the production of bad results, physically, mentally, morally, and socially.
3. No.
4. Yes.
5. Yes.
6. Increasing.

*By W. C. Jayatileke, President, Village Tribunal, Katugampola Hatpattu.*

1. Yes.
2. Bad results, physically, mentally, and morally.
3. Yes.
4. Not known.
5. Coolies become addicted to the opium habit.
6. Increasing rapidly.

**B.—BY MEDICAL OFFICERS.**

*By R. Pestonjee, Medical Officer, First Grade.*

1. I am aware that in the Panadure district a large number of persons, both male and female, above the age of fifty years, take opium. The usual reason given is that opium was recommended to them for rheumatic pains.
2. As far as I have learnt, by personal observations and questioning these people, they take opium in very small quantity, and do not suffer from any ill effects, but, on the contrary, it does them some good. I may again mention that the habit is strictly restricted to the old of the poorer classes.
3. No.
4. I do not know. I am inclined to believe that a person who has taken opium for rheumatic pains recommends it to another for the same complaint.
5. No.
6. I think in the Panadure district the habit of taking opium is increasing. I may add that the habit of taking alcohol in form of arrack and toddy is also very prevalent among the same class of people. I have heard that a large proportion of the insane in our Asylum come from Panadure and Kalutara districts.

*By C. Heynsbergh, Medical Superintendent, Leper Asylum, Hendala.*

1. Yes. Several patients in this Asylum take opium. They have been taking it long before admission. I know of no person habitually taking opium in the villages in the vicinity of this Asylum.
2. As a rule, pain is relieved, and the result generally is good. I have not noticed any bad results, physical, mental, moral, and social, following the use of this drug.
3. I have none.

4. I know of no village opium shop in the vicinity of this Asylum.
5. No.
6. To the best of my knowledge and belief the habit of taking opium is not increasing or spreading to any extent in the district.

*By W. E. Leembruggen, Medical Officer, Negombo.*

1. Yes. The habit in nearly all of them was acquired by first taking the drug for either rheumatic pains or diabetes.
2. Good results as regards the physical condition, and no results as regards the others.
3. No.
4. I think not.
5. No.
6. Spreading.

*By T. F. Garvin, M.B., Surgeon in Charge, General Hospital, Colombo.*

1. Yes.
2. Good results.
3. No.
4. I do not know.
5. No.
6. I cannot say definitely.

*By Hinton de Silva, Medical Officer, Beruwala.*

1. Yes.
2. Has produced bad results physically.
3. No shops at Beruwala, but I hear there are several places where opium is sold privately.
4. Yes. They give opium free for a day or two. This is what I hear from opium eaters.
5. I know many coolies becoming addicted to this habit. There are many women down here addicted to this habit.
6. It is spreading very fast.

*By S. Hallock, Medical Officer, Convict Establishment.*

1. Yes.
2. Bad in every respect.
3. Yes.
4. Yes.
5. Yes.
6. Increasing.

*By A. Rajasingham, District Medical Officer, Neboda.*

1. Yes.
2. The results are generally bad, such as habitual constipation, deterioration of brain and will power, loss of appetite, predisposition to mental diseases, frequent attacks of diarrhoea and dysentery, and the latter generally proves fatal in such cases.
3. No.
4. Cannot state from personal experience.
5. No.
6. I have been here only a few months, and therefore I am unable to give an answer which can carry any weight with it.

*By C. de Vos, Medical Officer, Avisawella.*

1. Yes. There are several in the district addicted to the opium habit. A few patients attending the outdoor dispensary have casually mentioned that they are addicted to the habit.
2. The exception of the habit has invariably been the use of opium for the relief of rheumatic pains and the sequela of malarial fever. The poorer classes are impoverished by the use of opium. Many addicted to the habit have asked for relief on the ground of its impoverishing effect on them.
3. No.
4. I have no knowledge of the fact.
5. The habit is not prevalent amongst domestic servants or estate labourers. All cases I have seen are those of villagers.
6. After an experience of five years of the district I think the habit has not spread to any appreciable extent.

*By E. Modder, Medical Officer, First Grade, Kalutara.*

1. Yes. I have come across persons in every walk of life and have seen many.
2. Moderate eating is perfectly compatible with a high degree of both physical and mental health. The habit when established causes moral and social ruin.
3. No.
4. Yes, to a great extent, and I believe the vedaralas also encourage people to take opium for the relief of rheumatism and diabetes.
5. Yes. I have had servants in my employ who were addicted to the habit, and it is not uncommon.
6. It is increasing to a great extent because the shopkeepers encourage the sale of opium.

*By E. C. Pieris, Medical Officer, Panadure.*

1. Yes, generally taken to alleviate pain, as in the case of rheumatism, and afterwards it becomes a habit.
2. Physically good results at first, but bad results latterly, physically, mentally, and morally, I should say.
3. No.
4. Yes.
5. No.
6. I believe the opium habit is increasing and spreading, though very slowly.

*By G. W. van Twest, Medical Officer, Nuwara Eliya.*

1. I understand that there are a number in Nuwara Eliya who habitually use opium. I have only come across one man, who was admitted into hospital with hepatitis; he is in charge of the golf links; he told me he is an opium eater, and took to it owing to the cold in Nuwara Eliya.
2. The patient I refer to, Louis Burkey, appeared emaciated and weak, but I am not able to say that his condition is due to the opium habit.
3. No. There are, I understand, only two opium shops in the whole of Nuwara Eliya District: one in Nuwara Eliya town and the other in Talawakele.
4. Not to my knowledge.
5. No.
6. From the list of opium eaters filed in the Nuwara Eliya Kachcheri, I do not think the habit is increasing or spreading to any extent in this district.

*By H. U. Leembruggen, District Medical Officer, Pussellawa.*

1. Yes, one.
2. Physically, it has not, as far as I have observed, affected his capacity for hard work or endurance; mentally, no marked bad effect; morally and socially, it has lowered the man to the extent that he cannot do without the drug, and spends his money on it.
3. No.
4. I cannot say.
5. Yes.
6. I have no information.

*By A. Ludowyke, Medical Officer, Galle.*

1. Yes.
2. Bad results.
3. No.
4. It is to their advantage to induce new customers, but I am not aware that they are instrumental in spreading the opium habit.
5. No.
6. I do not think that the habit of taking opium is increasing in this district.

*By C. Dickman, Medical Officer, Hambantota.*

1. Yes.
2. Bad results. Men become victims to an expensive habit, which cannot be shaken off, and, besides other results, the drain on the family purse when the breadwinner becomes addicted to it is heavy.
3. Yes.
4. Yes. The commonest reason for taking it amongst the Muhammadan public is a sedulously encouraged belief that it increases both sexual desire as well as prolonging sexual enjoyment.
5. Yes, both hospital and domestic servants, boatmen, and others I come in contact with.
6. Is spreading. In my short experience here I have noticed several new victims to the habit.

*By W. A. de Silva, Medical Officer, Second Grade, Udugama.*

1. Yes, more especially amongst the common village agriculturists and Moorish and Malay communities.
2. Yes, the habit has produced good and bad results rather than no results in all the above-named conditions of the opium taker.
3. Yes. Opium is sold in large quantities to villagers, who in turn retail it illicitly in their villages.
4. Yes, in the manner stated in paragraph 3, and also by praising its value as a restorative in various ailments of the ordinary villager.
5. No.
6. Yes, it is undoubtedly increasing.

*By D. Schokman, Medical Officer, Trincomalee.*

1. Yes.
2. Physical condition: good results in some, bad results in others; mental condition: bad results; social condition: no results; moral condition: bad results.
3. No.
4. I am not aware of it.
5. No.
6. It is not spreading in this district.

*By W. S. Ratnavale, Medical Officer, Maha-oya.*

1. I have met three persons who habitually take opium.
2. Bad results, mental and physical. Whenever the person is unable to obtain the drug, he or she gets into a state of physical and mental prostration.
3. No.
4. I do not know.
5. One of the three persons I have met is a cooly.
6. I am unable to answer this, as I have been at this station for only a short time.

*By A. M. Kariapper, Apothecary in Charge, Kattankudy.*

1. Nearly a thousand villagers of Kattankudy habitually take opium.
2. No results are observed.
3. There is only one licensed shop, where not less than half a pound of opium is sold daily.
4. I have no knowledge of this.
5. The majority of opium takers are domestic servants and coolies.
6. The habit of taking opium is increasing to a great extent in the villages.

*By T. Ohlmas, Medical Officer.*

1. Yes.
2. No bad results.
3. Yes.
4. No.
5. Yes.
6. No personal knowledge. Administration Report on the working of the Local Boards for 1906 throws much light on this question.

*By E. N. Jan, Medical Officer, Chilaw.*

1. Not to any great extent.
2. It has produced no bad results from my limited experience of the few opium takers I know.
3. No.
4. I do not know.
5. I am not aware of it.
6. I do not know personally, but from inquiries I have made I hear it is increasing.

*By A. C. Everts, M.B., Medical Officer, Kalpitiya.*

1. Yes.
2. I am not aware of any case in which the habit has produced any bad results, either physically, mentally, or morally. On the whole, I should think the results were good where the dose was not exceeded.
3. No.
4. I have no acquaintance with any village opium shops, and therefore I am unable to answer this question.
5. No.
6. Increasing.

*By S. Saravanamuttu, Medical Officer, Nikaweratiya.*

1. I know about a dozen persons who habitually take opium, and who were treated in the hospital during the last one year.
2. Most of them say that they began to take opium for rheumatic pain, fever, or some kind of pain in the abdomen, and some seem to have been relieved of their trouble apparently. Except this the habit has produced bad results in all the individuals, physically, mentally, morally, and socially.
3. No.
4. I have no knowledge of village opium shops.
5. I do not know any case of domestic servants becoming addicted to the opium habit, but know of Public Works Department coolies becoming addicted to the opium habit.
6. I think the habit of taking opium is spreading in this district.

*By F. M. Croning, Apothecary in Charge, Madampe.*

1. Yes, a few.
2. Bad results in few physically, after long use, in weak persons. After some time it loses its beneficial effect, but still they continue to take more as they cannot shake off the habit once acquired.
3. Very slight.
4. It is people that have used opium previously that recommend opium to others, rather than dealers in opium.
5. Yes.
6. Very slight increase.

*By D. M. Aryaratne, Medical Officer, Dandugamuwa.*

1. Yes. Personally I know of about 25 persons who habitually take opium, but there is a large number in this district who are not known to me personally.
2. As a rule, in this district at first opium is taken as a medicine for parangi, rheumatism, malarial cachexia, and debility. First it produces good results as a sedative. In course of time, when the habit is continued and the dose is increased, it degenerates the taker, physically, mentally, and morally.
3. Yes. In Dandugamuwa there is one shop; the number of customers is yearly on the increase.
4. Personally I know nothing of the means adopted; but I am informed by some habitual opium eaters, who are regular customers, that the opium shopkeepers give them opium on credit when they run short of money.
5. I know of a few cases in other districts.
6. Yes. The habit of taking opium, as a means of temporary relief, is steadily increasing in this district.

*By E. W. Scharenguivel, Medical Officer, Lunugala.*

1. Yes.
2. Good results physically in those who have taken it in moderation for a more or less short period; bad results in the confirmed opium eater.
3. No.
4. I am unable to offer an opinion as I can get no direct evidence to this effect.
5. No. There are Sinhalese of the ordinary wage-earning class of an elderly and advanced age who are addicted to it.
6. There is evidence of it increasing, but by very slow degrees.

*By C. M. Thomasz, Apothecary, Passara.*

1. I have. I know of about a dozen people who habitually use opium. They are all of the male sex, and their ages range between 45 and 85 years; the period during which the drug has been used in one case is over 42 years; and the largest quantity eaten by a single individual, an Afghan, for a month is four ounces. He began it ten years ago as a remedy for pain, and such is the start in nearly every case.



2. In the case of the people known to me the habit has not produced helplessness or wretchedness. Physically the younger men are of the average normal weight and muscularity, but the older men possess a power of endurance not often seen at their time of life, and they exhibit an energy quite marvellous for their age. Mentally with them the habit has been a force which has made them look on life as something earnest. Their powers of thinking are quickened, their working ability strengthened, and they feel a general sensation of well-being. From the cases known to me, and from what I know of the opium habit, the moral degradation is infinitesimal compared to what alcohol does to the human family in this respect. Socially an opium eater is a bright fellow, a happy conversationalist, and not the mischievous "bounder" a man in drink is.

3. There is a licensed shop here. It is not the centre of cigar smoking, ribaldry, and disorderliness the local arrack tavern is. The opium seller or the public never have to requisition the services of the police headman to remove the man in opium to a place of safety, but this has to be done more frequently than not in the case of the man helplessly in drink.

4. Not to my knowledge. I do not think so.

5. Not to the habit, but some of the coolies, when they can afford it, buy some for use as a pain-killer, i.e., as a medicine.

6. No. The sales are to some extent greater, as will be seen from the following particulars obtained from the opium seller: 1905, sold 20 lb.; 1906, 22½ lb.; 1907, to September, 14 lb.

The increase in the sales is due to the purchases made by the carters passing through Passara of the drug for their consumption and for their bulls medicinally.

Regarding the Afghan referred to above, who uses a ¼ lb. of the drug monthly, I should like to add that he is 52 years old, and is a healthy and fairly strong man. He is a cashier by occupation, and occasionally does the work of a recruiting agent to the planters in Lower Uva. His work requires calculating and watchfulness. The opium habit has not impaired the subtlety of his mind. He has been an eater for ten years.

*By R. J. Jayatilleke, Medical Officer, Haputale.*

1. Yes.
2. No results so far as I can gather.
3. No.
4. I cannot definitely say so.
5. Yes, but very rarely. The drug is first taken for some complaint, and then the habit is acquired later on.
6. I do not think it is.

*By W. Margenout, Medical Officer, Kegalla.*

1. Yes.
2. In the few cases that I know personally no bad results appear to have been produced.
3. No.
4. Not to my knowledge.
5. No.
6. No.

*By J. Asiroatham, Medical Officer, Kolonna.*

1. Yes.
2. Good results physically.
3. No village opium shops.
4. See above.
5. No.
6. No.

*By B. C. F. Jayaratne, Apothecary in Charge, Ellagawa.*

1. Yes. Almost all the male residents at this station (Ellagawa) and surrounding villages use opium. It is their remedy to allay exhaustion after hard work. The majority of the plumbago pit coolies, who come from other districts too, are addicted to this habit.
2. I have in a few cases noticed physical, moral, and social differences in a considerable degree.
3. No.
4. I have no knowledge.
5. Yes, plumbago pit coolies (Sinhalese)
6. Yes, increasing to a great extent.

*By L. A. Ekanayaka, District Medical Officer, Karawanella.*

1. Yes.
2. It has produced bad results in a few cases that I have known, but in many it has produced no results whatever as far as I can judge.
3. No.
4. I am unable to express an opinion on this point, as I have had no opportunity of judging the transactions of these shopkeepers; but I do know that many persons become addicted to the opium habit by starting to eat it on the advice of Sinhalese vedaralas.
5. No.
6. I think it is on the increase to a slight extent.

*By J. C. Cooke, Medical Officer, Balangoda.*

1. Yes.
2. No results. Usually taken in very small quantities for rheumatic pains, insomnia, &c.
3. No.
4. No. Vedaralas and those who are in the habit of taking it recommend the drug to those who complain of rheumatic pains.
5. No.
6. I do not think it is increasing or spreading to any extent in this district; only two opium eaters were admitted into this hospital during the last twelve months. They came in for ailments unconnected with the habit of taking opium.

*By E. de Kretser, Medical Officer, Ratnapura.*

1. Yes.
2. No results.
3. No. †
4. Not that I am aware of.
5. Yes, coolies (Sinhalese).
6. Increasing, I am told. Have no personal knowledge.

*By K. Chittampalam, Medical Officer, Kankasanturai.*

1. Yes, a few.
2. Bad results in the few I have seen.
3. No.
4. I do not know.
5. No.
6. I cannot say.

*By J. R. Jeremiah, Medical Officer, Third Grade, Mullaivivu.*

1. Yes.
2. I have only come across one or two habitual opium eaters, who were pale and emaciated, but showed no mental deterioration. About the effect on their moral and social condition I had no opportunities of knowing.
3. No.
4. I am not sufficiently well-informed to answer this question.
5. No.
6. No.

*By S. F. G. Danforth, Medical Officer, Point Pedro.*

1. Yes.
2. Bad results when constantly and immoderately used, and no healthy person requires it; good results when it is carefully and intelligently used as a medicine. It destroys the physical, mental, moral, and social condition of the habitual opium eater.
3. No.
4. I think so, as the numbers are gradually increasing.
5. Yes.
6. Yes, it is increasing.

*By P. D. S. de Silva, Apothecary in Charge, Mihintale.*

1. Yes, I have come across several opium eaters here and in other districts. Some of them were not able to give any reason for acquiring the habit.
2. Generally the habit of taking opium has produced bad results. Most of them become idle loafers about the opium shops. Physically they become unfit for hard work.
3. No.
4. Indirectly they do; but the habitual opium eater induces his friends to take up the habit by recommending the drug as a remedy.
5. Coolies who work hard generally become opium eaters by taking small quantities of opium in the beginning for some sort of pain in their body on the recommendation of some opium eater.
6. The habit of taking opium is increasing in the district.

*By S. P. Fernando, Apothecary in Charge, Maradañkadawala.*

1. Yes.
2. It has produced good results in the physical condition.
3. There are no village opium shops to my knowledge.
4. Nil.
5. No.
6. No.

C.—BY THE GENERAL COMMUNITY.

*Victims of Opium.*

No. 1. Case of a strongly built Tamil man, about 38 years of age, employed as bungalow servant. He contracted the opium habit, and could not by any means be kept from it. He fell into bad health, and had repeated illnesses, detaining him for weeks at a time in hospital. Last seen a year ago suffering from cough and great debility—a mere wreck.

No. 2. A Sinhalese man, headman of the village near which our estate is situated. Had been a strong and well-to-do villager. Took to opium and quickly neglected work and property; is now feeble and emaciated. He admits the drug is killing him, but says he cannot resist the craving for it.

No. 3. Is a Sinhalese man, strong and capable; was working in a malarious district, and had opium prescribed for him. He quickly found himself unable to give it up. This man admits that he consumes more than Rs. 5 worth of the drug each month, but believes he could not do his work without it, though he is yearly feebler and more nervous, and says he will have to give up his duties before long.

No. 4. A Tamil man, employed as gardener, had a cough that disturbed his rest, and for which opium was prescribed. He very soon became so addicted to it that he performed no work at all, and was scarcely ever in possession of his senses. This man visibly grew thinner from week to week, and died in a miserable state within about two years.

Above vouched for as correct :

H. STORK.

There is the adopted son of ———, who became addicted to the habit (I do not know how). He gave up work here and went back to his village, and there does nothing, but lives on the proceeds of ancestral lands of the man who adopted him; but he passes his days consuming opium, and I hear is teaching the village people—mostly young men and boys—to use the drug, pressing it on them, and so has succeeded in corrupting many.

Not a few around me here use the drug daily, since they got it at the village shop, and are now unable to give up the habit.

From my friends in the low-country I have alarming news of the spread of the habit: one man is reported to be using all his wife's earnings for the drug, while he idles about in a comatose condition, and there is not a village with an opium shop where this experience cannot be duplicated in several cases.

The Courts, Anuradhapura,  
October 28, 1907.

Above vouched for by:

W. H. SOLOMONS,  
Proctor, Anuradhapura.

*By Rev. J. S. de Silva, Wesleyan Minister, Galle.*

1. I know a few, and my friends have told me of others known to them.
2. I believe the results of the habit are on the whole bad. There is an alleviation of pain undoubtedly, but it is a desperate remedy as far as I have seen, and the last state of a man having recourse to it is worse than the first. Morally and socially the habit is degrading.
3. I have no acquaintance with the working of village opium shops. I have learned from reliable sources that there is a good deal of illicit sale of opium in the villages. The opium for this purpose is sometimes bought in Colombo.
4. It is consumers, as far as I can gather, who try most to induce others to take to opium. People resort to its use on the most trivial pretexts.
5. I have no knowledge.
6. I am certain the habit is spreading. Even women now take to it. It used to be regarded as a disgraceful thing among the Sinhalese to take opium, and even now they are rather shy about confessing to using it.

*By Hon. Mr. W. M. Abdul Rahman.*

1. Yes, of a large number.
2. In the case of persons of advanced age from 40 years and upwards. Opium taken in small quantities as a stimulant has produced good results. On the other hand, constantly increasing doses have invariably produced bad results in every respect.
3. No.
4. Not to my knowledge.
5. Labourers using small quantities do excellent work. Those taking larger quantities can do little work, unless they repeat the doses frequently.
6. To the best of my knowledge the habit is increasing to an alarming extent in the villages, not as a stimulant, but as a luxury and vice.

*By G. P. H. J. de Silva, Topawewa.*

1. Yes. I know of three persons in the Tamankaduwa district, Topawewa village, who habitually use opium. They obtain it from Matale or Anuradhapura. One is about 90, one 45, and the other 37.
2. Bad results. No bad results in the case of the nonagenarian; in the case of the man aged 45 the opium habit has been a curse; in the case of the man aged 37 he would be a much better and successful man (he is not either) if he had not acquired the habit.
3. I have no acquaintance with village opium shops. There are none in Tamankaduwa.
4. No.
5. I know of one case.
6. Not increasing.

*By W. H. Solomons, B.A., Calcutta, Proctor, District Court, Anuradhapura.*

1. I have. There is an old man next my house who in his prime held the post of constable in Anuradhapura—a *persona grata* with the late Sir J. F. Dickson when Government Agent, North-Central Province. He is said to be constantly using opium, and I think it has no bad effect on him. There was another, recently gone to his account, whose end was no doubt accelerated by the mischievous use of bhang and drink.
2. I think the answer to 1 takes in this question.
3. No personal knowledge. I understand that opium is illicitly sold at Kekirawa by a rich Tamil called Thamoo. Indeed, I know it for a fact, as Thamoo has been fined in this court for that offence.
4. I cannot tell.
5. Yes. My friend Mr. Proctor Krisnaratne had in his employ a young Sinhalese, who had been in my employ, too, previously. He promised to do extraordinary things for Mr. Krisnaratne, but he soon flagged, and it was found he could not work steadily, as he was a victim to opium. It utterly spoilt a promising career.
6. I cannot speak positively, but I very much fear it is.

*By H. A. de Silva, Darley Gardens, Colombo.*

1. Yes.
2. It has invariably produced bad results, physically, morally, and in the social condition of the eater.
3. Yes.
4. Not as a rule, but they encourage customers to become retailers of the drug in the villages.
5. Yes, coolies.
6. It is spreading rapidly in the villages of the Western Province. This expansion is aided by a regular system of illicit sales; in almost every village there are persons from whom the drug can be obtained. This system of illicit selling is rapidly spreading, and the headmen are powerless to check it, for a man who thus sells opium keeps it avowedly for his own use, is a walking shop, from whom the villagers obtain their 5 cents worth of the drug.

*By W. B. Peacock, Colombo.*

1. Yes. In the village of Hanwella I interviewed about thirty victims, who all deplored their slavery to the habit. Their condition was pitiful in the extreme.
2. So far as I have observed the results are always bad.
3. Not directly.
4. I have no information as to this.
5. A few cases of servants who have been ruined by the habit have been brought to my notice.
6. All my information points to a decided increase.

*By J. E. de Pinto, Karagampitiya, Dehiwala.*

1. Yes.
2. Bad results in every case. It makes a person a coward, a sloth, and a physical wreck.
3. Yes, the shop in my village, Karagampitiya, near Dehiwala, which was abolished some years ago.
4. Yes. The more customers, the more income to them. They recommend opium as an antidote to every form of ailment.
5. Not these; but several villagers, including women, who, in consequence, neglect their families and household duties. It is the same case with the men, who, moreover, when they have no money to buy the drug, either take to stealing or pawn their or their wives' goods.
6. It is increasing, but not in the same proportion as when there was the licensed shop, which, happily, is now abolished.

*Opium and Villagers.*

An inquiry of an important character was held yesterday afternoon at the Muhandiram's office at Nedimale, near Dehiwala, by the Mudaliyar of the Salpiti korale, Mr. Henry A. Perera, with regard to a petition forwarded to Government and signed by nearly 200 villagers praying for the abolition of the opium license at Karagampitiya. Thirty-three of the petitioners attended the inquiry, which lasted from 1 to 7 P.M., during which the Mudaliyar patiently recorded the evidence tendered to him in support of the petition, in which several allegations were made against the present opium boutique. It was elicited during the inquiry that the opium habit was rapidly spreading, even to women, who smoke or use it at their homes to the detriment of their husbands and families, and that there were nearly 300 regular customers in the village and the neighbourhood who use the drug one way or the other; whereas there were scarcely 20 persons twenty years ago when the opium boutique referred to was first licensed. The Mudaliyar expressed his fear that if the license was discontinued there would be illicit sales (as was stated to be the case at present at Kalubowila, a neighbouring village, and at Wellawatta), but it was urged that it was the duty of the headmen, aided by good and intelligent folk, to put a stop to them. Of course there were a number of opium users and friends and relatives of the present licensee to oppose the petition; but however, on the whole, the petitioners have made out a good case. The proceedings are to be forwarded in due course to the Hon. Mr. Ellis for his consideration and decision. A feature of yesterday's inquiry was the evidence tendered by several persons who are addicted to the opium habit, but who, nevertheless, prayed for the abolition of the license, stating in effect that having acquired the habit once they could not give it up, unless some restrictions were made by placing the drug beyond their easy reach. As a side issue to the inquiry the Mudaliyar was given several instances of the apathy of some headmen respecting their villages, which he said he would note and deal with.

Authenticated by a reliable Sinhalese correspondent.—*Ceylon Observer*, October 22, 1898.

*By H. W. Kellow.*

1. Yes.
2. Bad results.
3. No.
4. Yes.
5. Yes. Messrs. Milsom & Co. had a cooly in their employ about six months ago: he got so bad he had to abandon his job, and it is a wonder he escaped with his life. However, now he is working at odd jobs in the bazaars, but in my opinion is not fit for any laborious work.
6. I cannot say.

*By A. N. Sethukavalar, M.A., Eastern Province.*

1. I know of about a dozen cases.
2. One, a respectably connected Hindu: parents ruined, and died in great poverty. One grown-up son found dead a few years ago on a verandah of opium shop: said to be from an overdose. One, grandson, a kleptomaniac. Names could be given if necessary, for verification. A Protestant Christian is suspected of taking opium.
3. Know of two, but not acquainted with the details. One is a Moorish village (Kattankudy). Have heard of two places of illicit sale, but do not know them.
4. Cannot speak from personal knowledge of such inducement, but am persuaded of the increase all the same.
5. Many of the coolies are suspected. I know one head field servant addicted to the habit, and even trying to justify it. One of the sons follows the father.
6. The habit is alarmingly on the increase. Thirty years ago a respectable old man shot himself for want of opium. Now, within a radius of about half a mile from my house, the names of 18 persons are given to me as opium eaters, many of them between 25 and 40 years of age.

*By A. S. Casinader, Arappattai, Eastern Province.*

1. I know a few only; the majority of them are Muhammadans.
2. Those that freely indulge in this habit may be generally made out from their eyes and their drooping walk.
3. There is one at Kattankudy among the Moors. Other illicit places have been detected at times and the persons punished. It is suspected that traders from India smuggle this occasionally into Batticaloa.

4. I have not heard of cases where the man directly invites the people. But as the opium is near at hand it is a temptation to many.

5. Many coolies and some paddy cultivators are said to be getting accustomed to taking opium. It was not so formerly.

6. It is spreading to an alarming extent. Formerly a few used it secretly, now buy it openly, and many of the lower classes do not consider it a disgrace at all.

*By J. A. Barker, Kalmunai.*

1. Personally I have no such knowledge; but this is due to short acquaintance with the people. But every one whom I have spoken to on the subject—men whose word may be relied upon,—knows such persons. The inquiry has brought to light one or two pathetic instances of slavish abandonment to the drug's influence.

2. The habit almost invariably produces bad results. The coolies of this part—all very poor—are contracting the habit. Though they purchase a cheap and adulterated opium, it so impoverishes them financially that they forego necessary and wholesome food, whereby the worst physical effects of the drug are seen. An evil which thus commands so much of a man's scanty earnings must produce a bad result in the social condition of the opium eater.

3. I understand there is no licensed shop in Kalmunai.

4. I think there is no doubt licensed retailers would do this. Here there is no licensed shop, therefore the vendor must ply his trade secretly. Consequently his new customers are more likely induced to eat opium by consumers of their acquaintance than by the vendor himself.

5. Coolies, both Tamil and Moor, are freely addicted to the habit. Women and men of this locality use certain powders (the Tamil names are *சூரம்* and *பொடி*). I understand them to be largely compounded of opium, ganja, and poppy seed. The practice is common to all. They use them not as a medicine, but as a luxury. Their injurious properties must have a bad effect on the system.

6. There is no doubt the habit is on the increase. The alarming thing is that this increase is principally among the poor people.

V.—RETURNS OF HABITUAL USERS OF OPIUM IN EACH DISTRICT.

Province.	District or Korale.	Total Number of Opium Users.
Western	Hapitigam Korale	203
Do.	Alutkuru Korale North	1,443
Do.	Alutkuru Korale South	671
Do.	Siyane Korale West	767
Do.	Siyane Korale East	290
Do.	Hewagam Korale	869
Do.	Salpiti Korale	1,128
Do.	Colombo Mudaliyar's Division	697
Do.	Kalutara District	3,240
Central	Kandy District	770
Do.	Matale District	237
Do.	Nuwara Eliya District	137
Northern	Mullaitivu District	1
Do.	The Islands Division	1
Do.	Mannar District	—
Southern	Galle District	1,921
Do.	Matale District	804
Do.	Hambantota District	351
Eastern	Batticaloa District	378
Do.	Trincomalee District	67
North-Western	Kurunegala District, &c.	2,186
Do.	Chilaw District	1,325
Do.	Puttalam District	197
North-Central	Anuradhapura Town, &c.	91
Sabaragamuwa	Ratnapura District	796
Do.	Kegalla District	531
Uva	Passara	323
Do.	Rilpola, &c.	425
Total		19,847

VI.—RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

It is recommended—

(1) That opium and the traffic therein be made a strict Government monopoly immediately.

(2) That three years after that shall have been done no opium shall be imported, bought, or introduced into these Islands except by the Government and for medical purposes only. (The time necessary to enable one accustomed to the use of the drug to discontinue the habit has been estimated at from six months to twenty years. It has seemed necessary to the Committee to state a definite period after which the use of opium shall be prohibited, because the force of any law or Ordinance depends largely upon the exactness of the time at which it may be enforced. If a longer period than this were allowed, the time at which the *habitus* would begin to

disaccustom himself to the use of the drug would be postponed indefinitely. Three years would seem to be a period of sufficient length. At the expiration of this time the Government will be in a position to determine what is wisest and best to be done.)

(3) That the use of opium shall be prohibited to all inhabitants of these Islands who are not males over twenty-one years of age.

(4) That only those males over twenty-one years of age who have licenses to use opium shall be permitted to use the drug.

(5) That licenses shall be issued to males over twenty-one years of age by the Government only when it is shown by sufficient evidence that said males are habitual users of opium, and would be injured by being compelled to discontinue its use suddenly. (It is to be noted that no distinction has been made among the various nationalities which reside in these Islands, as it is believed that the interests of equity and justice are thus best subserved.)

(6) That no person who is known to be an habitual user of opium shall be authorized to exercise the franchise or hold office under the Government of the Philippine Islands.

(7) That in case a native of these Islands (not a Chinese) violate any of the laws, regulations, or rules against the use of opium, he (or she) shall be punished for the first and second offences by fine and imprisonment, or by both, and for the third offence by being deprived of his (or her) right to exercise the franchise or hold office under the Government of the Philippine Islands.

(8) That in case a Chinese or other non-native violate any of the laws, regulations, or rules against the use of opium, he shall be punished for the first and second offences by fine or imprisonment, or by both, and for the third offence by deportation from these Islands, said deportation to last for at least five years.

(9) That the pupils in the public schools of the Philippine Islands shall be taught the evil and debasing results of the opium habits, and that a primer of hygiene containing this information (and such other as the Honourable the Secretary of Public Instruction may deem fit) be prepared and used as a text book in said schools. (That part of the primer containing the information relative to the use of opium might be translated into Chinese and distributed among the Chinese or published in the Chinese newspapers.)

(10) That all persons who are opium *habitues* and desire to be cured of the opium habit be admitted into hospitals, where they may be treated for the same; and that when such hospitals are under the control of the Government, a fee shall not be charged in the case of indigent persons who voluntarily enter the hospital for the purpose of receiving treatment for the opium habit; provided that nothing in this section shall prevent any person from entering any hospital, refuge, or other institution not under the control of the Government, which he may choose.

(11) That as the Committee is of the opinion that public places for the smoking of opium (fumatories) exercise a pernicious influence on the public, no fumatories be allowed in the Philippine Islands.

(12) That the written statement of the licensee and of two trustworthy persons, one of whom shall, when practicable, be a regular licensed physician, shall be considered sufficient evidence on which to grant a license.

(13) That the cultivation of the poppy for the purpose of producing opium shall be made illegal in the Philippine Islands.

If these findings and recommendations should be approved, it would seem advisable that opium already prepared for smoking, provided there be a demand for it, should be purchased and imported, as the establishment of the plant necessary to prepare the cooked opium (chandoo) is costly, and would be an unprofitable investment for the Government, provided that prohibition should go into effect after three years.

The plan outlined is, briefly, as follows:—

(1) Immediate Government monopoly, to become

(2) Prohibition, except for medical purposes, after three years.

(3) Only licensees, who shall be males and over twenty-one years of age, shall be allowed to use opium until prohibition goes into effect.

(4) All vendors or dispensers of opium, except for medical purposes, shall be salaried officials of the Government.

(5) Every effort shall be made (a) to deter the young from contracting the habit by pointing out its evil effects and by legislation; (b) to aid in caring for and curing those who manifest a desire to give up the habit; and (c) to punish and if necessary to remove from the Islands incorrigible offenders.

In working out the details of the plan the Committee recommended:—

(1) A head office or depôt in Manila where opium may be supplied to licensed consumers in Manila and to sub-offices (*entrepôts*) in such places as the Commission may select.

(2) These *entrepôts* will supply the licensed consumers in their vicinities.

(3) A system of entry, registration, and bookkeeping should be devised to keep accurate account of the quantity of opium sold each licensed *habitué*, so that it may be detected in case he is buying for others or increasing his own dosage. In that case the quantity sold should be diminished.

(4) The licensee should be licensed to buy at one depôt or *entrepôt* only, and should be required to show the vendor his license, a copy of which, together with a photograph of said licensee, should be furnished to the said vendor.

If the efforts, views, conclusions, and recommendations of the Committee may in even a small degree serve to open a discussion of legislation concerning opium, they will not be in vain. It is expected that they will encounter opposition and disapprobation, but they are at least honest.

#### VII.—EXTRACTS from Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Committee on Opium held at the Council Chamber at 4 P.M. on August 28, 1907.

*Present*:—Sir Allan Perry (Chairman); the Hon. Mr. S. C. Obeyesekere; the Hon. Mr. F. C. Loos; and the Hon. Mr. J. Ferguson, C.M.G.

Proposed by the Hon. Mr. J. Ferguson, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Loos, and carried—"That the Committee desires to express its great regret at the death of one of its Members, Mr. R. Morison, J.P., and desires to convey its sympathy and condolence to Mrs. Morison in her sad loss."

## No. 5.

Governor Sir HENRY E. McCALLUM, G.C.M.G., A.D.C., to the Right Hon. the EARL of ELGIN  
AND KINCARDINE, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

*Miscellaneous.—No. 63.*

The Queen's House, Colombo,  
Ceylon, January 30, 1908.

MY LORD,—WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject, I have the honour to forward herewith for Your Lordship's information six copies of the report of the Commission appointed to inquire into and report on the sale of opium in Ceylon.

2. I reserve my comments for another despatch, which I hope to address to you on the subject at a later date after I have consulted my Executive Council.

I have, &c.,

HENRY McCALLUM.

## No. 6.

Governor Sir HENRY E. McCALLUM, G.C.M.G., A.D.C., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF ELGIN  
AND KINCARDINE, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

*Miscellaneous.—No. 206.*

The Queen's House, Colombo,  
Ceylon, April 14, 1908.

MY LORD,—IN continuation of my Despatch No. 63 (*Miscellaneous*) of January 30 last, with which I forwarded to Your Lordship six copies of the report furnished by a Committee appointed by my predecessor to inquire into and report upon the importation, sale, and consumption of opium in Ceylon, I have the honour to inform you that the recommendations made by this Committee have now been carefully considered by me and by the Members of my Executive Council.

2. The Committee selected to inquire and advise upon this subject was composed of the Principal Civil Medical Officer and four Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council. One of the latter, Mr. Figg, the Mercantile Member, was unable to serve, and his place was taken by Sir Stanley Bois. The other Unofficial Members were all known to hold more or less strong views adverse to the free consumption of opium in Ceylon. This, I venture to think, somewhat regrettable, because it rendered the nature of the Committee's report from the first something of a foregone conclusion, and the medical evidence adduced before the Committee, more especially that of the older and more experienced medical practitioners, certainly affords little justification for alarm.

3. On the other hand, I think it is generally admitted by those who have had personal and extended experience of opium consumption among native races, that while the vast majority of Chinese can consume opium constantly without any very marked ill-effects and without indulging to excess, the opium habit almost invariably leads to over-indulgence and to physical and moral injury if the consumer belong to one of the brown races. In these circumstances, I am of opinion, and in this my advisers agree with me, that the recommendations of the Committee should be given a fair trial, with a view to ascertaining by actual experience how far they will have the results contemplated by their authors.

4. Subject to Your Lordship's approval, therefore, I propose to accept the recommendation (a) of the Committee to abandon the present system of renting and licensing, and (b) to close all the opium shops in the Colony from January 1 next, the necessary legislation being passed at the next Session to admit of this being done.

5. The result of the above must, of course, be the acceptance of the recommendation (c), that the importation, distribution, and sale of the crude drug be made a Government monopoly; and of the further recommendation (d), that it be retailed from certain Government dispensaries to habitual adult users, who shall be registered, together with the amounts which they are allowed to purchase. Arrangements will also have to be made for the sale of opium preparations for the use of cattle. I propose, however, to take steps to insure that the retailers of the drug have no interest of any kind in the quantity dispensed, and I am not yet convinced that any special remuneration will be necessary on account of the addition to the ordinary duties of dispensers which the new system will impose upon them. That, however, is a matter for future consideration.

6. The fifth recommendation of the Committee, viz., that the use of the drug, except for medical purposes, should be prohibited after a definite time, is one upon which at the present moment I am not prepared to pronounce an opinion. I think that we must in this be guided by the experience which we shall gain during the next few years of the working of the proposed system, and by the advice which may be afforded to us as time goes on by the medical authorities.

7. The final recommendation must also be accepted, I consider, as it will be necessary to keep a very close watch over the operations of the dispensers by whom the drug will in future be retailed, if the new system is to be kept even comparatively free from abuses, and I do not think that the District Medical Officers can satisfactorily maintain this check in addition to their other duties.

8. I think it is my duty to place it upon record that I and the majority of my advisers are somewhat sceptical as to the extent to which the proposals of the Committee will result in actual practice in the discouragement of the opium habit. At the present time it is the interest of every renter and of every license holder to prevent the importation of opium which has not paid Customs duty. He dare not himself smuggle opium through the Customs, since he risks losing his license if he be detected selling opium in excess of the amount which he has imported, wherefore a salutary check is automatically imposed upon the smuggling of opium. Every such check will be at once removed so soon as Government holds the monopoly of retailing and importing the drug; and while I anticipate that our Customs returns will speedily show a marked falling off in the amount of opium imported, I shall be in no wise surprised if the actual consumption of opium in this Colony is largely increased owing to the smuggled drug being sold at cheaper rates than to-day is possible.

9. This danger, of course, is fully realized, and every possible precaution will be taken to check smuggling. Experience in the Malay States, however, has shown how difficult it is to impose any real

check upon opium smuggling when once the prevention of the importation of illicit opium ceases to be a prime interest of the renters, and I consider it extremely probable that a similar experience will be repeated here.

10. The abolition of the existing system of licensed opium shops will deprive the various Municipalities and Local Boards of the revenue which they at present derive from this source, and which has been enjoyed by them since the year 1893. It is not possible to estimate what revenue the Government will derive from the sale of opium under the new system, but owing to the smuggling which I anticipate will result, I think it probable that that revenue will fall considerably short of the revenue now received on account of opium. Also, if the recommendations of the Committee have the effects contemplated by their authors, the consumption of opium will decline, and the revenue will similarly diminish.

11. I therefore propose to inform the Municipalities and Local Boards that in the year 1909 Government will allow them a grant, to be drawn from the revenue derived by Government from opium, equivalent to 75 per cent. of the Board's or Municipality's actual revenue from this source during the current year; that in 1910 this grant will be reduced to an amount equivalent to 50 per cent. of the Board's or Municipality's actual income for 1908 derived from opium; and that in 1911 this will be further reduced to 25 per cent., after which no further payments will on this account be made.

12. I regard these proposals as equitable, as they will afford the Boards and Municipalities time in which to make fresh fiscal arrangements by the imposition of higher rates or by some similar expedient.

13. I shall be glad to know, at Your Lordship's convenience, whether the proposals made in this despatch meet with approval.

I have, &c.,

HENRY McCALLUM.

### No. 7.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF CREWE to Governor Sir HENRY E. McCALLUM, G.C.M.G.; A.D.C.

Ceylon.—No. 245.

Downing street, May 13, 1908.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 206 of the 14th ultimo, in which you state the action which, subject to my concurrence, you propose to take upon the recommendations of the Committee appointed to inquire into the question of the consumption of opium in Ceylon.

2. The whole question of the opium traffic in the Eastern Colonies has recently been under the careful consideration of His Majesty's present advisers. The matter was the subject of debate in the House of Commons on the 6th instant, when the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies made a statement as to the policy which His Majesty's Government intend to pursue. The report of the debate will be forwarded to you in due course.

3. I telegraphed to you on the 7th instant that I approved the proposals which you had laid before me. It is not necessary for me to discuss them in detail, as I entirely concur in the views which you express, and it affords me much gratification to note that the Colonial Government have spontaneously recognized the necessity of taking adequate measures to restrict the use of opium within the narrowest possible limits.

4. In your despatch you alluded to the difficulties which may arise in carrying out the recommendations of the Committee. I am fully alive to this aspect of the question, but I have confidence that with the zealous co-operation of the Civil Service these difficulties may be surmounted. I shall watch the progress of the experiment with the greatest interest, and I shall be glad if you will furnish me periodically with full reports upon the subject.

I have, &c.,

CREWE.



VI.—1910.

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FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM IN CEYLON,

INCLUDING THE

REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS appointed to inquire into and report on the question of introducing a system of registration of Vedaralas who deal in Opium, and in the event of their being registered, whether the Opium supplied to them should be pure, or mixed with aloe or some other drug.

*(In continuation of Sessional Papers V. and LXII. of 1908.)*

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Ordered by His Excellency the Governor to be Printed.

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1910.

# OPIUM COMMISSION.

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## DESPATCHES.

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### No. 1.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF CREWE, K.G., to the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE  
GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON.

Ceylon.—No. 417.

Downing street, August 12, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of correspondence with Sir Henry McCallum with regard to the opium question in Ceylon.

2. You will observe that I have come to the conclusion that the best course will be to appoint a Commission to inquire expressly into the question of the possibility of introducing a system of registering vedaralas, and I have to request that you will take the necessary steps. The Commission should be instructed to report as soon as possible, and in any case not later than the end of this year. The principal subject of its inquiries should be, as I have said, the question of the registration of vedaralas; but it should also consider whether, in the event of vedaralas being registered, the opium supplied to them should be pure or mixed with aloe or some other drug.

3. After consultation with Sir Henry McCallum, I am of opinion that the Commission should consist of either Dr. Chalmers or Dr. Castellani and such other persons as you may consider to be specially qualified to deal with the principal point of inquiry.

4. You will note from the letter to Sir H. McCallum that Mr. Ferguson has been asked to prepare a memorandum to be submitted to the Commission.

I have, &c.,  
CREWE.

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### Enclosure No. 1 in No. 1.

Sir HENRY E. MCCALLUM, G.C.M.G., A.D.C., to the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

South Kensington Hotel, S.W.,

July 9, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to my last despatch from Ceylon on the subject of the suggested registration of vedaralas in connection with the Government control of opium, I have explained verbally to the Secretary of State at still further length how illusory, impracticable, and dangerous such a proposal is.

2. The Secretary of State particularly wishes to avoid reference of the matter to a further Committee, and I have therefore given anxious thought to the solution of what is a most difficult problem.

3. It occurred to me that such solution is to be found—

- (a) In making the preparation and sale of opium and opium preparations a Government monopoly.
- (b) In confining the use and sale of the *pure* prepared drug to registered medical practitioners and respectable chemists.
- (c) In selling in all other cases the prepared opium mixed with some other nauseous drug, which would make the mixture extremely unpalatable and disagreeable, but at the same time not interfere with the efficacy of the opium as a medicine.

4. Since I have arrived in England I have consulted Sir Patrick Manson and other authorities, and also my Principal Civil Medical Officer, Sir Allan Perry. I enclose a memorandum which the latter has drawn up proposing that Barbadoes aloe should be employed as the particular nauseous drug, and stating that such drug, though extremely unpalatable, is harmless in its qualities.

5. I would refer especially to paragraph 3 of the memorandum, as it is quite possible that by the adoption of this expedient the task of the Government will be facilitated, and that it may be unnecessary to register opium consumers. One weak point of the draft Ordinance, generally recognized as such by my advisers, was the necessary employment of Government dispensers as the purveyors to registered consumers.

6. Paragraph 4 is also of special interest, as further inquiry may show that it is desirable to mix extract of *Combretum sondaicum* also with the drug issued to such consumers.

7. I propose—

- (a) That prepared opium (*chandoo*) and all preparations of opium shall be a Government monopoly, obtainable only at as high prices as economic conditions will allow, and that the use of crude or bad opium shall be prohibited.

- (b) That prepared opium shall be supplied in tubes (like those for moist water colours) of different sizes as is done in Java, and about to be introduced, I understand, into the Straits Settlements. These tubes to be sealed and carry stamps (like those for patent medicines) of different patterns, colours, and values.
- (c) That the prepared opium in these tubes shall be of three distinctive kinds :—(1) In its pure form for the use of registered medical practitioners and reputable chemists ; (2) in liquid form (like chlorodyne), mixed with aloes and with the Malay plant extract (if found effective), for registered opium smokers ; (3) in liquid form, with aloes only, for any other person who must satisfy the Chief Revenue Officer of his district that he requires the same for *bona fide* medical purposes.

8. I believe that in the Straits Settlements it is contemplated that the Government are to have a similar monopoly, and that they are also to manufacture all prepared opium required in that Colony or in the Federated Malay States. It would be convenient if arrangements could be made with that Government to supply at cost price the Ceylon Government on indent with all the different preparations of the drug in retail form, as the quantity required for Ceylon will be comparatively small, and concentration of manufacture has many advantages.

9. I trust that these proposals will commend themselves to the Secretary of State as both simple and practical, and as a solution of a very complicated problem. If so, I would suggest that a copy of this letter should be sent to the Acting Governor with instructions that it is to be used as a *text* for a new Ordinance to be introduced during the forthcoming Session of the Legislature. The details can be best worked out on the spot.

I have, &c.,

HENRY McCALLUM.

*Report on the Suggestion of Sir Henry McCallum to make the Opium Habit unpalatable.*

THERE can be no doubt that the spread of the opium habit can be checked and rendered unpopular by the addition of some nauseous drug to the opium. Several drugs have been suggested for the purpose, but have had to be rejected for the following reasons :—

- (a) That the adulterant was a poison.  
 (b) That the adulterant was not mixable with opium.  
 (c) That the adulterant, although mixable, could be separated by filtration in a watery solution of opium.

2. It has been suggested to me that Barbadoes aloes would answer the purpose, and in my opinion it seems to fulfil the object. It has a very nauseous taste, and the further advantage of producing some looseness of the bowels. A watery solution of the aloes can be mixed with a watery extract of opium, which cannot be separated. Aloes is cheap, and can do no harm ; on the contrary, it would be beneficial, because the more that was consumed, the greater would be the effect on the bowel secretion ; opium has a contrary effect on the bowels, and it would check severe purgation.

I do not think that dysentery when treated with opium combined with aloes by the native doctors (*vedaralas*) would produce any more serious effects than pure opium. For ordinary diarrhoeas the combination would be beneficial. Opium with aloes would not harm those suffering from diabetes ; in the event of such persons requiring pure opium for that disorder, they will have to consult a registered medical practitioner.

It occurs to me that the adulteration of Government opium with aloes will have to be made legal in the present draft Opium Ordinance (Ceylon). I believe there is a clause which necessitates the Government supplying pure opium.

3. I submit that the mixture of opium and aloes should be issued to all *vedaralas*, registered opium consumers, and unqualified practitioners in the service of the Government and estates ; and that pure opium should be available for all registered medical practitioners and reputable chemists (there is a draft Ordinance in Ceylon under consideration for the registration of properly qualified dispensing chemists).

4. There is a plant in Malaya known as *Combretum sundaicum* which has the reputation of being an antidote to the opium habit. I am informed that the Dutch Colonial Government has made extensive experiments with this drug a year ago, but I have not heard with what result. It might be useful to make inquiries into the matter, and if it has been found efficacious, to introduce it into Ceylon for the benefit of those persons who are anxious to give up the opium habit.

The Junior United Service Club,  
 Charles street, S.W., July 8, 1909.

ALLAN PERRY,  
 Principal Civil Medical Officer, Ceylon (on leave).

Enclosure No. 2 in No.1.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES to Sir HENRY E. McCALLUM, G.C.M.G., A.D.C.  
 Downing street, July 31, 1909.

SIR,—I AM directed by the Earl of Crewe to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 9, in which you make suggestions for dealing with the opium traffic in Ceylon.

2. Your proposals are briefly—

- (a) That the sale of opium should be a Government monopoly.  
 (b) That prepared opium should be supplied in sealed tubes, on the lines of the system in force in Java.

- (c) That the opium sold in these tubes should be of three different kinds :—(1) Pure opium for the use of registered medical practitioners and chemists; (2) in liquid form, mixed with aloes or some other unpalatable drug and with an extract of *Combretum sundaicum* (if that plant is found to be an effective cure for the opium habit), for the use of registered consumers; (3) in liquid form, with the admixture of aloes or other drug, for the use of other persons who can satisfy the Chief Revenue Officer of their district that they need it for *bona fide* medical purposes.

3. You suggest also that the adoption of the practice of mixing an unpalatable drug with the opium might remove the necessity for registering consumers and for employing Government dispensers to purvey opium to persons on the register.

4. Lord Crewe has given careful consideration to your suggestions, for which he desires me to express his thanks. His Lordship entirely concurs in the view that the sale of opium should be made a Government monopoly, and that the sealed tube system should be adopted; but he finds himself unable to concur in some of your other suggestions as they stand. He considers it essential that the system of registering consumers should be introduced, as it appears to him that this is the only effectual method of finally eradicating the opium habit. He considers also that it is most desirable that the distribution of the drug should be in the hands of Government dispensers, over whom the Government will have complete control. He gathers that your objection to their employment as purveyors is due to a fear that they would succumb to the temptations to which they would be exposed, and would either sell smuggled opium to their own profit or would adulterate the Government opium, and thus by increasing its bulk be enabled to sell the drug to unregistered persons.

It appears, however, to His Lordship that all risk of such fraud would be removed by the adoption of the sealed tube system. It would then be possible to provide that a dispenser should be subjected to heavy penalties, if he were found in possession of loose opium or of a tube of which the seal had been broken. A careful system of inspection, including surprise visits to dispensers by one of the superior officers of the Province, should be sufficient safeguard.

The possibility of fraud by re-filling used tubes with smuggled opium could be prevented by requiring that a registered consumer should surrender his emptied tubes to a Government officer, not a dispenser, before receiving a permit which would entitle him to obtain a new supply.

5. Lord Crewe has considered with care your suggestion for the admixture of a nauseous drug, with or without an extract of *Combretum sundaicum*, to registered consumers, but he does not think that it would be desirable to adopt it. There appears to be no doubt that *Combretum sundaicum* does not possess the properties claimed for it and is in no sense a cure for the craving for opium, and, in any case, it seems to his Lordship that it would not be easy to justify the adulteration of the opium supplied to registered consumers. He considers that if a registered consumer is to be allowed the drug, he ought to be allowed to have it in a pure state.

6. There remains the question of the opium to be supplied to persons other than registered medical practitioners, who require it for medical purposes, i.e., to the class known as "vedaralas." It is the existence of this class that constitutes the main difficulty in the way of introducing adequate measures of control. His Lordship notes that you are of opinion that it is not possible to adopt the obvious solution of registering these persons, but he does not think that the impracticability of taking this course has been fully demonstrated. He understands that your objection is that this class is very numerous, and that it is exceedingly difficult to determine who can and who cannot claim to be a vedarala, as that profession is, as a rule, combined with some other occupation.

It seems, however, to His Lordship that there is no *prima facie* impossibility in requiring that any man who claims to have practised as a vedarala and to have used opium as such should be required to prove his claims before some suitable authority. The name of any person whose claims were regarded as proved could be placed on a special register, and he could then be supplied with opium on satisfying the Chief Revenue Officer of his Province on each occasion that he required it for genuine medical purposes, as you have yourself suggested. No one who did not, by a certain fixed date, prove his claim to have been in the habit of using opium as a vedarala should be entered on the register, and thus the class of vedaralas entitled to use opium would die out by natural efflux of time.

7. The question whether the opium supplied to these persons should be pure or adulterated with some nauseous drug, in order to prevent its being illegally sold for ordinary consumption, can be dealt with when it has been definitely settled whether a system of registration is practicable.

8. His Lordship concurs in the suggestion that it would be best to obtain the opium required by the Government of Ceylon from the Government factory which will be established in the Straits Settlements.

It will, however, be some little while before the new system is introduced into the latter Colony, and it is therefore possible to take more time to consider the arrangements to be adopted in Ceylon. In these circumstances, Lord Crewe has decided to waive his objections to the appointment of a new Commission. He proposes, therefore, that a Commission should be appointed with instructions to examine specially into the question of the registration of vedaralas, and to report on this point at the earliest date. Mr. Ferguson, who professes himself satisfied that the registration of vedaralas is practicable, has been requested to submit a full statement of his views to be laid before the Commission, and to put forward any suggestions that he may wish to make for overcoming the difficulties involved in the introduction of any such system.

9. The Commission shall be asked to consider the question whether, if vedaralas are registered, the opium supplied to them should be pure or mixed with aloes or some other drug. The suggestion certainly deserves adequate consideration, but His Lordship could not consent to its adoption without being fully satisfied by overwhelming evidence from qualified medical authorities that the drug to be employed could have no prejudicial effects on the constitution of persons to whom the adulterated opium was administered.

I am, &c.,

F. J. S. HOPWOOD.

## No. 2.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF CREWE, K.G., to the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE  
GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON.

Ceylon.—No. 436.

Downing street, August 19, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to my despatch No. 417 of August 12, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a memorandum on the opium question in Ceylon which has been prepared by Mr. J. Ferguson, C.M.G.

I have, &c.,  
CREWE.

## Enclosure in No. 2.

## MEMORANDUM on the Opium Question and Vedaralas (unqualified Native Medical Practitioners) in Ceylon.

I HAVE read with interest the extracts from the Governor's despatch and the connected papers sent to me, and, in compliance with Lord Crewe's request, I offer in this memorandum such information, suggestions, and comments as I think may be of service to the Colonial Office, the Ceylon Government, and any further Commission or Committee that may be deemed necessary to deal finally with the Ceylon opium question and the vedaralas.

1. In the first place, let me say that by far the most important matter now in view of the vedaralas' problem—which was started after the recent Commission had closed its report—is to study the administration and experience of the first fifty years of British Government in Ceylon in reference to opium. If this had been done by or for the Executive Council, I venture to think that very different conclusions would have been arrived at, and especially that the present able and most conscientious Attorney-General would scarcely have considered that the work of the recent Commission and resulting legislation proceeded "on wrong lines."

2. For what are the indisputable facts according to the statistical records of the Government? That there was, practically, no consumption of opium in the Sinhalese villages, and little or none among any of the natives of the Island, previous to the opening of "licensed shops" by the Government for the selling of the drug about the year 1850. The British took Malay soldiers into their service very early in Ceylon (they were employed in the ill-fated expedition to Kandy in 1802), and it must have been for their use and that of their families and followers that any appreciable quantity of opium was brought into Ceylon between 1796 and 1850; and it is extremely doubtful if during that period the ordinary Sinhalese village vedarala ever got or used opium in the course of his practice, although it may have been known and used in comparatively infinitesimal quantities among the headmen and richer members of the native community.

3. It has been shown that opium was introduced into Ceylon occasionally in small quantities, in the time of the Portuguese and Dutch, in the face sometimes of stringent official rules to the contrary; but the quantities and consumption must have been comparatively very small and inappreciable. It is possible that the Government Archivist may throw some light on the imports of opium in the years just before the British arrived in Ceylon, if they were of a figure to justify record, and it may be possible (surely) to get at the Customs figures for any import in early British years; but, in any case, there is the standard book available of one of the first Auditors-General (Bertolacci) in regard to the trade, revenue, and taxes of Ceylon, and it will be seen that the British Government began with a Customs duty on opium of 22 rix-dollars per lb., equal in the present day probably to Rs. 45 (or £3) per lb., while the actual duty now levied is only Rs. 4 (or 5s. 4d.) per lb. Why was this duty gradually reduced it may be asked in passing? (Probably to suit the means of the Malay soldiers.) Certain it is that the Sinhalese people or their leaders never asked for the concession; but, all the same, the successive reductions of the duty on opium, even to 1s. the lb. by 1840, produced no appreciable increase in the imports between that year and 1850, because the only demand—I take it—was for the Malay soldiers, &c., and because there was no licensed shop in existence to bring opium before the Sinhalese and practically to tempt them to use the drug.

4. There is another line of inquiry that can be applied to these early years. There is no doubt in the Military, if not in the Civil, archives (the annual "Government Calendars" available may supply the figures) a return of the number of Malay soldiers serving in Ceylon, and evidence can be obtained as to the usual requirements of each Malay soldier accustomed to the drug, and in this way, making allowance for their families and followers, it may be reckoned how much of the total of limited imports of opium per annum during the first fifty years must have gone to the Malays, and how much remained for distribution to the Military hospitals and apothecaries, and so this should demonstrate that extremely little, if practically, any opium ever reached the vedaralas or the village people during the first fifty years of British rule.

5. Apart from the statistics, is it to be supposed that the village vedaralas could afford to buy opium when the Customs duty was 20 rix-dollars (or the equivalent sum of Rs. 45 or £3 per lb.)? Bertolacci shows that the British Government (following the Dutch system most probably) began with this very heavy tax, and continued it for some years, and it must therefore be certain that the village people and their vedaralas (who were much poorer then than now) could not possibly afford to buy a drug so heavily taxed, and that if comparatively infinitesimal portions did reach any Sinhalese at all, it must have been for a few headmen or other exceptionally well-to-do people. If, therefore, the Ceylon Government is under the impression that the vedaralas have used opium in their practice "from time immemorial" or even for more than fifty or sixty years, I think such an impression is not warranted by the statistics or history of opium in the Island during the past century or since 1796.

6. Mr. F. R. Ellis, C.M.G., in his report of June, 1906, gave statistics of the import of opium from 1840 onwards; and attention may well be drawn to these figures as corroborating the view now advanced. In 1840, the year the Customs duty was reduced to 1s. the lb., the total import

amounted to 1,562 lb., and only in 1842 did it show an increase to 1,749 lb., while in 1846 it was as low as 711 lb., and in 1850 as low as 852 lb. The average annual import for nine years up to 1850 (Mr. Ellis gave no returns for 1843 and 1844) was 1,170 lb. Now, against this put the Malay population—soldiers and their families and followers, nearly all using the drug—and I think it will be found that after the Military hospitals, European doctors, and apothecaries were served, there was little or none of the drug available for village or vedarala use.

7. This latter justifiable inference—if not statistically proved fact—becomes the more striking, when it is considered that up to 1859 there was no Civil Medical Department, civil hospitals, or dispensaries in the Island. While now every town of any importance has its Government doctor and hospital; while dispensaries are freely scattered in the villages throughout the Island, so that more than 1½ million patients are annually treated by Sir Allan Perry's Department, and the number is increasing every year; and yet, even when there was practically no medical advice available for the village and rural Sinhalese save that of their vedaralas, that is, between 1796 and 1850, there is no evidence that opium reached the people even in medicine, for if so, whence could the drug have been procured?

8. To return to the Customs statistics of imports, it can be seen at a glance how the consumption of the drug increased *pari passu* with the starting and multiplying of licensed opium shops by the Ceylon Government:—

1796 to 1839 ..	No figures published, but Bertolacci and the "Government Calendars" may give some idea of the limited quantity of opium imported for these years.
1840 to 1850 ..	No licensed opium shops. Average annual imports 1,170 lb. The first Government shop licensed about 1850.
1851 to 1860 ..	Average annual imports 5,693 lb.
1861 to 1870 ..	Do. 9,126 lb. In 1870 the licensed shops had been increased to 11.
1871 to 1880 ..	The average imports 10,651 lb.
1881 to 1890 ..	Do. 10,985 lb. The shops had been increased to 31 by 1890.
1891 to 1900 ..	Average imports 15,373 lb. 56 shops in 1897.
1901 to 1908 ..	Average imports 20,434 lb. Licensed shops 65 from 1905.

9. Sir Charles Atchison, as Lieutenant-Governor of Burma (and the Burmese are an effeminate Buddhist people closely allied to the Sinhalese), found that "licensed opium shops not only supply an existing demand, but artificially create a taste for the drug." In the case of the Sinhalese, indeed, for fifty years of British rule, there is no evidence that there was among them any "demand" or practically any knowledge of the drug, such as has become so common (through the instrumentality of licensed shops) since 1850. Surely, then, the recent Commission was most fully justified in recommending that the system of renting and licensing be abandoned, and that all opium shops be closed, as the first indispensable step to any reform worthy of the name.

10. The problem now before the British Government in Ceylon, it seems to me, is how best to make it easy for the Sinhalese people, in respect of opium and such like drugs, to revert to the condition occupied by them between 1796 and 1849, before there was a single opium shop opened in the Island, and also how, gradually if not at once, to lead or compel the vedaralas to go back to the practice followed by the fathers, or at any rate by the grandfathers of the present generation. This, surely, should not be impossible, when it is recognized that neither vedaralas nor the people have any prescriptive rights—none under native, Portuguese, Dutch, or early British rule—for the custom of using opium. (In this respect the case of the people of Ceylon is different from that of the people of India, where the poppy has been grown, manufactured, and widely used for hundreds of years.)

11. In this connection it should be borne in mind that the use of opium is very strongly condemned by Buddha's teaching, and that the Sinhalese Buddhist High Priest has taken a leading part in asking the Ceylon Government to close the opium shops.

12. It may be well, therefore, to consider whether the course pursued for the protection of their people by the Japanese Government and the American Government in the Philippines could not be applied to Ceylon, and all of the people (vedaralas' patients included) who may say that they must have opium be referred to the nearest hospitals for free treatment. This, I believe, has been done with success in Japan and Manilla, and surely the Sinhalese deserve protection from, and cure of, the drug habit quite as much as do the Filipinos, the Chinese in Manilla and Japan, and the Japanese themselves.

To this end the Ceylon Government should call for the Japan and Philippines' Ordinances and the latest report of the American administration of the latter. Ceylon, it seems to me, is specially suitable for an experiment such as has been made in Manilla; for our Island has now an admirable and ever-extending system of Government hospitals, dispensers, and trained practitioners, and it may be questioned if any real injury would be done to the people (but rather good all round) from a course of legislation and administration such as has been successfully introduced into the Philippines. On this point Sir Allan Perry, who has been to Manilla, can give valuable information.

13. I would suggest that the evidence of the native gentlemen who have borne testimony to the serious spread of the opium habit and the resulting demoralization among the Sinhalese be taken on this point, regard being had to the fact that before 1850 it does not appear that opium had reached the Sinhalese villages.

14. The witnesses whom I have in view are the Chiefs Hulugalle and Moonemalle, both Kandyan Members of the Legislative Council, and the several Ratamahatmayas, Mudaliyars, and Presidents, who reported what they personally knew to the recent Commission. The Hon. Messrs. S. C. Obeyesekere and F. Beven and Mr. W. A. de Silva, J.P., are also among experienced local residents who have watched and studied the opium habit spreading in the villages. Of the consequences to the Sinhalese people, if the present system is continued (or if the drug is made available to any extent for indiscriminate purchase through vedaralas or others), no one has expressed a graver opinion than Sir Allan Perry, Principal Civil Medical Officer. Of late years it would seem (to judge by the sales of licenses, &c.) as if the number of customers (natives) was greatly on the increase; and some observers have surmised that more opium has come into the Island than the Customs figures show. Drastic action is required to check smuggling in any form.

15. If, however, the Government think the present generation of vedaralas who have got accustomed to use the drug should be dealt with after the lenient fashion recommended by the Commission for the existing generation of opium victims, then there should be registration by name for each vedarala, with a strictly limited quantity of the drug allowed to each per month for cash payment, and this quantity might well be revised and decreased year by year, until, with the disappearance or death of those registered, the issue totally ceased. For, I think, it should be made a *sine qua non* that no provision to use opium should be made for the next generation of vedaralas, for the reason that only in the latter part of last century did opium become available for their practice, and still more, that as the people are being rapidly reached by qualified practitioners and through Government hospitals and dispensaries, there will be no need for vedaralas at all twenty or thirty years hence. It may be asked if the major portion of the people are not already served by the Government Medical Department, considering the Principal Civil Medical Officer's figures for patients treated in proportion to the total population.

16. To the Attorney-General's suggestion that the police might supervise and control improved opium shops I take strong exception, and consider the plan of medical dispensers—furnished with a register of victims' and vedaralas' names, with the *maximum* quantity to be sold to each per month clearly entered—to be far better and safer.

17. I do not think that a small Committee of one or two experienced Sinhalese gentlemen and a medical officer of the standing of the Hon. Dr. van Dort should have much difficulty in fixing the maximum allowance of opium to be drawn (and paid for) by vedaralas of the present day for use in their practice.

18. But, finally, I must say that in my opinion I do not see why a course similar to that which has been so successfully pursued in Manilla, and the Philippines generally, should not be followed in Ceylon, seeing that there was absolutely no "opium habit" (save among the Malay soldiers and followers) in the Island up to 1850, and that with the small annual importation of the drug previous to that date there was no room whatever for the vedaralas or the Sinhalese people to use the drug to any but the slightest extent. There is here therefore no immemorial habit to get rid of, and no prescriptive right of any standing beyond the past fifty years.

19. Should any one still argue that the vedaralas must have used opium in their village practice long before the licensed opium shops appeared, I would ask such critic kindly to show how the drug could have been obtained out of the limited annual import recorded previous to 1851; and more especially how even an ounce of opium could have been obtained and paid for by the ordinary village vedarala during the first period of British rule, when the Customs duty was 20 rix-dollars (equivalent to Rs. 45 or £3 of present day money) per lb. of the drug imported.

Southfield House,  
Watford, Herts, August 12, 1909.

J. FERGUSON.

### No. 3.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF CREWE, K.G., to the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE  
GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON.

Ceylon.—No. 457.

Downing street, August 31, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the paper noted below on the subject of the opium question in Ceylon.

I have, &c.,  
CREWE.

#### SCHEDULE.

Date.	Description.
August 19	... From Mr. J. Ferguson, C.M.G.

#### Enclosure in No. 3.

Mr. J. FERGUSON, C.M.G., to the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Canadian Pacific Railway Atlantic Service,  
R.M.S. "Empress of Ireland," August 19, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to my memorandum for Lord Crewe on "Opium in Ceylon," forwarded to you from Watford last week, there is one point which escaped notice. That is, the considerable demand there must have been during the first fifty years of the British occupation of Ceylon for opium for use in the treatment of the comparatively large military force maintained during that period in the Island. For many years four European regiments with Artillery Engineers and even some cavalry, besides native Ceylon regiments, including Malays, were maintained in Ceylon, and their requirements in the field during successive campaigns as well as through the military hospitals must have made a considerable demand on the limited importation of opium during those years, leaving over, after the needs of the Malays were met, very little for the apothecaries and perhaps a few of the richer natives to handle.

During the latter half of the century the last Ceylon (native) regiment was disbanded, and only one infantry regiment kept in the Island, and yet, with the appearance of opium shops, the imports of the drug have greatly and steadily increased.

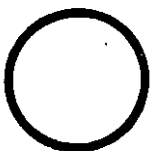
Hoping these facts will be considered in connection with my memorandum of the 12th instant.

I am, &c.,  
J. FERGUSON.

## COMMISSION.

IN the Name of His Majesty EDWARD THE SEVENTH, by the Grace of GOD of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith.

By His Excellency Sir HUGH CLIFFORD, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Officer Administering the Government of the Island of Ceylon, with the Dependencies thereof.



HUGH CLIFFORD.

To the Hon. Mr. A. G. LASCELLES, K.C., Attorney-General; the Hon. Mr. L. W. BOOTH, Acting Government Agent, Western Province; the Hon. Mr. S. C. OBEYESEKERE; the Hon. Dr. W. G. VAN DORT, M.D.; Dr. A. J. CHALMERS, M.D.; Dr. H. M. FERNANDO, M.D., and SOLOMON SENEVIRATNE, Esq., late Atapattu Mudaliyar, Western Province.

## GREETING.

WHEREAS We deem it expedient that a Commission should issue to inquire into and report on the question of introducing a system of registration of Vedaralas who deal in Opium in this country; and in the event of their being registered, whether the Opium supplied to them should be pure, or mixed with aloe or some other drug.

Now know Ye that We, the said Officer Administering the Government, reposing great trust and confidence in your prudence, ability, and fidelity, have, with the advice of Our Executive Council, in pursuance of the powers in Us vested by the Ordinance No. 9 of 1872, nominated, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do nominate, constitute, and appoint you, the Hon. Mr. A. G. Lascelles, K.C., Attorney-General; the Hon. Mr. L. W. Booth, Acting Government Agent, Western Province; the Hon. Mr. S. C. Obeyesekere; the Hon. Dr. W. G. van Dort, M.D.; Dr. A. J. Chalmers, M.D.; Dr. H. M. Fernando, M.D.; and Solomon Seneviratne, Esq., late Atapattu Mudaliyar, Western Province, to be Our Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid, with authority to exercise all the powers which Commissioners appointed under the said Ordinance may lawfully use and exercise.

And We do hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint you, the Hon. Mr. A. G. Lascelles, K.C., Attorney-General, to be the Chairman of the said Commission.

And We do further hereby authorize and empower you, Our said Commissioners, to make all necessary inquiries in the said matter, and to report to Us under your hands before December 31, 1909, from this date, or so much earlier as may be possible, upon the matter referred to you as aforesaid.

Given at Kandy, under the Seal of this Island, this Eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord One thousand Nine hundred and Nine.

By His Excellency's command,  
H. L. CRAWFORD,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.



## REPORT.

WE, the undersigned, have the honour to submit our report upon the matters into which we were directed to inquire and report by the Commission under the hand of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government dated September 18, 1909.

2. The question submitted to us for inquiry and report was that of introducing a system of registration of vedaralas who deal in opium, and in the event of their being registered, whether the opium supplied to them should be pure, or mixed with aloe or some other drug.

3. We propose in the first instance to state briefly the conclusions at which we have arrived, after examining a number of representative vedaralas from different parts of the Island, with regard to several matters which have an important bearing on the questions under consideration.

4. The Government Agents of the several Provinces have supplied us with returns of the vedaralas in practice in their Provinces. A summary of these returns is published in Appendix II. The total number of practising vedaralas shown by these returns is 3,815; but from this number a large deduction must be made on account of bone-setters, surgical practitioners, eye doctors, and others who do not require opium. A strict inquiry into the claims of these practitioners to be registered as vedaralas would probably further reduce this figure.

5. In connection with the registration of vedaralas, the question arises whether there is any practical test by which the *bona fide* practitioner can be distinguished from the pretender. The native practitioner, of course, possesses nothing in the shape of a diploma; but we believe that the distinction between the genuine vedarala and the ignorant pretender is pretty clearly recognized by the public. The genuine vedarala often belongs to a family in which the art has been handed down from father to son. One witness, for example, claimed that his ancestors were court physicians to the kings of Kandy. It is essential that the genuine vedarala should have served an apprenticeship under a practitioner of repute, and that he should be in regular practice. He must also have access to, and be able to understand, the medical books containing the prescriptions and formulæ on which vedaralas depend. The practitioners who possess the qualifications are well known in their own districts. We see no reason why a Board, on which local experience is duly represented, should not prepare a register of the vedaralas of repute in regular practice in the different Provinces or revenue districts.

6. Native medical practice is characterized by intense conservatism. The vedarala never in any circumstances deviates from the formulæ prescribed by the books. He allows himself some latitude in the doses which he administers, but in compounding medicine he adheres strictly to the prescribed formulæ. He subjects, for example, the comparatively pure Patna and Benares opium to an elaborate process of purification, which may have been necessary when the opium used was of inferior quality, but is no longer required. Some of the witnesses who used extract of opium purchased at European pharmacies stated that they applied this process to the extract, though it is obviously unnecessary to do so. The books used are sometimes Sanskrit works on Ayurvedic medicine, but more commonly translations of Indian works.

7. The rigid adherence of vedaralas to the prescribed formulæ constitutes a serious objection to the proposal that opium should be issued to vedaralas adulterated with aloe or some other drug. The vedarala, we believe, would not accept the adulterated drug as a substitute for the opium prescribed by the books. An attempt to supply native practitioners with adulterated opium could not, in our opinion, be made, without serious risk of compelling the vedarala to have recourse to illicit channels in order to obtain the crude gum opium, which he has been taught to regard as an essential ingredient in many of his medicines. We are also of opinion that there would be great practical difficulty in finding a suitable adulterant. Aloe, the action of which is, in certain respects, opposed to that of opium, is unsuitable. Asafetida, the only other adulterant which has been suggested, so far from being unpalatable to all native tastes, actually forms an ingredient in some Tamil curries.

8. To inquire whether opium is brought into Ceylon by means of illicit channels would be beyond the scope of our Commission, but the belief appears to be held by persons who are well informed in such matters that a system of smuggling opium from India is carried on in collusion with the licensed dealers in Ceylon. The opportunities for smuggling opium from India certainly exist. In regulating the supply of opium to vedaralas the possibility that vedaralas may be driven by over-stringent regulations to have recourse to smuggled opium must be kept in view.

9. Opium is generally used by native practitioners in dysentery, diarrhoea, cholera, rheumatism, and diabetes. It is also prescribed for various other ailments. It does not appear to be generally used for malarial or enteric fever, though some witnesses stated that they used it for these diseases.

The unit of weight is the *kalanda*, of which 96 go to the pound. One *kalanda* is therefore equal to one-sixth of an ounce avoirdupois (or 72.9 grains). Smaller quantities are measured by the *mara*, which is the seed of a leguminous tree (*Adenanthera pavonina*, L., Sinhalese *madatiya*). Twenty *mara* seeds (*manchadi*) go to the *kalanda*, so the *mara* seed represents rather less than 4 grains.

10. Opium is administered in combination with other substances in the form of pills, powders, or electuaries. It is never prescribed to be taken unmixed with other substances. In ordinary preparations the proportion of opium to other ingredients appears to be from one in one hundred parts to one in fifty parts. In medicines used for choleraic affections a larger proportion is used, but, even in these cases, the highest proportion used is one in twenty or, according to another witness, one in thirty.

11. It is important to note that the medicines in which opium is an ingredient are prepared in considerable quantities at one time, and that the preparations will keep good for at least six months.

12. The amount of opium annually used by vedaralas is surprisingly small. For example, D. P. Attigalla, who has a wide reputation as an expert in dysentery, a disease for which opium is extensively used, stated that his average consumption of opium was 16 *kalan* (2½ oz.) a month, or 2 lb. per annum. Setting aside the evidence of one or two witnesses, whose testimony was obviously exaggerated, we find leading vedaralas estimating their annual consumption at 12 oz., 1 lb., 4½ oz., 8 oz., 10 oz. to 12 oz., and 4 oz. to 12 oz. We believe that in the vast majority of cases a maximum allowance of 8 oz. a year would satisfy the reasonable requirements of vedaralas, but in the case of vedaralas having an extensive practice in diseases for which opium is specially used a larger amount, which should rarely exceed 1 lb., would be necessary.

13. We have considered a suggestion which at first sight appeared to offer a solution of some of the difficulties which surround the question of supplying opium to vedaralas. It was proposed that no opium should be issued to the vedarala, but that the vedarala, when he required opium for any preparation, should bring the preparation to some appointed place and work up the opium into the preparation under the supervision of some public authority, care being taken that the opium is so mixed as to be inseparable from the preparation. The objection to this proposal is that vedaralas insist upon subjecting opium to an elaborate process of purification, which may require three days. This process is, in our opinion, superfluous, but being prescribed by the books the vedaralas are not likely to dispense with it.

14. We have made some inquiry with regard to the use of opium as a medicine for cattle. Opium is prescribed as a cattle medicine by qualified veterinary surgeons; but no difficulty arises with regard to this, as the Draft Ordinance enables opium to be supplied from dispensaries on the prescription of a qualified veterinary surgeon.

Opium appears to be administered to draught cattle as a cure for rheumatism and as a stimulant; it is also administered in very small doses to young calves. The evidence on this head does not in our opinion warrant any relaxation of the proposed legislation with the object of facilitating the supply of opium for use as a cattle medicine.

15. Having referred to the points on which the evidence recorded by us appears to require special notice, we now proceed to make our recommendations. As stated in paragraph 5, we consider that there would be no difficulty in preparing a register of *bona fide* vedaralas of good repute who are in regular practice. The duty of preparing the register, we consider, should be entrusted to Provincial Boards appointed by the Governor, of which the Government Agents should be the Chairmen. In some cases it may be convenient to have a separate Board for the revenue district, the Chairman of which should be the Assistant Government Agent.

It has been represented to us that uniformity of administration would be better secured by assigning the duty of registering vedaralas to a Central Board. Admitting the force of this contention, we consider that a Provincial Board would on the whole be the better authority.

The requirements of the different districts in the Island vary widely, and we consider that the Government Agent and the other members of the Board, who would be residents of the Province, would be in a better position to keep the registration within proper limits.

16. For the reasons stated in paragraph 7, we fear that it would be inexpedient to attempt to supply vedaralas with opium mixed with any foreign substance, or, indeed, in any other form than that in which it is familiar to them. The quantity required for *bona fide* medical purposes is so moderate that we think that registered vedaralas might safely be supplied with crude opium, provided that the amount supplied is carefully restricted.

17. The summary of our recommendations is as follows:—

- (a) The registration of vedaralas should be entrusted to Provincial Boards consisting of the Government Agents as Chairmen and such other members as the Governor may appoint.
- (b) Only such vedaralas should be registered as in the judgment of the Board have gone through a sufficient course of training, are of good character, and have an extensive and more than merely local practice.
- (c) Similar Boards, if thought desirable, might be appointed in revenue districts with the Assistant Government Agents as Chairmen.
- (d) In order to secure uniformity the Governor should fix the maximum number of registered vedaralas to be allowed for each Province or revenue district. To enable the Governor to do this in the first instance each Government Agent, after the Board has received and considered applications for registration as vedaralas, should submit a report on the applications to the Governor.
- (e) On the registration of a vedarala the maximum amount of opium which he will be entitled to obtain annually, and the depôt from which the opium will be obtainable, should be recorded, no vedarala being entitled to obtain opium from any source except the depôt in connection with which he is registered. Precautions must, of course, be taken that no vedarala shall be registered at more than one depôt.
- (f) With regard to the quantity of opium for which vedaralas should be registered, we think that the maximum should be fixed by the Governor from time to time. We believe that 8 oz. a year would be sufficient, if the Government Agent were empowered to authorize the issue of larger amounts for limited periods in special cases or in seasons when there is an outbreak of any sickness for the treatment of which opium is necessary.

- (g) Opium should be issued only to the registered vedarala in person.
- (h) The vedarala, when registered, should be required to pay a registration fee to cover the cost of administration, and to enter into security to issue opium only for medicinal purposes.
- (i) The Government Agents should have power to cancel registrations subject to an appeal to the Governor.
- (j) The price at which opium will be issued from the Government depôt should be fixed from time to time by the Governor, and opium should be issued only against cash payment.
- (k) Subordinate provisions would be required as regards the issue of certificates of registration, notification of change of residence, the books to be kept, and other matters of detail.

18. In making the foregoing recommendations, we do not suggest that the details of the scheme which we have outlined should be embodied in an enactment. Power should be taken to make rules which would enable the scheme to be carried into effect with such modification as experience may suggest.

19. The foregoing recommendations have been made on the assumption that the distribution of opium will be entrusted to officers of the Medical Department as contemplated by the Draft Ordinance, but we look forward to the time when the supervision of the distribution of opium as well as the administration of the revenue derived from arrack and salt will be in the hands of an Excise Department.

20. In conclusion, the members of the Commission desire to place on record their obligations to Mr. Hillyer, the Secretary to the Commission, for the valuable assistance which he has given them throughout the inquiry.

ALFRED G. LASCELLES,  
*Chairman.*

L. W. BOOTH.

S. C. OBEYESEKERE.

W. G. VAN DORT.

ALBERT J. CHALMERS,  
*Registrar, Medical College.*

H. MARCUS FERNANDO, M.D.

SOLOMON SENEWIRATNE.

Colombo, December 13, 1909.

## INDEX TO ANNEXURES TO REPORT.

NOTES OF PROCEEDINGS :—	PAGE
Preliminary Meeting held on September 27, 1909 .. .. .	1
Meeting held on October 4, 1909 .. .. . (Six Vedaralas and the Importer of provision opium into Ceylon were examined.)	1
Meeting held on October 12, 1909 .. .. . (Witnesses examined: Mr. W. Arthur de Silva, Veterinary Surgeon to the Municipality; Mr. John Eunson, of Messrs. Cargills' Drug Department; Mudaliyar J. A. Wijetunge, Acting Chief Appraiser, Colombo Customs; Mr. K. C. Browning, Government Analyst; five Vedaralas.)	11
Meeting held on October 21, 1909 .. .. . (Witnesses examined: Mr. G. W. Sturgess, Government Veterinary Surgeon; nine Vedaralas.)	27
Meeting held on November 1, 1909 .. .. . (Witnesses examined: Dr. John Attygalle; three Cattle Doctors.)	..
Meeting held on November 8, 1909 .. .. . (Memorandum by Mr. R. M. Thurley; letter from Dr. Attygalle respecting price of opium.)	45
Meeting held on December 13, 1909 .. .. . (Letter from Dr. Attygalle.)	46
-----	
APPENDIX I.—Information furnished by the Chief Headmen through the Government Agents ..	48
APPENDIX II.—Summary of Reports received from the Chief Headmen through the Government Agents .. .. .	67
APPENDIX III.—Correspondence with the Sinhalese Medical Association .. .. .	68
APPENDIX IV.—Correspondence with the Government Veterinary Surgeon .. .. .	69

# OPIUM COMMISSION.

## NOTES OF PROCEEDINGS, &c.

*Preliminary Meeting held on Monday, September 27, 1909.*

*Present* : The Hon. Mr. A. G. LASCELLES, K.C., *Chairman* ; the Hon. Mr. L. W. BOOTH ; the Hon. Mr. S. C. OBEYESEKERE ; the Hon. Mr. W. G. VAN DORT, M.D. ; Dr. A. J. CHALMERS ; Dr. H. MARCUS FERNANDO ; Mr. SOLOMON SENEVIRATNE.

Mr. H. K. HILLYER, *Secretary*.

The Commission assembled at 12 noon.

1. The Secretary read the Commission.
2. It was resolved to request the Government Agents of the various Provinces to obtain the following information from the chief headmen :—
  - (a) The number, as near as possible, of vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in each chief headman's division.
  - (b) The name and residence of one prominent and representative vedarala of good repute and in large practice in each chief headman's division.
  - (c) The opinions of the chief headmen, and the grounds for those opinions, as to the extent to which opium is used by vedaralas as an ingredient in medicines administered (1) to human beings, (2) to cattle.
  - (d) The names and residences of the prominent opium dealers in the various Provinces.
3. The Commission decided to call the following for the next meeting to give evidence as to the use of opium by vedaralas in the course of their practice :—Magalagedara Vedarala, near Veyangoda Railway Station ; Verehera Arachchi, of Salpiti korale ; Simon Cooray, of Panadure, Ayurvedic Practitioner ; Attigala, of Madapatha, in Salpiti korale ; Jalis Vedarala, of Depanama ; Sedarang, of Wolfendahl ; Imbulangwele Vedarala, of Hapitigam korale.
4. It was resolved to ask the Principal Collector of Customs to furnish the Commission with the names of the principal opium importers into Ceylon, and to call them to give evidence at the next meeting.
5. It was decided to request the Inspector-General of Police, Dr. J. Attygalle, and High Priest Sunangala to attend the Commission at some subsequent meeting, if necessary, and to make various inquiries of Mr. K. C. Browning, the Government Analyst.
6. The Commission adjourned to 11.30 A.M. on Monday, October 4, 1909.

*Meeting held on Monday, October 4, 1909.*

*Present* :—The Hon. Mr. A. G. LASCELLES, K.C., *Chairman* ; the Hon. Mr. L. W. BOOTH ; the Hon. Mr. S. C. OBEYESEKERE ; the Hon. Mr. W. G. VAN DORT, M.D. ; Dr. A. J. CHALMERS ; Dr. H. MARCUS FERNANDO ; Mr. SOLOMON SENEVIRATNE.

Mr. H. K. HILLYER, *Secretary*.

The Commission assembled at 11.30 A.M.

Evidence was taken from several vedaralas and the importer of provision opium into Ceylon.

Magalagedara Vedarala (a leading Vedarala) was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : Where do you live ?

WITNESS : At Magalagedara, 2 miles from Veyangoda.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you been in practice for a long time ?

WITNESS : From my eighteenth year.

The CHAIRMAN : Was your father also a vedarala before you ?

WITNESS : My brother was a vedarala, my father was a vedarala, and one of my uncles was a vedarala.

The CHAIRMAN : It is in the family ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you treat all diseases or any particular disease ?

WITNESS : All diseases of the body. I am a physician.

The CHAIRMAN : Not a surgeon. You do not set bones ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice at all ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : What for ?

WITNESS : Rheumatism, fits, seizures, enteric fever, chronic dysentery.

The CHAIRMAN : Would you explain the fits ?

WITNESS : It is all explained in the medical books as phlegm, bile, and wind.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you administer your opium—in pills or as a drink ?

WITNESS : It is mixed up with other medicines and drugs. Some prescriptions contain several kinds of medicines. It is one of the ingredients. I give it in pills. It forms an ingredient in composite pills. I do not give it in the form of decoctions.

The CHAIRMAN : You do not use the fluid form of opium at all ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you make up your own medicines ?

WITNESS : Yes. I buy them from the market and then purify them, clean them, and grind them.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you buy your own opium ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Whom from ?

WITNESS : From a Government licensed place in Colombo.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you buy all your opium from Colombo ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : You buy it in the solid form, you grind it up, and mix it with other drugs. do you ?

WITNESS : Yes. I buy it in a lump or in balls from the licensed place. I take out the poison and purify it. It is reduced into a small piece like a pea seed and mixed up with other medicines.

The CHAIRMAN : What are the names of the people in Colombo from whom you buy opium ?

WITNESS : I do not know the names of the people. I buy from those places. They never ask my name.

The CHAIRMAN : Don't they make any entry in a book when you buy opium ?

WITNESS : They do not ask my name.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you always buy your opium at the same shop ?

WITNESS : Anywhere, not from one particular place.

Mr. BOOTH : From many different shops ?

The CHAIRMAN : From one shop or many shops ?

WITNESS : From a shop near the Belfry, Kayman's Gate.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you buy always from that place, or from any other ?

WITNESS : From two or three places I buy in Colombo, but there is one particular place.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you know the name of the man who has the shop at Kayman's Gate ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Does he sell other things besides opium ?

WITNESS : About five or six months ago I came and bought opium. Only opium is sold ; nothing else.

The CHAIRMAN : Had the man a board up over the place saying he was a licensed seller ?

WITNESS : I do not remember.

The CHAIRMAN : You could find the shop now, could you not ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Where are the other two shops that you have mentioned from which you get opium ?

WITNESS : Those places I cannot say. I came about two or three years ago ; I have not bought there recently. About five or six years ago I bought opium from another place. I cannot say whether they are now in existence or not.

The CHAIRMAN : How much opium do you buy at one time ?

WITNESS : One *kalanda*, equal to the weight of twenty *mara* seeds.

The CHAIRMAN : How much do you buy altogether in a year ?

WITNESS : Three *kalan* a year.

The CHAIRMAN : Sixty *mara* seeds.

Mr. BOOTH : Can you say how much that is in English weight ? Is it an ounce ?

WITNESS : I cannot say that.

The CHAIRMAN : What part of a pound ?

WITNESS : I cannot say.

According to Clough's Sinhalese-English Dictionary one *kalanda* is equal to one-twelfth of an ounce or twenty *mara* seeds avoirdupois weight, but according to the "Glossary of Native, Foreign, and Anglicized Words" one *kalanda* is equal to one-sixth of an ounce avoirdupois weight.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you a large practice as a vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes, I have a large practice.

The CHAIRMAN : As large as your brother ?

WITNESS : The same amount.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You said that within the last six months you have bought once ?

WITNESS : I am not sure about within the last six months.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Before that, within a year ago or eighteen months ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : It is not very often that you require opium for your medicines ?

WITNESS : Seldom.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : And you are one of the native medical practitioners who have a very extensive practice ?

WITNESS : About ten or twelve patients a day sometimes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : And the area in Colombo where you bought this opium is confined to the Pettah ?

WITNESS : Yes, in the Pettah area.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Within an area of 100 fathoms.

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. CHALMERS : Do you consider you could use less opium ?

WITNESS : I go according to the large book, according to the quantity laid down in the text books. I am not partial to it. I take the quantity laid down in the text book. For pills, well-known pills, which everybody uses, the same proportion laid down in the books is taken.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you ever treat animals or cattle ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you know if opium is used as a cattle medicine ?

WITNESS : Yes, I have seen some cattle doctors use opium in such cases.

The CHAIRMAN : Is it pure opium or *titta abin* ?

The witness thought it was ordinary opium, and not *titta abin*, but he was vague about the point.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You are an owner of cattle ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Have you ever administered opium to cattle ?

WITNESS : No.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : For what length of time have you been an owner of cattle ?

WITNESS : From my eighteenth year.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You have never administered *titta abin* to your cattle ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : How many cattle have you ?

WITNESS : About four or five.

Mr. BOOTH : With regard to that shop at Kayman's Gate, they know you there, and there is no necessity to ask for your name ?

WITNESS : They do not know my name.

Mr. BOOTH : You prescribe opium for fever ?

WITNESS : I use it in pills, not for decoctions. If it is in the text book I use it for fever.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you actually use it for fever ?

WITNESS : Yes, in the shape of pills.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever prescribe it pure to a sick person without being mixed with any other drug ?

WITNESS : Never.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you make up your prescriptions ready for use and prescribe them to your patients ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever have occasion on grave emergency to give some medicine to a patient, of which opium is an ingredient, but which is not one of those already prepared ?

WITNESS : Never.

Mr. BOOTH : Then the medicines which you prepare and keep are enough for everything ? The medicines you prepare are given to typhoid fever cases ? They meet all cases ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : You have a different one for each ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : How many different kinds of prescriptions do you want to keep in stock, which contain opium, I mean ?

WITNESS : Two different kinds.

Mr. BOOTH : Don't vedaralas also prescribe opium in a form called *kalka* ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : How many different kinds of *kalka* are there with opium ?

WITNESS : Ten or twelve *kalka*. There are two pills with opium. I do not use *kalka*.

Mr. BOOTH : You do not prescribe it ?

WITNESS : I have not prepared them. I use no opium for *girita*.

Mr. BOOTH : Can you give me a rough idea of the manner in which you make up your prescriptions in which opium is an ingredient ? I do not want you to divulge any of your secrets. What I mean is this, do you put the opium in first or last or in the middle ? Do you make it hot or cold, or how ?

WITNESS : Take, for instance, a prescription with caraway seeds or ginger. In such a case, if I take ginger to the weight of five *maras* seeds, I take an equal quantity of opium, that is five *maras* seeds' weight of opium. I first of all purify the opium, then grind it, and mix it.

Mr. BOOTH : You can grind your other ingredients ready, and put them in with the opium afterwards.

WITNESS : We put all the other ingredients in with the opium.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you first of all purify the opium and keep it in the sun ? Will these pills, of which opium is a part, keep for a long time ?

WITNESS : About six months they can be kept.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever advise your patients to smoke opium ?

WITNESS : Never.

The CHAIRMAN : Do they smoke opium in your district at all ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Do people ever ask you for opium pills ?

WITNESS : They never ask. Of course, they come with sick ailments, and then we prescribe one of the medicines in which opium is an ingredient.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : An equal quantity of opium is put to each of the other ingredients ?

WITNESS : Yes. Each consists of the weight of five *mara* seeds.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : And within the past eighteen months you only required to make two kinds of pills for your purposes ?

WITNESS : Only two kinds of pills.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Now, those two kinds of pills, how many times did you prepare them within the last eighteen months ?

WITNESS : Once only. I prepare once a year or twice a year—like that.

Dr. FERNANDO : How many pills, when all those ingredients are mixed together, can you make at one time ?

WITNESS : 100 or 200 at once, and I keep them in stock.

Dr. FERNANDO : Do you treat malarial fever with opium ?

WITNESS : No.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : What is the size of each of the pills ?

WITNESS : Not larger than the size of a pepper seed.

The CHAIRMAN : In the opium you use are you obliged to have it pure, or would it do if it were mixed with some other drug ?

WITNESS : We take it from the shop and purify it ourselves. I only use pure opium.

Verahera Arachchi (a leading Vedarala) of Salpiti korale was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : Verahera. I am a Vidane Arachchi.

The CHAIRMAN : How far do you live from Colombo ?

WITNESS : Ten miles.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you been in practice as a vedarala for long ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you a large practice ?

WITNESS : Yes, an extensive practice.

The CHAIRMAN : As a physician or a surgeon ?

WITNESS : As a physician, not a surgeon.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium at all in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : For what ailments ?

WITNESS : Dysentery, chronic diarrhoea, worm diseases, rheumatism, typhoid fever, and in cases of confinement.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it for malarial fever ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you administer the opium ?

WITNESS : According to the text book ; but sometimes less and sometimes more.

The CHAIRMAN : In what form, pills, or powders, or how ?

WITNESS : Pills, powders, and electuaries.

The CHAIRMAN : Whom do you buy your opium from ?

WITNESS : I do not go and buy it. I sometimes tell the patient to bring it. If I want to, I tell the patient to come to me to get it from me. If I want it I send some one to get it.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you keep any pills or medicines containing opium in stock ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you obtain that opium ?

WITNESS : I send a man.

The CHAIRMAN : Where do you get it from ?

WITNESS : From Colombo, Panadure, Moratuwa, Piliandala ?

The CHAIRMAN : Why do you get your opium from all those places, sometimes from one place and sometimes from another ?

WITNESS : According to convenience. (The interpreter thought the witness meant from one place, and that for a powder he got a patient to obtain the opium for him.)

The CHAIRMAN : How do you get it for pills ?

WITNESS : In the case of pills, I get the opium myself.

The CHAIRMAN : For the pills you have in stock ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Where do you get the opium from for the pills ?

WITNESS : I send some one to get the opium.

The CHAIRMAN : From Colombo, or where ?

WITNESS : Sometimes from Colombo, and sometimes from Piliandala, which is within my jurisdiction as an Arachchi.

The CHAIRMAN : How much opium do you use in a year ?

WITNESS : Fifty *kalan* a year.

The CHAIRMAN : Is that for pills alone ?

WITNESS : For all—pills, powders, and everything.

The CHAIRMAN : Can you give the details at all of the opium that you have bought within the last six months ?

WITNESS : I cannot give the details.

The CHAIRMAN : How long is it since you bought any opium ?

WITNESS : About one month and fifteen days ago.

The CHAIRMAN : How much did you buy then ?

WITNESS : Only one *kalanda*.

Mr. BOOTH : The time before that, how much ?

WITNESS : I cannot say.



Mr. BOOTH : How much do you get at a time ?

WITNESS : I do not know. I do not remember.

Dr. FERNANDO : Do you take the whole of one *kalanda* for one patient ?

WITNESS : For one patient sometimes.

Dr. FERNANDO : How long does the patient take that ?

WITNESS : About one month.

The CHAIRMAN : How much opium do you use in a month ?

WITNESS : About six or seven *kalan*. In some medicines twelve *kalan* are prescribed in the medical books.

The CHAIRMAN : What for ?

WITNESS : For rheumatism.

Dr. FERNANDO : In pills ?

WITNESS : No, powders.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use powders ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you make up your pills ?

WITNESS : They are prepared by hand.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you to heat the substance ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : And you put the opium in first or last ?

WITNESS : After everything has been powdered, the opium is ground and mixed.

The CHAIRMAN : And you make a number of pills at the same time ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : You keep a stock ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : How many sorts of pills do you sell that contain opium ?

WITNESS : About four or five kinds.

The CHAIRMAN : And how many sorts of powders that have opium in them ?

WITNESS : About seven or eight kinds.

The CHAIRMAN : How many kinds of electuaries ?

WITNESS : About two or three kinds.

The CHAIRMAN : And do they keep for long when made ?

WITNESS : Sometimes three months, sometimes six months. We cannot keep them long.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you ever give opium pure ?

WITNESS : Never.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever advise patients to smoke opium ?

WITNESS : Never.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do you know the last witness ?

WITNESS : I do not know him.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : He is a man of very extensive practice ?

WITNESS : I do not know.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You said that in twelve months you require fifty *kalan*.

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : That is the whole quantity supplied to you, including that brought to you by others and the quantity you have been furnishing yourself with ?

WITNESS : Altogether.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : The people who have been coming to you are from different parts of the Island ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : From almost all the Provinces ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : And can you say from what places they have purchased their supplies of opium ?

WITNESS : I cannot say.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You cannot say whether any opium is purchased in your neighbourhood or within your jurisdiction ?

WITNESS : I cannot say.

Dr. VAN DORT : What is the daily average number of patients that come to you, and the number who require opium ?

WITNESS : The daily average that come to me is ten or twelve. About one-third of those who come to me require opium in their prescriptions.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You have told us that you have about four kinds of pills, seven or eight kinds of *churna*, and two or three kinds of electuaries. Is that the quantity you have been preparing within the last twelve months, or can you give them to us now if we send some one ?

WITNESS : I have them in my house in stock.

Dr. CHALMERS : Do you prefer any other drug to opium in relieving pain ?

WITNESS : There are medicines without opium to relieve pain.

Dr. CHALMERS : Which do you generally use ? Do you use a drug with opium to relieve pain or some other medicine ?

WITNESS : If the other medicines do not relieve the pain, I use a drug with opium. I try other things first.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Are you an owner of cattle ?

WITNESS : My cattle are with others. I have some, and my brother has some ; my cattle are with him.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do you use opium in treating those cattle ?

WITNESS : I never do.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Has anybody else treated them with opium ?

WITNESS : I cannot say.

**D. P. Attigala** (a leading Vedarala) of Madapata in Salpiti korale was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : You are a vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you a large practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : What kind of diseases do you treat ?

WITNESS : Mostly dysentery.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you a reputation as a doctor in dysentery ?

WITNESS : Yes. I have the reputation of being a clever doctor.

The CHAIRMAN : It is your special subject ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Were your father and grandfather vedaralas ?

WITNESS : My grandfather was.

The CHAIRMAN : You have hereditary skill ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use any opium in the treatment of dysentery ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Extensively ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : I do not want to ask you any of your secrets, but in what form do you administer opium ?

WITNESS : It is mixed with other things, and used in pills and electuaries.

The CHAIRMAN : How much do you use in a year ?

WITNESS : In a month sixteen *kalan*, some months more.

Mr. BOOTH : What is the average.

WITNESS : Sixteen a month is the average ; some months less.

The CHAIRMAN : Where do you buy your opium ?

WITNESS : Moratuwa, Piliandala, and Colombo.

The CHAIRMAN : Not at one particular place ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you buy it yourself or do your patients buy it ?

WITNESS : Sometimes they bring it, sometimes I buy.

The CHAIRMAN : You have your pills in stock, I suppose ? A great many of them ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : And do you make them up yourself ?

WITNESS : Yes. I have brought a packet of pills.

The witness then showed the Commission several pills he had brought.

Dr. FERNANDO : How many do you use for a dose ?

WITNESS : Five of the smaller ones for a dose ; three of the larger. I only use these pills when there is fever in dysentery cases.

The CHAIRMAN : Is there opium in all these things ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you get your other ingredients ready, and put the opium in last ?

WITNESS : I mix them altogether at the same time.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you do it under heat or cold ?

WITNESS : When it is cold.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You said you get about sixteen *kalan* a month ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You are a man in extensive practice ? You have many patients in Colombo ?

WITNESS : Yes. I come to Colombo ten or fifteen times a month.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You can very easily get the opium from Colombo ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you treat any other disease besides dysentery ?

WITNESS : Only in the villages in my neighbourhood. Not as a rule.

Mr. BOOTH : That quantity you have monthly covers the quantity of opium used ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : What shop do you get it from in Colombo ?

WITNESS : I get it from the Pettah.

Mr. BOOTH : From a licensed shop ?

WITNESS : Yes.

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**Morawaka Jalis Vedarala** of Depanama, 13 miles from Colombo, was examined through an interpreter. He stated that he was more of a surgeon than a physician ; he was a bone-setter. He did not use any opium in his practice. He was a man in extensive practice.

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**Jotiratna Sedris Rajasundara** (or Sedarang), Veda-Arachehi, a leading Vedarala of Smallpass, Colombo, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : You are a vedarala in large practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you treat any special classes of disease ? You are not a surgeon ?

WITNESS : Not surgical cases.

The CHAIRMAN : You are a physician ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

- The CHAIRMAN : Largely ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, in small quantities in medicines.  
 The CHAIRMAN : For what ailments ?  
 WITNESS : Typhoid fever, dysentery, chronic diarrhoea, acute diarrhoea, indigestion, tetanus (lockjaw), cough, asthma, consumption, diabetes. In such cases I take opium for my medicines.  
 The CHAIRMAN : In what form do you administer the opium ? In pills ?  
 WITNESS : Pills, powders, electuaries, as a syrup (rubbed at the root of the tongue).  
 The CHAIRMAN : Where do you get your opium from ?  
 WITNESS : From licensed shops.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Where in Colombo ? In the Pettah ?  
 WITNESS : Mostly.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you buy your opium always in lumps, or do you ever buy the tincture of opium from a chemist ?  
 WITNESS : When I am unable to procure it from the licensed shops, I go to the Apothecaries' Company's shop.  
 The CHAIRMAN : In what form do you get it from the Apothecaries' Company ?  
 WITNESS : Spirit of opium—tincture, liquid.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Which do you prefer, the crude opium or the tincture ?  
 WITNESS : It is very seldom I take the tincture of opium. Otherwise I get the opium in the crude form.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How much opium do you use in a year ?  
 WITNESS : Seventy *kalan* a year. Sometimes more, sometimes less. (The witness thought that seventy *kalan* was equal to about six ounces avoirdupois weight.)  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Is the tincture more costly than the other.  
 WITNESS : The tincture is cheaper—one shilling a *kalandu*.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Will one answer the same purpose as the other ?  
 WITNESS : I cannot say. It is immaterial in an ointment ; tincture can be used then.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : If you cannot get crude opium, you will use the tincture ? Does it answer as a substitute ?  
 WITNESS : No, it has not the same properties.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Then the liquid is not so good ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You have not properly tested the question ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, I have tested it. But I act according to the statements of the teachers.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : It is merely a supposition of yours when you say the tincture is not so effectual as the other opium ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you grind up the other ingredients and mix the opium with them ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Whether a pill or *kalke*, or whatever it is ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : These medicines when made up keep for some time ?  
 WITNESS : We can keep them for three or four months.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever prescribe opium pure ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 Mr. BOOTH : You say you treat asthma ?  
 WITNESS : I use the opium mixed with some other ingredients.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever advise patients to smoke opium for asthma or any other disease ?  
 WITNESS : It is always mixed with something.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do you ever prescribe the smoking of opium in any form for asthma ?  
 WITNESS : Never.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Do you know any habitual opium eaters in your practice ?  
 WITNESS : Only very old people use it.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : You have never had to treat cases ?  
 WITNESS : Yes. I have had occasion to treat patients—very old people who were taking opium.  
 Dr. VAN DORT : In order to overcome the habit ? Is that it ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, to counteract it.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : For that cure you require opium ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Do you consider opium to be the best remedy for relieving pain ? Do you use it usually or only after other remedies have failed ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you know how many *kalan* go to an ounce ?  
 WITNESS : No. Twelve *kalan* make one *palam*.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Are these old Sinhalese measures or what ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : I suppose all your prescriptions are from your old books ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : You do not change them ?  
 WITNESS : No.

D. J. Kulasekara Imbulangwele Vedarala (a leading Vedarala), of Hapitigam korale, was examined through an Interpreter.

- The CHAIRMAN : Where do you live ?  
 WITNESS : Thirty-two miles from Colombo.  
 The CHAIRMAN : You are a vedarala ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.

- The CHAIRMAN : For all diseases or for any particular disease.  
 WITNESS : I am a physician.
- The CHAIRMAN : In large practice ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- The CHAIRMAN : To a large extent ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, I use it largely.
- The CHAIRMAN : For what illnesses ?  
 WITNESS : Dysentery, worm diseases, typhoid fever, rheumatism (acute and chronic), chronic diarrhoea, anæmia, jaundice, windy complaints.
- The CHAIRMAN : Where do you get your opium from ?  
 WITNESS : From places where we can buy.
- The CHAIRMAN : In Colombo ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, from Colombo.
- The CHAIRMAN : Anywhere else ?  
 WITNESS : I generally get it in Colombo.
- The CHAIRMAN : Whom from ?  
 WITNESS : From a place in Kayman's Gate.
- The CHAIRMAN : A licensed shop ?  
 WITNESS : I cannot say.
- Mr. BOOTH : Is there a board up over the shop ?  
 WITNESS : I have not seen it.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Does the man take down your name ?  
 WITNESS : He did take down my name.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Always ?  
 WITNESS : Not always.
- Mr. BOOTH : He knows you now ?  
 WITNESS : I cannot say.
- The CHAIRMAN : When were you last in the shop ?  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : When did you last buy ?  
 WITNESS : Less than two weeks ago.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : How often do you buy a year ?  
 WITNESS : Sometimes once a month or twice or three times a month.
- The CHAIRMAN : How much do you consume throughout a whole year ?  
 WITNESS : About hundred *kalan* in a year.
- The Commission understood that one hundred *kalan* were equivalent to about half a pound.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Almost all of that quantity you get from Colombo ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : All at the same place, Kayman's Gate ?  
 WITNESS : The same place.
- The CHAIRMAN : You always have it in a solid form ? You do not buy the tincture of opium from the Apothecaries' Company, do you ?  
 WITNESS : We buy a kind of *kiri abin*.
- The CHAIRMAN : Not a liquid form ?  
 WITNESS : No.
- The CHAIRMAN : You do not know the use of the tincture ?  
 WITNESS : No.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : In fact, its existence is unknown to you  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do you grind up all the different ingredients and then mix opium with them ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, sometimes at the same time, sometimes afterwards.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever prescribe opium pure without its being mixed with anything else ?  
 WITNESS : No, never.
- Mr. BOOTH : Have you ever advised your patients to smoke opium ?  
 WITNESS : Never.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Are you possessed of a large number of cattle ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Have you ever prescribed opium in cases of their illness ?  
 WITNESS : I do not treat them. I get others to treat them, and they use medicines with opium. It is very seldom that opium medicines are used for cattle. It is not *titta abin* that is used.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Is it very frequently that medicines with opium are given to cattle, or very rarely ?  
 WITNESS : Rarely.
- The CHAIRMAN : What is the dose for a bull ? How much is used ?  
 WITNESS : It is only given to a small one, not big ones.
- The CHAIRMAN : And cows. The dose for a cow or a bull—is it a small or a large one ?  
 WITNESS : A very small quantity.
- The CHAIRMAN : Are these medicines used in the case of a milk calf ? Is it only in the case of milk calves that they are used ?  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Only when seven days old ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, under a month old. It is only in very few cases, and in very small quantities, that it is used in the case of milk calves.
- Mr. BOOTH : To go back to your own medicines, do they keep good for a long time ?  
 WITNESS : I can keep them for eight or ten months ; but they are not really kept so long because they are used.

**N. V. N. Ramanathan Chetty of 73, Sea street, Colombo, Importer of Provision Opium into Ceylon was then examined through an Interpreter.**

The CHAIRMAN : Where do you live ?

WITNESS : In Sea street.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you have an opium license ?

WITNESS : I have an opium license.

The CHAIRMAN : And your shop is in Sea street ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you a wholesale license or retail license ?

WITNESS : A license for both.

The CHAIRMAN : How much opium do you sell in a year ?

The witness stated that his total sale last year was approximately 16,389 lb. 14 ounces, including both wholesale and retail business. He obtained last year—

From Calcutta .. .. .	16,610 lb. of opium
From one person, as a balance of the previous year ..	112 ..
From another person, as a balance of the previous year ..	260 ..
Total ..	16,982 ..

His balance in hand (i.e., stock in Colombo) on December 31, 1908, was 1,047½ lb.

The CHAIRMAN : Are you the only importer in Colombo ?

WITNESS : Last year and this year I alone imported into Ceylon.

The CHAIRMAN : The only one in Ceylon ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : In Galle is there not another ?

WITNESS : There are licensees in Galle, but they get their stock from me.

The CHAIRMAN : The figure you have given—16,610 lb.—represents all the opium imported into the Island ?

WITNESS : That represents the total stock brought down last year. There was a balance from the previous year.

The CHAIRMAN : Then there are people like Cargills who import their medicines. You do not include them ?

WITNESS : No.

Dr. CHALMERS : And the medicines imported for the Government. It does not include them ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you had any trouble with any smuggling ? Is opium imported illegally at all into Ceylon ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : You think you import all the opium that finds its way into the Island, besides Cargills, the Colombo Apothecaries' Company, and such places, and that there are no people who bring it over illegally ?

WITNESS : I am the importer this year, and I was last year ; and the opium passed through my hands.

Dr. CHALMERS : Is any landed from India in little boats ?

WITNESS : I am not aware of any.

The CHAIRMAN : Or in the clothes of passengers or coolies ?

WITNESS : I am not aware of any.

Mr. BOOTH : Are you on the look-out to prevent that sort of thing ?

WITNESS : Yes, I am. I always make inquiries, but I have not succeeded in finding that any is smuggled.

Mr. BOOTH : It is not passed through the Customs in bags of rice ?

WITNESS : I do not think so.

The CHAIRMAN : It is easily hidden—smuggled—is it not ?

WITNESS : Yes, it is possible.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you any reason to think that there is a little brought in quietly ?

WITNESS : As far as I have made inquiries I am not aware of any.

Mr. BOOTH : It is to your interest to stop it ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : The duty has lately been doubled ? It is Rs. 4 a lb. ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Has that not brought about any smuggling ?

WITNESS : I am not aware of any.

Dr. CHALMERS : Has your own price gone up ?

WITNESS : Yes, after the duty was raised, I raised my price.

The CHAIRMAN : To whom do you sell your opium mostly ? Do you sell it wholesale ?

WITNESS : Licensees come from Kurunegala, Kandy, Galle, and Badulla, and all other places in Ceylon ; and other retail licensees come and buy from me.

The CHAIRMAN : Whom do you retail it to chiefly ?

WITNESS : All races ; to all Sinhalese, Tamils, Moormen.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you retail any to the vedaralas ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The Chairman : About how much ?

WITNESS : At a time I sell 180 grains.

The CHAIRMAN : That is all you are allowed to sell ?

WITNESS : Yes. The vedaralas will come for that when they want it.

The CHAIRMAN : On the whole, do you sell a large amount to vedaralas ?

WITNESS : Yes, a large quantity.

- The CHAIRMAN : Are you able to give us any idea of the total amount in a year sold to vedaralas ?  
 WITNESS : I cannot say. I do not keep an account.
- The CHAIRMAN : Do you know how many grains there are in a *kalanchu* ?  
 WITNESS : About 90 grains. I do not sell by *kalanchu* ; I sell by grains.
- The CHAIRMAN : Then a vedarala would be able to buy two *kalanchus* at one time ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do you enter the names of the purchasers of opium in your books ?  
 WITNESS : Those who buy 4 drachms and 5 drachms and over I put down. Smaller quantities I do not put down.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do you describe vedarala purchasers as such in that book ?  
 WITNESS : No, only the name.
- The CHAIRMAN : Is the opium you import all of the same kind ?  
 WITNESS : Two kinds : one is Patna, and the other is Benares.
- The CHAIRMAN : Do you import any Malwa opium ?  
 WITNESS : No.
- The CHAIRMAN : Which is the ball opium—in round balls ?  
 WITNESS : It is all ball. Both Patna and Benares are in the same form.
- The CHAIRMAN : Imported in balls of the same size ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- The CHAIRMAN : What is the weight of the balls ?  
 WITNESS : 2½ pounds.
- Dr. FERNANDO : With the shell ?  
 WITNESS : That is the weight of the opium alone.
- Dr. FERNANDO : What is the weight of the whole thing ?  
 WITNESS : About 4 pounds.
- Dr. FERNANDO : 4 pounds 3 ounces ?  
 WITNESS : About 4 pounds.
- Dr. FERNANDO : Is it the Government—Bengal—opium from Calcutta ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Dr. FERNANDO : The Patna opium—is that Government opium ?  
 WITNESS : Yes. Both are Government opium.
- The CHAIRMAN : What is the difference between the two sorts of opium ?  
 WITNESS : The Patna is more solid. The other is more liquid—semi-solid.
- The CHAIRMAN : In what form do you sell this opium ? In the ball ?  
 WITNESS : I pound them in a jar, and then get them to a paste, and sell them. I have small jars in which I pound these things.
- The CHAIRMAN : Do you know if opium is used as a cattle medicine in Ceylon ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, for cattle.
- The CHAIRMAN : Do you sell it to people as a cattle medicine ?  
 WITNESS : I know it is used for cattle, but I do not sell it for that purpose.
- The CHAIRMAN : You have only heard of it. You have only heard from hearsay that it is used for cattle ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- The CHAIRMAN : Is there any difference in the quality of the two sorts of opium ?  
 WITNESS : No.
- It was further elicited from the witness that both kinds of opium fetched the same price in Calcutta, but he did not know for certain whether there was any difference between the two kinds, beyond the fact that one kind was more liquid.
- Dr. FERNANDO : How do you get the opium out of the shell ?  
 WITNESS : I remove the opium inside. I cut the shell, remove the opium, and put it in small earthenware jars.
- Dr. FERNANDO : What happens to the opium which sticks in the leaf and the shell.  
 WITNESS : The quantity which sticks in the leaves—I take the leaves out and put them in water ; and then there is only one leaf left where the opium sticks in. I remove the last of the leaves, and put that in water. I wash the leaves out, remove them, and then boil the remaining stuff to the consistence of opium again.
- Dr. CHALMERS : Is that the cheaper form in drugs ? How do you sell it ? Do you keep that separate, or mix it up with the other ? Are you selling it like the other opium at the same price, or mixed up with the other ?  
 WITNESS : It is kept separate.
- Dr. FERNANDO : And the price ?  
 WITNESS : It is sold at the same price.
- Mr. BOOTH : Is that just as good as the other ? Is it as good out of the leaf ?  
 WITNESS : It is about the same quality.
- Mr. BOOTH : Don't you also boil the shell ?  
 WITNESS : No, I do not boil the shell. I do not boil the whole thing. I boil only the inner layer of the shell—the leaf. I take the innermost layer, boil it, remove the leaf, and re-set it into opium again.
- Dr. FERNANDO : Is this more liquid form of opium known by a different name in Colombo ?  
 WITNESS : The same name.
- Dr. FERNANDO : Is there a kind called *kiri abin* ?  
 WITNESS : I am not aware.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : How did that expression come into use ?  
 WITNESS : I do not know.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You have never heard of the word ?  
 WITNESS : No.
- Dr. FERNANDO : Is there any other form in which your opium is sold—retail ?  
 WITNESS : No.

Dr. FERNANDO : Only the crude opium, and nothing else ?

WITNESS : No other form.

Dr. CHALMERS : Do you bring in any European form of opium, besides opium or preparations of opium from India ?

WITNESS : I do not. There is a kind called white opium. It is a white kind, available at the Apothecaries' Company.

Dr. FERNANDO : In what form do people generally smoke opium in Ceylon ?

WITNESS : I have not seen it in Ceylon, but I have seen it in Singapore.

Dr. CHALMERS : Opium has to be specially prepared to be smoked, is that not so ?

WITNESS : In Singapore they put opium on a pipe, and then light it on a lamp, and then smoke.

Dr. CHALMERS : But is not the opium specially prepared ?

WITNESS : It is gummy, and it sticks on the pipe.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : What quantities do you sell to wholesale dealers and retail dealers per annum respectively.

The witness could not answer the question, and it was decided to obtain the information from him later.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Have you no fear that there will be a reduction in the consumption of opium ?

WITNESS : No. I expect a larger consumption this year than last year.

On the question being again put to the witness, he said there would be a decrease in the consumption this year.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Did you pay more this year for your rent than last year ?

WITNESS : I paid the same amount as last year.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Did you buy it, if you are the licensee ?

WITNESS : Yes, I paid the same amount as last year.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : Are you the Municipal renter for this year as well as the licensee for the importation of opium ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. FERNANDO : Last year ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Have you not paid more for 1909 than 1908 ?

WITNESS : No.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Are you sure of that ?

WITNESS : Yes, I am quite sure.

The witness then stated that Sinnatamby was his partner. He added that he had only got the business on commission from Sinniah when he was living. Sinniah was in debt to him, and he took the whole thing into his hands afterwards. In further explanation he stated that he purchased "this thing" (the business) in the usual way; Sinniah had owed him money, but he did not take over the business in settlement of Sinniah's debt to him, but as a business transaction; he possessed writs against the property of Sinniah in respect of the debt.

1. The Commission then resolved to call Mr. W. Arthur de Silva, M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Surgeon to the Municipality, to give evidence as to the use of opium in the treatment of diseases amongst cattle; Mr. K. C. Browning, Government Analyst, to inform the Commission as to the manner in which the presence of opium would be detected in *titta abin* or other substances; the Manager of Cargill's Medical Hall to give evidence as to the importation, use, and consumption of opium in Ceylon; Mr. C. Suntheram, Chief Appraiser, Colombo Customs, and Mudaliyar J. A. Wijetunge of the Colombo Customs to give evidence with regard to the importation of opium and the possibility of smuggling; a leading vedarala from Alutkuru Korale North; and two leading vedaralas from each of the Central and Northern Provinces.

2. The Commission adjourned to 11.30 A.M. on Tuesday, October 12, 1909.

### *Meeting held on Tuesday, October 12, 1909.*

*Present* : The Hon. Mr. A. G. LASCELLES, K.C., *Chairman*; the Hon. Mr. L. W. BOOTH; the Hon. Mr. S. C. OBEYESEKERE; the Hon. Mr. W. G. VAN DORT, M.D.; Dr. A. J. CHALMERS; Dr. H. MARCUS FERNANDO; Mr. SOLOMON SENEVIRATNE.

Mr. H. K. HILLYER, *Secretary*.

The Commission resumed its proceedings at 11.30 A.M.

Mr. W. Arthur de Silva, G.B.V.C., Veterinary Surgeon to the Municipality, was examined with regard to the use of opium in the treatment of diseases amongst cattle.

The CHAIRMAN : You are the Veterinary Surgeon to the Municipality of Colombo, Mr. de Silva ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Is opium largely used as a medicine for cattle ?

WITNESS : No, it is not largely used.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it in your own practice ?

WITNESS : Very sparingly, because opium is a very uncertain drug. The dose is from 2 to 4 drachms of crude opium, which is about half an ounce. That is equal to about 7 ounces of laudanum. I read from records of experiments that even an ounce of opium did not affect cattle; except for a slight dryness of the tongue, and a little slower pulse, it did not affect them in any way as a poison. It is an uncertain drug, and therefore very little used in cattle practice.

The CHAIRMAN : For what ailments is it used ?

WITNESS : Well, it would perhaps be used in the case of animals suffering from pain due to a wound, or colic, or something like that. But for cattle I do not prescribe it.

The CHAIRMAN : You do not use it at all yourself ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you know if it is used by the native medical practitioner, the ordinary vedarala ?

WITNESS : I have been reading most of the Sinhalese books on the subject very carefully, and opium is not prescribed in any of the works I have seen.

The CHAIRMAN : Supposing there is a demand for opium as a cattle medicine, would there be any objection to having it mixed with asafetida or something of that sort, so as to make it unfit for human consumption ?

WITNESS : Well, I have not given any thought to that.

The CHAIRMAN : A drug that would make it unpalatable.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Without robbing it of its properties.

WITNESS : There could be no objection to that, but in cattle practice I have not seen anything in the Sinhalese books prescribing opium.

The CHAIRMAN : I have here a memorial from a number of vedaralas in Colombo, and they say it is largely used in the cure of diseases amongst cattle.

WITNESS : I think they must be meaning *titta abin*. Opium is seldom used.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : That is what they are referring to, I think.

WITNESS : That is used externally. It is in very great demand for external use. It is said to be very effective.

Mr. BOOTH : Is *titta abin* a kind of opium ?

WITNESS : No. It is aloes.

Dr. FERNANDO : It has nothing to do with opium.

WITNESS : They make it from ordinary aloes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : *Komarika*.

You were in charge of the Dairy for a long time, and then you had no occasion to use opium ?

WITNESS : I had no occasion to use it. I do not think any Sinhalese vedarala would say he is using it, if he were asked to produce his books.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : For what length of time were you in charge of the Dairy ?

WITNESS : I was in charge of work connected with dairies and cattle practically twelve years, more or less. If necessary, I can give you other information. As I said before, I have been reading most of the books in Ceylon on the subject. One fact I have found out is that in the books used in the teaching of medicine (Sanskrit), opium is never mentioned as a drug. There is a second class of books known as prescription books, which are of recent origin. I can give you the names of these books. They are collections of prescriptions derived from both Southern India and from Arabic sources ; and there, too, they never prescribe opium in the ordinary course of treatment. They prepare different kinds of pills and electuaries which are used in emergencies, something like hypodermic injections in English practice. They make these pills with very active drugs. I know of a book giving the prescriptions known for special pills ; I looked up carefully a hundred of these. Out of that 100 there are 14 where opium is used, and it is only in very small quantities. About a drachm is used in the preparation of these pills.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You are speaking of human ailments ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Is that a drachm for the whole mass ?

WITNESS : Yes, the whole mass.

The CHAIRMAN : Not each pill.

WITNESS : A very small amount is used. A mass will often make 1,000 pills, and those will last for a year or more.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Some vedaralas who have been before us speak of half a pound or a pound.

WITNESS : If they take half a pound of opium they will make perhaps 10 pounds of pills. One man will not be able to use all that in a hundred years. They can be asked to produce the books, because all of them use the books. I think there are actually fourteen pills out of a hundred where opium is prescribed as an ingredient ; and there are a certain number where hemp and opium together are prescribed.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You think there is no difficulty for them to procure opium for their purposes from the existing licensed shops ?

WITNESS : Yes, they can easily do so. If they take a drachm of opium they will prepare about a quarter pound of pill mass.

The CHAIRMAN : What do you think the proportion of opium is to the other ingredients ?

WITNESS : 1 to 40. In some pills it is less. If 40 drachms of the other ingredients are prepared, you will want generally a drachm of opium.

Dr. VAN DORT : What is the dose ?

WITNESS : The pill is about a grain or a little more.

Dr. FERNANDO : Say, one-fortieth of a grain of opium.

WITNESS : What struck me was that if the vedaralas really want opium they can open a book for the pills. They won't prepare them every day. They have to keep a stock prepared. Say there are 14 kinds of pills with opium as an ingredient ; in a month they might prepare 1 or 2 or 6. They can get the opium necessary for their pills and keep an account of the use of the pills. They can register them as an ordinary chemist does in the use of drugs. Special pills are not used in ordinary treatment, so there will be no difficulty whatever.

The CHAIRMAN : That is not according to the evidence given to us so far.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : It is used in bowel complaints.

WITNESS : Pills and electuaries are only used as a part of special treatment, and not as a part of ordinary treatment. They do not give it to a man except when he is very seriously ill.

The CHAIRMAN : Is this from your own experience or from books ?

WITNESS : Books and also from my own experience. The information about the number of pills is derived from the books.

Dr. FERNANDO : You say you would have to use 4 drachms for cattle. It becomes a very costly drug, then ?

WITNESS : A very costly drug. That will come to about 7 ounces of laudanum.



Dr. FERNANDO : The selling price of opium lately has been about Rs. 40 a pound. That is Re. 1·25—the value of opium for one dose taken internally for a head of cattle.

WITNESS : Finlay Dun, the authority on veterinary drugs, says that opium is a very uncertain drug. They have been giving animals up to one ounce of opium ; and even then there has been no marked symptoms of poisoning observed.

The CHAIRMAN : It is used in horse medicines a good deal.

WITNESS : Yes, in the form of laudanum.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you think there is any objection to vedaralas being required to add the opium to their medicines in the presence of an official ?

WITNESS : There will be a lot of difficulty, I think, Sir, if they have to wait for the convenience of an official, who will not run up at any time as they want, and they will consider it a grievance.

Mr. BOOTH : That is not quite the idea. The idea is to have a depôt at each Kachcheri, a depôt enclosed by a fence to prevent any intrusion from outside. The vedaralas would then bring in their drugs already prepared. There would be a Government official in charge of the depôt. The vedarala would personally bring his drugs to be weighed on entering, and ask for a certain quantity of opium, as much as he says he wants. He will mix it on the spot, and take it away mixed. All he has to do is to satisfy the official that he takes out of the place the same amount of stuff he brought in, plus the weight of opium he bought in the depôt.

WITNESS : I do not think there is any harm in it, but the vedarala may object to it.

Mr. BOOTH : Then we can make it a penal offence to have any unmixed opium in his possession.

WITNESS : In preparing their drugs, they usually start the work at a lucky hour.

Mr. BOOTH : Well, they can come up at the lucky hour. We have asked them whether there is any difficulty about the mixing of the drugs, and they said " No, they could put in the opium afterwards."

WITNESS : If they think there is no objection, then, of course, it is all right.

Mr. BOOTH : Of course they did not know what the question was put to them for. But that was their unequivocal answer. Moreover, they say they do not make them frequently—they only make them once in three months or so. We can make the thing elastic. With regard to certain vedaralas who are above suspicion, they might be exempted from these rules on security. They might procure it themselves, and their drugs would be liable to inspection and to analysis.

WITNESS : What about divulging their secrets ?

Mr. BOOTH : We should not want to know anything about them. It would not necessitate giving their secrets away.

The CHAIRMAN : All that they would have to do would be to add the opium to the mass that would have been prepared.

Mr. BOOTH : They need not divide it on the spot, but divide it at leisure.

WITNESS : Unless you keep a list of the ordinary prescriptions, it is quite possible for a man to come with an ordinary mass, and mix it up with opium, and sell it as a pill on his own account. He could give it some name, and call it a new pill.

The CHAIRMAN : Even if he does, it would do no harm with a sufficiently small amount.

Dr. FERNANDO : Of course the amount of opium will have to be fixed.

Mr. BOOTH : Before he goes out of the depôt he has got to mix up with the half pound of stuff brought in the half an ounce of opium he took. We would charge him a registration fee sufficient to cover the cost of the scheme. I should think one depôt in each Province would be enough.

WITNESS : They would not require very much. I do not think it would be an inconvenience.

The CHAIRMAN : All the vedaralas whom we have examined said that they had to purify the opium for medicines. Do you know how they purify the opium ?

WITNESS : The opium which they have bought ? I do not know just now, but I can refer to it. If they get crude opium, that is purified. But if they get the opium from Malwa (*kiri abin*), then they need not purify it at all.

Mr. BOOTH : We can supply the pure opium.

Dr. FERNANDO : Do you know how many *kalanchus* there are in a pound ?

WITNESS : I think there are 96. 20 seeds make a *kalanchu*.

The CHAIRMAN (showing certain seeds to the witness) : Do you know the small seed ?

WITNESS : The small seed is not used.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : Do the chemists or do the vedaralas procure opium from the importer ?

WITNESS : I know some when they want to prepare a special drug get the opium by going to the opium importer.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : From the chemists ?

WITNESS : They get it from the ordinary bazaar, the opium sellers.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : Do the chemists sell crude opium ?

Dr. FERNANDO : They keep it, but not the Indian opium.

The CHAIRMAN : I do not think we have anything further to ask Mr. de Silva. Thank you very much.

Mr. John Eunson, Manager of Cargills' Cinnamon Gardens Branch Drug Department, and now Acting Manager of Cargills' Fort Drug Department, was examined.

The CHAIRMAN : You are the manager of Cargills' Medical Department, are you not—chemist department ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : And you dispose of a certain amount of opium in one form or another ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you any figures as to your sales ?

WITNESS : I think last year we imported about 10 pounds of gum opium, about 15 pounds of extract of opium, and I suppose about 200 pounds of tincture of opium—laudanum.

Dr. FERNANDO : Chlorodyne ?

WITNESS : As a matter of fact we buy that locally from the agents : the Apothecaries' Company are the agents.

Dr. FERNANDO : Do you make it yourselves, or get it done outside ?

WITNESS : We make it ourselves.

Dr. VAN DORT : How much morphia do you get ?

WITNESS : Well, I have no figures for that. In my place I should think I use about a couple of ounces of morphia ; I think that will carry me through. The head establishment here would go through about 20 or 30 ounces possibly.

Dr. VAN DORT : Is it ever sold to private individuals ?

WITNESS : No, not without a prescription, unless we know them, and know for what purpose it is required.

Dr. CHALMERS : You keep a good supply of other things containing morphia and opium—all sorts of things ? You keep quite a stock of things containing opium ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. CHALMERS : You say that the total amount of morphia is about 30 ounces in the year roughly ?

WITNESS : Yes, I think so.

Dr. FERNANDO : Apart from all that, you keep a large stock of Burroughs, Wellcome & Company's patent medicines containing opium—tabloids ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. FERNANDO : When you come to total it all up, it becomes a very big thing.

Mr. BOOTH : I presume you could give us exact figures if we found it necessary.

WITNESS : Yes. We could tabulate what you require.

Dr. FERNANDO : Chlorodyne itself is a big thing. You would sell about half as much chlorodyne as you sell of laudanum ?

WITNESS : I should think we do about half as much. We do not sell much laudanum.

Dr. FERNANDO : 100 pounds of chlorodyne.

WITNESS : No. I am only thinking of the retail trade. 200 pounds would represent the wholesale as well.

Dr. CHALMERS : For estates and such like things they use it a good deal.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you supply any of the vedaralas in Ceylon—any of the native doctors ?

WITNESS : A few, yes, so long as we know them.

Dr. CHALMERS : Would they come in and buy a pound of opium from you ?

WITNESS : If we knew them.

Dr. FERNANDO : Have you sold as much as that ?

WITNESS : No, I have never sold a pound.

Dr. FERNANDO : What is the largest quantity you have sold to a vedarala ?

WITNESS : About a drachm or two at a time.

Dr. FERNANDO : Have they asked for extract ?

WITNESS : I have sold half an ounce of extract.

Dr. FERNANDO : What is the morphia strength of opium from England ?

WITNESS : About 7 to 10 per cent. or thereabouts.

Dr. CHALMERS : You buy no Indian opium ?

WITNESS : No.

Dr. CHALMERS : It is all Turkey opium ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You said you imported about 10 pounds of gum opium, about 15 pounds of extract of opium, and about 200 pounds of tincture of opium ; was it all consumed during the year ?

WITNESS : That was the year's importation.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Was it all consumed ?

WITNESS : We calculate it will be consumed, I suppose.

Dr. CHALMERS : Is that the average importation, or just that year's ?

WITNESS : Just last year's roughly.

Dr. CHALMERS : Can we take that as an average year ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. CHALMERS : That includes up-country and everything ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : I think that what Mr. Obeyesekere meant just now was, do you have to destroy or condemn any considerable portion as having become stale ?

WITNESS : I do not think so.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : You supply chemists in towns ?

WITNESS : Throughout the Island, and estate dispensaries.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : Out of this quantity ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. CHALMERS : Supposing an estate dispenser finds he does not get the Government supply, he can write down and get his medicines from you ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. CHALMERS : And so long as he sends down a list you will issue the exact quantity asked for ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. CHALMERS : Your business with vedaralas is not large ?

WITNESS : No, only two vedaralas come to me.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do you sell opium for horse medicines in which opium is an ingredient ?

WITNESS : Frequently.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : For cattle ?

WITNESS : I do not think so. But as regards horses, I know it is frequently given to them.

Dr. CHALMERS : At all events you do not get many prescriptions for cattle ? You would know if you did ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you any further questions to ask, gentlemen ? Thank you very much for coming.

Mudallyar J. A. Wijetunge, Acting Chief Appraiser, Customs, Colombo, was then examined with reference to the importation of Opium into Ceylon.

The CHAIRMAN : You are one of the Appraisers at present ?

WITNESS : Yes, Sir.

Mr. BOOTH : You are now acting as Chief Appraiser ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you had any experience of the importation of opium into Ceylon ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : In what form is opium imported ?

WITNESS : In balls, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN : From India ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you the figures as to the total amount imported in a year ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you them here ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Would you give us them, please ?

The Witness then gave the Commission the following figures of the importation of opium for the years mentioned :—

Year.	lb.	Year.	lb.
1860	8,379	1906	18,885
1870	12,449	1907	21,924
1879	7,305	1908	16,129
1880	10,117	1909 (up to September 30)	26,578
1890	12,807		

WITNESS : That is only from British India.

Mr. BOOTH : You are not including transshipment ?

WITNESS : No, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN : Can you account for the increase in this year's rent ? Can you explain why the rents have increased so much ?

WITNESS : I cannot.

Mr. BOOTH : The rents have increased steadily right through, quite apart from any change, and in spite of the increased duty. There has been practically no increase in the importation ; it has fluctuated, of course, but if there has been any tendency at all, the tendency has been to go down.

Dr. CHALMERS : Have you been more particular in checking opium ?

WITNESS : We have been very particular always.

Dr. CHALMERS : Have you been more particular this year ?

WITNESS : Yes, more this year.

Dr. FERNANDO : Have you ever found any instance of smuggling ?

WITNESS : Not to my knowledge. I have been twenty-six years in the Customs.

Dr. FERNANDO : And you have never had a case to your knowledge. You get rice and coal from Calcutta. Are they carefully investigated ?

WITNESS : We have a man in charge, a tidewaiter.

Dr. FERNANDO : What is he supposed to do ?

WITNESS : He watches the landing.

Dr. FERNANDO : How can he watch ?

WITNESS : Boat by boat as it is unloaded.

Dr. FERNANDO : Only when it is being unloaded by the boat. So that if opium were brought by a ship—and with coal boats lying in the harbour for days and days together—they might smuggle it.

WITNESS : Very possibly they may. But we have precautions taken here—by the Harbour Police and the Customs.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : It is possible ?

WITNESS : It is possible, Sir.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Some boats remain in the harbour for weeks sometimes. It would be very easy to smuggle it in.

WITNESS : Quite so.

Dr. FERNANDO : They could smuggle it in at night.

WITNESS : Quite so. It is possible.

Dr. FERNANDO : Even now rice boats have nobody on board. You watch only the landing of the rice. Is that so ?

WITNESS : Yes, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN : Is any other opium, besides the Indian opium, imported ?

WITNESS : Yes, Sir. There is other opium imported from Great Britain. I can give the imports for this year, i.e., up to the end of September.

The Witness then gave the Commission the following figures :—

Date of Entry.	Consignee.	Vessel.	Country of Production.	Number of Cases.	Weight.
1909.					lb. oz.
Jan. 9	Lewis Brown & Co.	ss. Jelunga	Great Britain	—	0 6
12	Jaffna Apothecaries' Co.	do.	do.	2	26 8
Feb. 18	Colombo Apothecaries' Co., Ltd.	ss. Sardinia	do.	1	10 0
March 12	Do.	ss. Golconda	do.	1	4 0
16	Cargills, Ltd.	do.	do.	1	17 8½
April 3	Charles P. de Mel	ss. Sicilia	do.	—	0 2
5	Cargo Boat Despatch Co.	ss. Holywell	do.	—	0 1
13	Ch. & A. Bohringer	ss. Ormuz	Egypt	—	9 13

Date of Entry.	Consignes.	Vessel.	Country of Production.	Number of Cases.	Weight.
					lb. oz.
1909.					
April 20	Royal Pharmacy, Fort	ss. Palermo	Great Britain	—	0 8
20	International Stores	do.	do.	—	0 1
May 4	Cargills, Ltd.	ss. Nile	do.	10	29 1
6	W. Jordon & Co.	do.	do.	—	1 0
8	James Hoole	ss. Matiana	do.	—	0 1
14	International Stores	ss. Peshawar	do.	—	1 0
17	Colombo Apothecaries' Co., Ltd.	do.	do.	—	4 0
22	Do.	ss. Canara	do.	1	3 0
June 7	Drs. C. W. & C. T. van Geyzel	ss. Dilwara	do.	—	0 4
10	Dr. G. P. Hay	do.	do.	—	0 1
29	Ceylon Wharfage Co., Ltd.	ss. Nore	do.	—	2 4
July 2	Colombo Apothecaries' Co., Ltd.	ss. Golconda	do.	1	7 1
8	Cargills, Ltd.	do.	do.	1	0 12
14	Ch. & A. Bohringer	ss. Mooltan	do.	—	7 8
15	Do.	ss. Orotava	Egypt	—	9 12
20	Dr. Rutnam	ss. Chyebassa	Great Britain	—	0 2
22	Ch. & A. Bohringer	ss. Ortona	Egypt	—	9 12
26	A. Ephraums	ss. Sicilia	Great Britain	—	1 0
Aug. 12	Royal Pharmacy	ss. Japan	do.	—	1 8
Sept. 8	Ch. & A. Bohringer	—	Egypt	—	110 5½
25	Ceylon Wharfage Co., Ltd.	ss. Dilwara	Great Britain	—	5 0
28	International Stores	do.	do.	—	0 4

The following figures in detail relating to the importation of opium from India during the nine months to September 30, 1909, were also given by the witness:—

Consignee:—Ramanathan Chetty.

Country of Production:—British India.

Date of Entry. 1909.	Vessel.	Number of Cases.	Weight. lb. oz.
January 19	ss. Persia	5	525 0
21	ss. Historian	15	1,650 0
28	Do.	5	535 0
February 3	Do.	5	535 0
15	ss. Namur	15	1,650 0
17	Do.	5	552 8
March 8	ss. Historian	5	515 12
22	ss. Scharzfels	10	1,100 0
22	Do.	5	530 0
31	ss. Namur	5	530 0
April 10	ss. Scharzfels	5	522 8
27	ss. Namur	5	540 0
27	ss. Historian	15	1,650 0
May 4	ss. Scharzfels	5	532 8
14	ss. Historian	5	532 8
24	ss. City of Sparta	15	1,650 0
27	ss. Historian	5	537 8
June 8	Do.	5	537 8
17	ss. Comedian	15	1,650 0
22	ss. City of Sparta	5	547 8
July 5	Do.	5	545 0
15	Do.	5	540 0
21	ss. Nore	15	1,650 0
28	ss. Comedian	5	532 8
August 7	Do.	5	537 8
16	Do.	5	530 0
20	ss. Barenfels	15	1,650 0
24	Do.	10	1,055 0
September 20	Do.	5	532 8
23	ss. Patrician	15	1,650 0
30	ss. Nore	5	530 0

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : The greatest importer is Bohringer ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. FERNANDO : That gives only the amount of opium ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. FERNANDO : Do you know anything at all about morphia or laudanum ?

WITNESS : I did not bring any return.

Dr. FERNANDO : You have no returns ?

WITNESS : No.

Mr. BOOTH : How do you schedule them ? Do you put them down as medicines ?

WITNESS : As chemist sundries.

Mr. BOOTH : Are they subdivided ?

WITNESS : No, Sir.

Mr. BOOTH : Medicines containing opium—is there any head for that ?

WITNESS : No.

Dr. FERNANDO : Do you charge duty on those ?

WITNESS : Five and half per cent. *ad valorem*.

Mr. BOOTH : On chlorodyne, tincture of opium, laudanum, and those things ?

WITNESS : On tincture of opium, laudanum, and chlorodyne the duty is 5½ per cent. on the value.

Mr. BOOTH : You do not take any gauge of the percentage of opium in those drugs, and charge duty on that ?

WITNESS : That is never done.

Dr. FERNANDO : Morphia ?

WITNESS : That is 5½ per cent. on the value.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Now, with regard to measures to prevent smuggling, could they be evaded ?

WITNESS : Every precaution is taken here, but in the outports they may be a bit slack. In the Customs at Kayts there is a Sub-Collector. Now, Kayts is a place where the Sub-Collector knows what comes in only when he sees the passengers land. But as a matter of fact the crews land in the day and night as long as the vessel is in the harbour, and there is every possibility of smuggling. The same thing might happen at Kankesanturai.

The CHAIRMAN : Negombo ?

WITNESS : I do not think it could be done at Negombo easily. It may be done at Batticaloa and Trincomalee, but not at Beruwala, where I was in charge for sometime.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do you think the preventive measures are capable of much improvement in Colombo ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. FERNANDO : You are satisfied with what you have in Colombo ?

WITNESS : Yes, but it is capable of much improvement.

Mr. BOOTH : You think it is possible that smuggling goes on extensively through the outports ?

WITNESS : I believe so. It is my own opinion. You see there is more chance than there is here.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : Do you suppose it could be brought in in a rice bag in any way here ?

WITNESS : We examine them. We can smell them. In former days we used to cut them open, but now we weigh them.

Mr. BOOTH : You never cut them open ?

WITNESS : Not since we started weighing.

Mr. BOOTH : Not chillies ?

WITNESS : Yes, chillies.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : You only smell the rice bags ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : And how many bags are imported into Ceylon ? Millions, I suppose ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Who is the largest importer of opium ?

WITNESS : Ramanathan Chetty.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Does he import rice from India ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : I suppose it is to his interests to stop all smuggling ?

WITNESS : I believe so, Sir.

Mr. BOOTH : To stop any one but himself smuggling ?

WITNESS : Yes, any one but himself.

The CHAIRMAN : He assured us he believed there was no smuggling at all.

WITNESS : He may say that.

Mr. BOOTH : I think we may be sure he has special means of knowing ; it is not done against him.

WITNESS : But if somebody else did smuggle, and he had a few balls given him, he would say nothing.

Mr. BOOTH : If it were done against him, of course he would come to you.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do you know whether any of his relatives or friends import rice from India ?

WITNESS : I am not aware.

The CHAIRMAN : He imports all the opium from India ?

WITNESS : He is the sole importer from India.

Dr. CHALMERS : You have no special instructions to attend to the smuggling of opium ?

WITNESS : No special instructions. But we have asked the Indian Government to inform us of all shipments of opium from India.

The CHAIRMAN : Is it easily obtained in India ?

WITNESS : I do not know.

The CHAIRMAN : Is the opium that is imported into Ceylon from India Government opium ?

WITNESS : Government opium. It is under Government management, I suppose.

Dr. CHALMERS : None comes from Tuticorin ?

WITNESS : No, it all comes from Calcutta.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you ever caught any one smuggling opium ?

WITNESS : No, Sir. Not to my knowledge.

The CHAIRMAN : How many years experience have you ?

WITNESS : Twenty-six years.

The CHAIRMAN : And all that time you have not known of a single case being detected ?

WITNESS : No, Sir, not to my knowledge.

The CHAIRMAN : Any further questions, gentlemen. Thank you, Mudaliyar.

Mr. K. C. Browning, Government Analyst, was then examined as to the manner in which the presence of opium would be detected in "titta abin" or other substances.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you had any experience in analysing opium, Mr. Browning ?

WITNESS : Opium, as such, we have only had on two or three occasions in connection with the quantity of water.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you had any substances submitted to you to ascertain if there were any opium in them or not ?

WITNESS : We had over 180 in 1907 ; 139 had opium in them.

The CHAIRMAN : Are you able to ascertain if there is opium or not in any given substance ?

WITNESS : Well, it depends on what you take as a definition of opium. I simply suggested as a provisional definition, anything containing both morphine and meconic acid.

The CHAIRMAN : And in your opinion is that a scientific test ?

WITNESS : I think it is a fair test—anything containing morphine and meconic acid.

Dr. FERNANDO : They could evade that by only selling morphia preparations.

WITNESS : Yes. But they could be jumped upon for selling poisons.

Dr. FERNANDO : We are talking about reducing the consumption of opium. In view of the fact that we are going to check it as far as possible, what would you consider the best definition ?

WITNESS : I think what I have mentioned is a very fair definition.

Dr. FERNANDO : Does that exclude chlorodyne ?

WITNESS : Certainly.

Dr. FERNANDO : They could use chlorodyne in any form ?

WITNESS : Do you think it would be necessary to provide for that ?

Dr. FERNANDO : I know a lot of morphia consumers.

WITNESS : I have never come across a case.

Dr. FERNANDO : How would this do—morphia and any other poison of opium ?

Mr. BOOTH : Then there would be quibbling. They can get outside that definition, I think. But the point is if you have "any other poison of opium," like the American definition, it simply causes unlimited quibbling.

Dr. CHALMERS : Could you not get over it by taking all substances containing opium ? It would reduce them down to a very small amount.

The CHAIRMAN : I think that this is almost outside the scope of our Commission.

Mr. BOOTH : The point is, if any given sample were given to you, could you say that it contains no opium ?

WITNESS : Well, we would have to suggest that as a definition ; and see if the magistrate would accept it as a definition. Then we could say there is opium present or no opium.

Mr. BOOTH : There is a certain amount of danger, if it is issued to vedaralas, that they may say that they will put it into their drugs, and may not really do so, but may use and sell it unmixed for illicit purposes.

WITNESS : That is the difficulty. What is to stop the vedarala from issuing some of his opium in his drugs, and selling the rest, because it is absolutely impossible to determine how much he has put in.

Mr. BOOTH : Could you say there is none ?

WITNESS : I could say there is none ; but I could not say how much, if he puts a pinch in and sell the rest.

Dr. FERNANDO : But apart from this point about vedaralas, have you fixed a definition so that anybody cannot sell chlorodyne ?

The CHAIRMAN : Well, I suppose they do now.

Dr. FERNANDO : There is nothing to prevent them.

WITNESS : Except the Poisons Act.

The CHAIRMAN : I think this is all dealt with in the draft Ordinance.

WITNESS : It is very easy to find out a small trace, but impossible without a stringent definition to define the amount.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Could we mix any ingredient with the opium to render it unfit for human consumption ?

WITNESS : That depends so much on the eater. A man who drinks methylated spirit would not be deterred. I have had an enormous number of preparations which I should generally have thought no human being would use ; but they did. They just contain a small quantity of opium—just a little, and they are most horrible mixtures.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You can think of no ingredient that would serve that purpose—that would render it impossible for a human being to take it ?

WITNESS : No.

Dr. CHALMERS : What is the greatest dilution at which you can recognize opium by your definition ?

WITNESS : I should think—I have never tried exactly—I have the figures here—I can recognize meconic acid fairly easily—I should think I could recognize it at 100th per cent. nearly—and going on to the 1,000th of a grain of morphine.

The Secretary then brought up a report made by Mr. Browning of the result of the examination of a sample of *titta abin* sent to him. The report was as follows :—

Mr. K. C. BROWNING, Government Analyst, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

Report No. 182.

Colombo, October 5, 1909.

REPORT on the result of the examination of the contents of a tin sent me by the Secretary of the Opium Commission, with letter of October 1, 1909.

The tin contained a sample of "titta-abin."

Examination showed the absence of both morphine and meconic acid, i.e., no trace of opium was present.

The chief constituent, at all events, appears to be *Socotrine Aloes*.

The CHAIRMAN : Did you analyse this substance ?

WITNESS : Yes, I did.

The CHAIRMAN : What was the result ?

WITNESS : The chief constituent was a preparation of Socotrine Aloes. There was not a trace of morphine or meconic acid.

The CHAIRMAN : Any further questions, gentlemen. Thank you, Mr. Browning.

Vettivelu Sivasupramaniam, Vaidyar (a leading Native Physician and Surgeon) of Jaffna, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : Vettivelu Sivasupramaniam of the Nayanmarkaddu Private Hospital, Nalloor, Jaffna.

The CHAIRMAN : Are you a vedarala.

WITNESS : Yes, for both surgery and medicine.

The CHAIRMAN : How long have you been in practice ?

WITNESS : About twenty-five years.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice at all ?

WITNESS : Yes, to a large extent.

The CHAIRMAN : And for what ailments is it used ?

WITNESS : Gout, scrofula, rheumatism, colic, dyspepsia, ear diseases, diseases of the nose and head, toothache, eye diseases, asthma, diarrhoea, dysentery, fits, lockjaw, hysteria, cutaneous diseases. It nourishes the body—gives good nutriment to the body—it makes the blood the colour of vermillion. It is used for boils—cures the bad stench from boils. It is used as an anodyne for pain, and as a sedative.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it for enteric fever at all ?

WITNESS : As one of the ingredients it is used.

The CHAIRMAN : Malarial fever ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it for any external complaints ?

WITNESS : Yes, in a paste—for poultices, it is applied externally. It is used externally as an ointment.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you know diabetes.

WITNESS : Yes, opium is used for that. The diseases I have just mentioned are the diseases in which opium is given by itself. But when mixed up it is used for many other diseases.

The CHAIRMAN : Whom do you get your opium from ?

WITNESS : From the Government licensee.

The CHAIRMAN : How much do you use in a year ?

WITNESS : Two pounds or one pound. Sometimes three pounds.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you buy your opium ? At so much an ounce ?

WITNESS : By drachms. The Tamil measure is a *kalanchu*.

The CHAIRMAN : How many *kalanchus* are there in a pound ?

WITNESS : 108.

The CHAIRMAN : 108 or 96 ?

WITNESS : 108.

The CHAIRMAN : Is the *kalanchu* the weight of a copper cent ?

WITNESS : Almost a cent weight, but we have a separate weight.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you weigh out small portions of opium for your medicines ?

WITNESS : By a grain. They are cut into halves and quarters.

The CHAIRMAN (showing the witness some *manchadi* and *kunrumani* seeds) : How many of the seeds go to a large seed ?

WITNESS : Two of those.

The CHAIRMAN : Or four ?

WITNESS : Two. The seeds might weigh differently in different districts.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you make up all your own medicines yourself, or do you buy them ?

WITNESS : I make them up myself.

The CHAIRMAN : Are they made up from books ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : And the books show the amount of opium there is in the medicines ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you ever put more or less ?

WITNESS : I keep to the exact weight mentioned in the book.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you make it up in pills, or powders, or what ?

WITNESS : Pills, powders, electuaries, essence, extract.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you buy the opium in the solid form ?

WITNESS : Yes, sometimes as wax.

The CHAIRMAN : Which is harder ?

WITNESS : That which is dry is solid ; the other is wax—liquid.

The CHAIRMAN : And the outer cover of the ball is the stuff you use like wax ?

WITNESS : I do not know.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you purify the opium before you mix it with the other ingredients ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : How long does it take to purify it ?

WITNESS : Two days.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you heat it or boil it ?

WITNESS : It is soaked in water, which has other ingredients in it too. It is boiled.

The CHAIRMAN : I suppose it is easily purified, is it not ?

WITNESS : Yes, generally.

- The CHAIRMAN : Do you buy your opium at the same shop always ?  
 WITNESS : When I come down to Colombo, I buy it in Colombo ; when I want it in Jaffna, I buy it there. There is only one place in Jaffna.
- The CHAIRMAN : Are you often in Colombo ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- The CHAIRMAN : Well, now, all your purchases in Jaffna are entered in a book, are they not ?  
 WITNESS : I do not go personally to buy ; I send other people to buy.
- The CHAIRMAN : Supposing I examine the books, how much shall I find that you have bought, say, during the last year ?  
 WITNESS : Last year I must have bought about a pound.
- The CHAIRMAN : I suppose it will be under a pound, as a matter of fact ?  
 WITNESS : I cannot say exactly. About a pound, more or less.
- The CHAIRMAN : The year before ?  
 WITNESS : May be two pounds.
- The CHAIRMAN : May be, but it may be one pound.  
 WITNESS : The year before last I had to prepare some medicines for despatch to India, and so I had to buy a larger quantity that time.
- The CHAIRMAN : So you export some of your medicines ?  
 WITNESS : Mine is a firm of physicians, and one goes out to India ; he takes the prepared medicines with him.
- The CHAIRMAN : Does he ever bring any medicines back from India ?  
 WITNESS : No.
- The CHAIRMAN : Why is that ?  
 WITNESS : The medicines they have we can easily get here.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever prescribe opium unmixed, or is it always mixed with other drugs ?  
 WITNESS : Both by itself and mixed with other ingredients.
- Mr. BOOTH : You say you buy about a pound of opium. What proportion of that is prescribed unmixed, and what mixed with other drugs or herbs ?  
 WITNESS : Very little is administered unmixed. The larger portion is mixed with other drugs.
- Mr. BOOTH : It is practically almost entirely mixed with other ingredients ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : Is the proportion which opium bears to the other ingredients generally a small fraction of the whole ?  
 WITNESS : There are different kinds—one-fourth, one-tenth, and a one-hundredth part even.
- Mr. BOOTH : Now, I do not want you to reveal any of your secrets, but is there any difficulty about this process of mixing the opium with other drugs ?  
 WITNESS : Well, if I follow strictly the directions given in the medical books, there is no difficulty.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do you mix it under heat or cold ?  
 WITNESS : Cold.
- Mr. BOOTH : You can prepare your other ingredients separately, and mix them up with the opium ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do they keep good when they are mixed up ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, they keep good.
- Mr. BOOTH : For how long ?  
 WITNESS : For pills, one year is mentioned in our medical books ; for electuaries six months ; for essences and liquid extracts three months.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever advise your patients to smoke opium ?  
 WITNESS : Not by itself, no.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : The effect of this opium is to dry up the humours of your body, is it not ?  
 WITNESS : It depends upon the measure of the quantity used. If it is immoderately used, it will dry up the humours when there is dysentery, and where the brain is affected by it. But if properly used, it improves the blood, and generally proves a stimulant ; it stimulates the mind—the mental power.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You send your medicines to India. Are you treating according to the *Ayurvedic* system ?  
 WITNESS : Yes. There are four kinds of medicines.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : In the Ceylon works, is opium prescribed to any large extent ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, they mostly prescribe it.
- Dr. VAN DORT : You have a large practice in Jaffna ?  
 WITNESS : We have got a hospital of our own where we treat patients.
- Dr. VAN DORT : A larger practice than that of others in Jaffna ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Dr. VAN DORT : How many patients do you treat a day on the average ?  
 WITNESS : Sometimes we have in our hospital 50, 75, or even 100 patients a day.
- Dr. VAN DORT : And it is for these 50, 75, or 100 patients a day that you require the quantity of opium you speak of ?  
 WITNESS : There are two of us : one principal physician and one assistant. Both of us have to treat the patients daily in our hospital.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : And yet a pound is used in a year ?  
 WITNESS : Yes. As I said before, sometimes we require 3 pounds.
- Mr. BOOTH : That is only when you make up to send to India.  
 WITNESS : We had even more than 3 pounds some years before.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : When there are so many *ayurvedic* practitioners, why should they apply to you from India for medicines ?  
 WITNESS : I am speaking of Southern India, not Northern India—Bengal.
- Dr. CHALMERS : You are a native medical practitioner ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.



Dr. CHALMERS : What training did you get yourself ? What teaching did you receive ?

WITNESS : Surgery I learnt from Mailvaganam, my own brother, and medicine I learnt from a medical practitioner.

Dr. CHALMERS : How did you learn ? Were you an apprentice or what ?

WITNESS : Yes, as an apprentice under him.

Dr. CHALMERS : And you helped the doctor in his work, and sold the powders and other things ?

WITNESS : I used to read the medical works under his direction, and I also practised medicine under him.

Dr. CHALMERS : For how many years ?

WITNESS : I learnt for seven years.

Dr. CHALMERS : Before you set up for yourself ?

WITNESS : We take up reading simply in the first instance. Afterwards we are both practising and learning.

Dr. CHALMERS : Before you started for yourself ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. CHALMERS : Is it usual for a man in your position to go through a course of training like that ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. CHALMERS : And would you consider that a person who had not gone through a training like that was not a properly trained vedarala ?

WITNESS : He ought not to be called a *vaidyar* (native medical practitioner). He has not gone through a training.

Dr. CHALMERS : And what sort of a person have you to be trained under ? If a young man wants to become a vedarala, to whom should he go to be trained ?

WITNESS : The doctor I mentioned before, who is still alive.

Dr. CHALMERS : Does he train now ?

WITNESS : Yes, one man.

Dr. CHALMERS : Do many of the doctors in Jaffna train people ?

WITNESS : Rarely. Here and there there are some.

Dr. CHALMERS : Is it the rule for a young man without training to start in practice as a vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes, there are some such.

Dr. CHALMERS : Many ?

WITNESS : Here and there a few.

Dr. CHALMERS : There are many people practising in Jaffna who have never been trained ?

WITNESS : Yes, there are several.

Dr. CHALMERS : In the Jaffna Peninsula ?

WITNESS : There are several.

Dr. CHALMERS : Do you look upon a training as being necessary for a young man ?

WITNESS : It is urgently required.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : Now, you said you get your opium from Colombo and Jaffna. What proportion do you get from Colombo, and what proportion from Jaffna ?

WITNESS : The larger portion from Jaffna.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you know any Sinhalese ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you know the kind of opium that is called *kiri abin* ?

WITNESS : No, I am not aware of it.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : The Sinhalese meaning of *kiri abin* is white opium.

WITNESS : It is a dark-black one we use.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : Does the vendor register your name in his sales book ?

WITNESS : Well, I send another man to purchase. The vendor may have noted the purchaser's name.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : Did he register when you went ?

WITNESS : We consider it beneath our dignity to go to the shop itself, so we send others.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You have never gone ?

WITNESS : Never personally. I might stop a little way off, and send a man in to purchase.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You have not purchased yourself ?

WITNESS : Never personally.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : So you cannot say whether your name is registered of your own knowledge ?

WITNESS : Perhaps the man whom I have sent may have mentioned my name and the vendor may have taken it down, but I am not sure.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : So you have no means of showing how much your purchases from that place have been ?

WITNESS : It is difficult.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : The quantity you mentioned is for the whole of your establishment, not for yourself alone ?

WITNESS : Yes.

**C. Muttucumaru, Vaidyar (a leading Native Physician) of Jaffna, was examined through an Interpreter.**

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : C. Muttucumaru.

The CHAIRMAN : And you come from Jaffna.

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you been in practice long ?

WITNESS : For the last thirteen years I have been practising.

The CHAIRMAN : As a physician ?

WITNESS : As a physician ; not as a surgeon.

The CHAIRMAN : Alone or in partnership with anybody ?

WITNESS : By myself. I have an assistant, an apprentice.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

- The CHAIRMAN : What for ?  
 WITNESS : Colic, diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes, diseases of the ear and nose.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Where there is acute pain ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it for enteric fever ?  
 WITNESS : No, never.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Or malarial fever ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 The CHAIRMAN : And you prescribe it according to your books, I suppose ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you always put in the exact amount of opium prescribed ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : You do not ever alter the amount ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How much opium do you use in a year ? How much during last year ?  
 WITNESS : Within a quarter of a pound.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How many *kalanchus* ?  
 WITNESS : About 27 *kalanchus*.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How many *kalanchus* are there in a pound ?  
 WITNESS : 108 *kalanchus* make a pound.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you use these seeds ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : The large or small ?  
 WITNESS : Both.  
 The CHAIRMAN : *Manchadi* seeds. How many of those are there in a *kalanchu* ?  
 WITNESS : Thirty-two of these seeds form one *pagoda* ;  $1\frac{1}{2}$  *varakam* form a *kalanchu*.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you make up all your own medicines ?  
 WITNESS : Well, under my direction and supervision. Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : And in some, I suppose, only a small amount of opium is mixed in the medicines ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you use any medicines in which there is a large amount of opium ?  
 WITNESS : All my medicines have a small proportion only.  
 The CHAIRMAN : And it is externally you have it more or less pure ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : The effect of this opium is to dry up the humours of the body ?  
 WITNESS : If taken alone it will dry them up.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : And you try as much as possible to avoid the administration of opium in your prescriptions ?  
 WITNESS : We have medicines prescribed in our books for such and such a disease. We ought to use the quantity prescribed there, and we do.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you try the things without opium at first, and then if they fail do you try opium ?  
 WITNESS : In the first instance, if a medicine with opium is very efficient we give it at once.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You mean in desperate cases ?  
 The CHAIRMAN : Where there is pain ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You use a quarter of a pound a year ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : Where do you get your opium from ?  
 WITNESS : Jaffna.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : All of it ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : Is your name registered in the vendor's books ?  
 WITNESS : It may be ; I do not know. Sometimes my assistant goes to buy.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You know the last witness, Sivasupramaniam ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You have as extensive a practice as he has ?  
 WITNESS : His speciality is surgery. He has more surgical cases, and I have more medical cases.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : But for surgery, you do not so much require medicines ?  
 WITNESS : I do not attend to surgical cases. I attend to other cases.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : But you have read books on surgery too ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : In the course of your reading you have not found opium prescribed for surgery ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, in some medicines.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : In very few ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, only in a few cases.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : It is as a physician that you require opium ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever prescribe plain opium to your patients unmixed with anything else ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 Mr. BOOTH : It is always mixed ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : You prepare the other drugs, dry them, and mix them with the opium ?  
 WITNESS : I prescribe what is given in the books along with the other ingredients. Sometimes it is put in before, sometimes in the middle, sometimes afterwards.  
 Mr. BOOTH : What I mean is this. You get your other ingredients ready, and then mix them in the order prescribed in the books ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.

- Mr. BOOTH : Is the mixing a simple process or at all difficult ?  
 WITNESS : It is carefully done.
- Mr. BOOTH : Is there any other complication ?  
 WITNESS : What other complication do you refer to ?
- Mr. BOOTH : Is there any difficulty about it ?  
 WITNESS : It is the custom to mix them up, and I know how to do it.
- Mr. BOOTH : Is any heat required, or do you require cold ?  
 WITNESS : Most of the medicines require the opium to be heated before
- Mr. BOOTH : At the time of mixing ?  
 WITNESS : A very slight heat is required only.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do these mixed prescriptions keep good ?  
 WITNESS : Some for three months, some six months, and some even a year. They hold good according to the kind of medicine.
- Mr. BOOTH : You make a stock of medicines, and keep them for a time ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : You had a long training before you began to practise ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : Are there in Jaffna and in the district around people practising as physicians who have not the same qualifications as you have, who are quacks ?  
 WITNESS : There are some.
- Dr. FERNANDO : What proportion ?  
 WITNESS : I cannot be sure how many. There are some whom I know, who do practice without sufficient training.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do you have to purify your opium in any particular way ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, it must be purified.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do you know what answers to the Sinhalese *titta abin* ?  
 WITNESS : No.
- Dr. CHALMERS : Do medicines have to be mixed up at any propitious occasion—at any lucky hour ?  
 WITNESS : There are some medicines which ought to be made at auspicious and lucky hours.
- Dr. CHALMERS : Containing opium ?  
 The CHAIRMAN : I do not think you believe a great deal in the lucky hour, do you ?
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Don't your books say that you ought to have the breeze from a particular direction—north, south, east, or west ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Dr. CHALMERS : Do you have to mix your medicines at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning or at any time like that ?  
 WITNESS : No.
- Dr. CHALMERS : It does not matter at what time of day ?  
 WITNESS : Except as regards the change in the weather. We want full sunshine sometimes.
- Dr. CHALMERS : How long does it take you to purify your opium ?  
 WITNESS : An hour.
- Dr. CHALMERS : Do you need any complicated apparatus to do it with ?  
 WITNESS : Only a vessel ; some medicinal leaves have to be powdered and soaked in it to purify the opium.
- Dr. CHALMERS : Could you carry the apparatus about easily ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Dr. VAN DORT : Do you know of your own knowledge whether opium eating is a common habit in Jaffna ?  
 WITNESS : It is very rare.
- Dr. VAN DORT : Opium smoking ?  
 WITNESS : Rare. Foreigners who come down to Jaffna smoke opium.
- Dr. VAN DORT : Are any of your patients addicted to opium eating ?  
 WITNESS : One or two I may meet in a year.
- Dr. VAN DORT : Do you know of anybody who is addicted to opium eating—a patient of yours—or not ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, there are some.
- Dr. VAN DORT : Could you tell me how much opium he consumes in a day, as far as you know ?  
 WITNESS : I know some eat it, but I cannot say what quantity they eat in a day.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Can you cure an opium eater ?  
 WITNESS : It is very hard, indeed.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Have you ever in your time prescribed to cure the habit ?  
 WITNESS : It is very hard to cure those who are habitually addicted to it without the person desires to be saved.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You have never prescribed to cure ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, I have.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : With success ?  
 WITNESS : I know of one man who gave up the habit.
- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Don't you think that is the proper thing to do : instead of prescribing opium, to prescribe against opium ?  
 WITNESS : It is indispensable for medical purposes.
- Mr. SENEVIRATNE : What is the average number of your patients for whom you want this quarter of a pound of opium ?  
 WITNESS : About 100 a day.
- Mr. SENEVIRATNE : Is that the average number ?  
 WITNESS : Between 50 and 100.
- Mr. SENEVIRATNE : And you consume only a quarter of a pound of opium throughout the year ?  
 WITNESS : Sometimes we have to use more.

Eriawatte Vedarala, of Alutkuru Korale North (a leading Vedarala), was then examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : Eriawatte Vedarala.

The CHAIRMAN : Where do you live ?

WITNESS : Alutkuru Korale North, near Negombo.

The CHAIRMAN : How long have you been a vedarala ?

WITNESS : Since I was sixteen years of age.

The CHAIRMAN : Was your father also a vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : You have inherited the profession ?

WITNESS : Yes. My ancestors were the doctors of the Kandyan kings.

The CHAIRMAN : Are you a physician or a surgeon ?

WITNESS : Both.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes, a good deal.

The CHAIRMAN : As a surgeon or as a physician ?

WITNESS : It is used for chronic diseases : rheumatism, and such diseases.

The CHAIRMAN : Would you name the diseases it is used for ?

WITNESS : Paralysis, urinal diseases, diabetes. We have prepared pills for dysentery and diarrhoea.

The CHAIRMAN : Enteric fever.

WITNESS : There are pills given for enteric fever, too. In the preparation of those pills opium is used.

The CHAIRMAN : And malarial fever ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : In pills ?

WITNESS : Syrups and pills.

The CHAIRMAN : Whom do you get your opium from ?

WITNESS : From Colombo and Negombo. I prescribe to patients, and they sometimes buy from Colombo or Negombo.

The CHAIRMAN : How much opium did you use last year ?

WITNESS : Within the last two months I have paid more than Rs. 200 for opium within the gravets of Colombo. The opium that I have prescribed for patients in Colombo during the last month is worth about Rs. 180.

The CHAIRMAN : How much opium did you get ? How much a pound is opium ?

WITNESS : A shilling weight is a *kalanda*.

The CHAIRMAN : I will put it this way. How many *kalan* do you consume in a year ?

WITNESS : 400 *kalan* in a year.

The CHAIRMAN : That is an enormous amount.

WITNESS : Yes, sometimes it may be more than that—in some years. 100 patients come to me daily.

The CHAIRMAN : All the other vedaralas who have been examined have said they used a great deal, and yet it was a far smaller amount than that.

WITNESS : It may be.

The vedarala further stated that a certain preparation containing 24 *kalan* of opium could be used for five people for twenty days each in the treatment of paralysis.

Dr. FERNANDO : That means you are giving 17 grains to each man a day, which is fatal ; you cannot give more than 2 or 3 grains. Is it one of the text book drugs ? Can we find the drug in a text book ?

The Witness stated that *Sarwartha Kalpa Druma* was the name of the text book in which the preparation was mentioned, and that the name of the preparation was *Ankusi Rasayana*.

G. R. M. Kalu Banda (a leading Vedarala), of Kandy, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : Where do you live ?

WITNESS : At Kandy.

The CHAIRMAN : And you are a vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Was your father a vedarala before you ?

WITNESS : Yes, it is in the family.

The CHAIRMAN : Are you a surgeon, or a physician, or both ?

WITNESS : I treat boils—abscesses.

The CHAIRMAN : You are a general physician ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice ?

WITNESS : In some cases.

The CHAIRMAN : For abscesses or other complaints ?

WITNESS : *Titta abin* for boils, and there are other diseases where I use ordinary opium.

- The CHAIRMAN : You buy your opium, I suppose, at Kandy ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : At the licensed opium shop ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How much did you buy last year ?  
 WITNESS : I buy about 1 pound or half pound or perhaps less than that in a year. I am unable to say exactly how much I use.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How do you buy it—by the *kalanda* ?  
 WITNESS : By the *kalanda*.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How many *kalan* about do you buy in a year ?  
 WITNESS : About forty-eight or fifty or perhaps sixty, but I am unable to say exactly.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you give opium alone or mixed with other drugs ?  
 WITNESS : It is mixed with other medicines after being purified. Not alone.  
 The CHAIRMAN : As a rule, there is a small proportion of opium, is there not, in each medicine ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How do you mix the opium with the other ingredients ?  
 WITNESS : When it is purified, it is made into a powder, and then it is mixed up with other ingredients.  
 The CHAIRMAN : And you add the opium to the mixture last of all ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : You grind it into a powder, and then stir it up with the other ingredients ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : And has it to be hot ?  
 WITNESS : When the other ingredients are cool, I add opium.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How do you purify the opium ?  
 WITNESS : With a machine called *deula*.  
 The CHAIRMAN : What sort of a machine is that ?  
 The witness then described an ordinary distilling apparatus, the steam being passed through the opium.  
 The CHAIRMAN : For what diseases do you use opium ?  
 WITNESS : For acute rheumatism ; urinal diseases ; diabetes ; dysentery ; paralysis ; tetanus.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Enteric fever ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Malarial fever ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 Mr. SENEVIRATNE : What is the average number of your patients a day ?  
 WITNESS : 150 to 200 a day.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : The quantity of opium you spoke of is not only for patients in the town of Kandy, but for patients outside Kandy ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, outside also.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : Within a radius of 10 or 15 miles ?  
 WITNESS : I have got patients in Colombo also. I come to Colombo about twice a week.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : Then you can get your opium from Colombo ?  
 WITNESS : I have never done so.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : You were trained by your father, I think ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Have you trained any young men ?  
 WITNESS : I have trained people.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Are there many untrained persons practicing where you are ?  
 WITNESS : There may be in the interior, but not in the town.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : What do you mean by the term *vedarala* ?  
 WITNESS : A man who treats patients is called a *vedarala*.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Then, Mr. Lascelles could go and treat patients at once ? It does not require any training ?  
 WITNESS : No, he should not—not unless he has undergone a course of training.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : How long should the course of training last ?  
 WITNESS : About seven or eight years you must study to become a *vedarala*.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : With whom ?  
 WITNESS : With my father.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Then, unless a man's father were a recognized *vedarala* he could not become a *vedarala* ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : What about a pupil from outside ?  
 WITNESS : Where a man's father is a *vedarala* there is no necessity to go to another man.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Supposing a man has not got a father who is a *vedarala* ?  
 WITNESS : There are many like that. There are people who go from Kandy to study medicines here, in Colombo.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Under *vedaralas* ?  
 WITNESS : A man must qualify himself as a *vedarala* to become a *vedarala*.  
 Dr. CHAIRMAN : Yes, but what is the qualification necessary to become a *vedarala* ?  
 WITNESS : He has to go through his apprenticeship.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Then a man who is a *vedarala* should have been through an apprenticeship with another well-known or recognized *vedarala* ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : You said you used opium for paralytic people. Do you know the preparation called *antusi rasayana* ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, I know the medicine.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : How many *kalan* of opium are there in it ?  
 WITNESS : There are three *rasayana* : one has three *kalan*, a second six, and a third twelve.

Dr. FERNANDO : The one that has twelve *kalan* is required when your medicine is made up. For how many people can you use it ?

WITNESS : 50, 60, or 70 people.

Dr. FERNANDO : And for how long can that preparation be used ?

WITNESS : According to the text book it is seven days or fourteen days.

Dr. FERNANDO : And the amount of medicine made up can be used for 60 or 70 people ?

WITNESS : Yes.

D. M. Simon Appuhamy (a leading Vedarala) of Kandy was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : D. M. Simon Appuhamy.

The CHAIRMAN : And you live at Kandy ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : You are a vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Was your father a vedarala too ?

WITNESS : Yes, my father was also a vedarala.

The CHAIRMAN : You are a family of physicians.

WITNESS : Yes, my grandfather was a vedarala.

The CHAIRMAN : And are you a physician, or surgeon, or both ?

WITNESS : A physician only.

The CHAIRMAN : And you use opium in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes, in some cases.

The CHAIRMAN : You get your opium in Kandy ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : How much do you get in a year ?

WITNESS : About 1 pound a year.

The CHAIRMAN : How many *kalan* are there in a pound ?

WITNESS : Ninety-six. There are twelve *kalan* in a *palama*.

The CHAIRMAN : What are the illnesses you use opium for ?

WITNESS : Chronic rheumatism, dysentery, hydrophobia.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it alone, or mixed with other drugs ?

WITNESS : A very little of it is used with other ingredients.

The CHAIRMAN : In small quantities ?

WITNESS : In some medicines one *kalanda* is used, and in others three *kalan*.

The CHAIRMAN : The medicines are made up into a number of pills or pastes ?

WITNESS : There are medicines which are made up into pills and pastes.

The CHAIRMAN : In each pill or paste the quantity of opium is small ?

WITNESS : Yes, very little.

The CHAIRMAN : Only a small proportion of the pill ?

WITNESS : In proportion to the whole pill it is very little.

The CHAIRMAN : The pills are made of herbs, are they not ?

WITNESS : Yes, of herbs.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you collect your own herbs or do you buy them ?

WITNESS : I get them myself sometimes, sometimes I buy them.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you add the opium to the medicine ?

WITNESS : I purify the opium before I use it. It is put into a medicine, and after it is taken out and dried it is boiled mixed.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : What is the average number of patients you treat in a day ?

WITNESS : 30 or 40 patients in a day ; and I use about a pound of opium in a year.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do you have any difficulty in getting the opium for your requirements ?

WITNESS : There is no difficulty in obtaining the opium now, but I do not know how it will be in the future.

Dr. FERNANDO : Do you use opium for paralysis ?

WITNESS : Yes, I use a *rasayana*.

Dr. FERNANDO : Do you use *ankusi rasayana* ?

WITNESS : Yes, opium is required for that medicine.

Dr. FERNANDO : How many *kalan* of opium are used ?

WITNESS : Three.

Dr. FERNANDO : Only three. Is there not another variety of *rasayana* ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. FERNANDO : Would you use that for paralysis ?

WITNESS : Yes, there is another one.

Dr. FERNANDO : When you take three *kalan*, how many persons would it do for, and for how long ?

WITNESS : Four persons for a month.

Dr. FERNANDO : That is the one which contains only three *kalan*.

WITNESS : Yes. It is mixed with a juice.

Dr. FERNANDO : When is this opium put into the other drugs in the mixing of these pills and things ?

WITNESS : They are mixed up together.

Dr. FERNANDO : Is the opium put in when the other things are ready ?

WITNESS : Yes. For cholera one *kalanda* is taken.

1. The Commission then decided to call two leading and two minor vedaralas from the Southern Province, one leading and one minor vedarala from the North-Western Province, and two minor vedaralas from the Western Province for the next meeting.

2. The Commission adjourned to 11.30 A.M. on Monday, October 18, 1909.

*Meeting held on Thursday, October 21, 1909.*

*Present* :—The Hon. Mr. A. G. LASCELLES, K.C., *Chairman*; the Hon. Mr. L. W. BOOTH; the Hon. Mr. S. C. OBEYESEKERE; Dr. A. J. CHALMERS; Dr. H. MARCUS FERNANDO; Mr. SOLOMON SENEVIRATNE.

Mr. H. K. HILLYEB, *Secretary*.

The Hon. Mr. W. G. VAN DORT, M.D., was unable to attend.

The Commission resumed its proceedings at 11.30 A.M.

Mr. G. W. Sturgess, M.R.C.V.S., Government Veterinary Surgeon, was examined with regard to the extent to which preparations containing Opium are used as Cattle Medicines in Ceylon.

The CHAIRMAN: You are the Government Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. Sturgess, I think?

WITNESS: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you any experience as to the extent to which opium is used as a cattle medicine in Ceylon?

WITNESS: As far as I know, it is very largely used by vedaralas and by carters.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you made any inquiries on the subject?

WITNESS: Yes, I have.

The CHAIRMAN: From what sources have you inquired?

WITNESS: I inquired from my staff, from large cart owners, and large cart contractors up-country.

The CHAIRMAN: For what ailments is it used?

WITNESS: It is used for rheumatism, exhaustion, exposure to heavy rain, and also when the bull refuses food after hard work. That is what the reports to me say. They are all much the same.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you sure it is opium proper or *titta abin* which is used?

WITNESS: It is the ordinary bazaar opium.

The CHAIRMAN: Because it turns out that *titta abin* is not opium at all. It is pure aloes.

WITNESS: Yes, there are several preparations. There is *titta abin*, and there is *kiri abin*.

Mr. BOOTH: *Titta abin* is not opium at all.

WITNESS: *Titta abin* is understood by the vedaralas as being opium.

Dr. FERNANDO: Not at all. It is pure aloes.

WITNESS: That is what was given to me as opium.

Dr. FERNANDO: We have made inquiries, and we find also that *kiri abin* does not exist in the Island.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE: When you gave your first answer, you thought that *titta abin* was opium?

WITNESS: Well, it was given to me as gum opium. There is *kiri abin*, which I understand to be a kind of extract.

Mr. BOOTH: Purified.

WITNESS: And *abin* spirit which is, I think, chlorodyne.

Dr. FERNANDO: No, laudanum.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you any information as to the dose which is used?

WITNESS: About 2 drachms of gum opium.

The CHAIRMAN: How much in the tincture?

WITNESS: One in 15 would be roughly a drachm in 2 ounces. Two ounces of tincture would be roughly equivalent to a drachm.

Mr. BOOTH: I think we had better call Mr. Sturgess again after he has made further inquiries and eliminated the *titta abin*.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you use opium as a cattle medicine in your own practice?

WITNESS: Yes, largely, and for horses, too.

The CHAIRMAN: What do you use it for?

WITNESS: In all cases where there is abdominal pain and fever.

Mr. BOOTH: You are now speaking of opium, not *titta abin*?

WITNESS: Yes. I am speaking of opium throughout. I did not know *titta abin* was aloes.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you consider it is a valuable medicine?

WITNESS: Very.

The CHAIRMAN: In what amounts do you administer it—in what doses?

WITNESS: From  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 ounces.

The CHAIRMAN: That is of the tincture?

WITNESS: Of the tincture—laudanum.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you think there would be any objection to using opium as a cattle medicine specially prepared so as to be unpalatable to the human taste?

WITNESS: None at all, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Supposing it were mixed, say, with *asafetida*, there would be no objection?

WITNESS: No objection whatever.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we might ask Mr. Sturgess to make some further inquiries and ascertain how far actual opium, as opposed to *titta abin*, is used as a cattle medicine.

WITNESS: Well, I will call for samples.

The CHAIRMAN: If you would.

Dr. FERNANDO: Is 3 ounces one dose?

WITNESS: Yes, in a bad case of colic.

Dr. FERNANDO: Would you repeat it?

WITNESS: Yes.

Dr. FERNANDO: So it is an expensive drug. It cannot be used very largely, only for valuable cattle.

WITNESS: So far as I know they give the crude drug—the bazaar opium.

- Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Your experience is with regard to cattle in the Dairy, or where ?  
 WITNESS : Throughout the whole Island.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do the natives seek your advice with regard to their cattle ?  
 WITNESS : Oh, yes, they do. They ask me various questions.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : And do you prescribe for them ?  
 WITNESS : No, I seldom prescribe for them. The vedaralas give them their own medicines.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You are called in by the well-to-do people ?  
 WITNESS : I am, in the course of travelling ; but I am only asked questions now and again.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You have not been prescribing largely for the people of this country ?  
 WITNESS : Oh, yes, I have—in ordinary veterinary practice.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : For the well-to-do people ?  
 WITNESS : Yes. For rinderpest opium is the main ingredient in all the vedaralas' pills.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : So a great deal of your evidence is hearsay.  
 WITNESS : It is obtained from general experience.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Is your information derived from other people ?  
 The CHAIRMAN : So far as your own practice is concerned, it is your own experience ?  
 WITNESS : Yes. I use it very largely.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : How many cattle are there in the Dairy ?  
 WITNESS : 300 cattle.  
 Mr. SENEVIRATNE : How much opium do you use in the Dairy in a year ?  
 WITNESS : It just depends upon the ailments. If there are no ailments, we use no opium.  
 Mr. SENEVIRATNE : Approximately during the last three or four years ?  
 WITNESS : I should think probably a pint of the tincture.  
 Mr. SENEVIRATNE : How much is that ?  
 Dr. FERNANDO : A pint is 20 ounces.  
 WITNESS : Fortunately we have had no diseases calling for it.  
 Mr. BOOTH : But those cattle in the Dairy are specially well looked after. You use nothing but the tincture, not the gum opium ?  
 WITNESS : Only the tincture. We never use the gum. We only use opium in a case of colic or abdominal pain.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : Do you use opium—laudanum—for rinderpest ?  
 WITNESS : I have given that up.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : It is not used by the Municipal Veterinary Surgeon.  
 WITNESS : It used to be recommended very largely, but it is now, as far as I am concerned, quite given up.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : I think the Colombo veterinary surgeons have given it up also.  
 WITNESS : I have taken to turpentine.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Eliminating *titta abin*, how much opium is used generally ?  
 WITNESS : As far as my information goes, I include *titta abin* as opium.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Eliminating *titta abin*, how much real opium do carters and vedaralas use ?  
 WITNESS : Well, I can give you the reports which have been made to me.  
 Mr. Sturgess then handed in the following replies to a circular which had been sent out by him :—

The ASSISTANT VETERINARY SURGEON to the GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON.

No. 340.

Kandy, October 16, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter No. 1,384 of the 15th instant, I beg to state that the ordinary gum opium is used by carters for cattle. Some cart bulls are given a dose regularly once every week. It is given in rheumatism, diarrhoea, and as a sort of "pick-me-up" when cattle are tired and exhausted by hard work.

- (1) The ordinary East Indian or Malwa and Bengal opiums are used.
- (2) It is called *abin* in Sinhalese and Tamil.
- (3) The ordinary crude gum sold in the bazaar is used.
- (4) It is given inserted in a ripe plantain, about 2 drachms being used for a dose.

I am, &c.,

E. T. HOOLE,  
 Assistant Veterinary Surgeon.

Mr. M. J. PIERIS to the GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON.

Bandarawela, October 16, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—WITH reference to your inquiry dated 15th instant, I have the honour to state that I have no experience of treating cattle with opium, but I understand that native cattle doctors use small quantities together with other medicines in making pills for several cases which I am unable to describe.

I am, &c.,

M. J. PIERIS.

Messrs. J. D. S. WICKREMESOORIYA & Co. to the GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON.

Talawakele, October 16, 1909.

SIR,—IN reply to your letter of the 15th instant, we have the honour to inform you that opium is used for our cattle only when an animal is subjected to frequent rheumatic pains, and such cases are very rare among our cattle. When opium is once given to an animal, it has to be continued all through. The kind so used is the ordinary ball opium sold by licensed dealers.

We have, &c.,

J. D. S. WICKREMESOORIYA & Co.



Mr. A. M. AHAMAT to the GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON.

No. 279.

Kandy, October 17, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your letter No. 1,384 of the 15th instant, I beg to report that carters use the gum opium for cattle medicines. It is given by carters for rheumatism, exhaustion, exposure to heavy rain, and also when the bull refuses food after hard work.

The dose which carters give for a bull is of 14 cents worth. It is given in plantain or coffee. The Sinhalese name is *abin*. For rheumatism it is given once in seven days. Opium is used by carters for bulls as a sort of "pick-me-up."

I am, &c.,

A. M. AHAMAT,  
Stock Inspector.

Mr. T. MAHAMOOTH to the GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON.

Bibile, October 17, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter No. 1,384 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inform you that opium is used by carters as follows :—

- (1) Obtainable from licensed opium boutiques.
- (2) Sinhalese name. *kiri abin* or *abin*.
- (3) Gum opium.
- (4) Given as pills prepared with other native medicines for rheumatism, diarrhoea, ordinary purging, and rinderpest.

I am, &c.,

T. MAHAMOOTH,  
Stock Inspector.

Mr. M. C. S. MOHAMED to the GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON.

Badulla, October 17, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter No. 1,384/V of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the only preparation of opium (so far as I am able to ascertain) the carters use is that obtainable in the local market, viz., licensed opium shops, and is used generally for nervous disorders, rheumatism, debility, and sometimes for diarrhoea.

- (1) Only one kind, that obtained in the local opium boutiques.
- (2) "*Kade abin*."
- (3) Gum opium.
- (4) In pill form.

I am, &c.,

M. C. S. MOHAMED,  
Stock Inspector.

Mr. JNO. D. PERERA to the GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON.

Veyangoda, October 18, 1909.

DEAR Mr. STURGESS,—THE opium used is the opium eaten by people. In preparing the medicine for cattle affected with murrain, weppu, and adappe, opium is mixed up with other ingredients and made into pills. These pills are called by the vedaralas "*Anadasattia goolia*" and "*Ananthanan goolia*." I am not aware whether these pills are largely used by carters.

Yours, &c.,

JNO. D. PERERA,  
Mudaliyar of Siyane Korale East.

The HATTON BANK AND AGENCY Co, to the GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON.

Hatton, October 18, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter of 15th instant, I have the honour to give you the following particulars.

Opium is occasionally used for our cattle, when they show symptoms of rheumatism. The preparation bought and used is the soft black ball, each as large as an arecanut. This is simply placed amongst their food and eaten with it. Liquid form of opium is, I believe, used among the men for smoking with other mixtures. Besides the purpose mentioned above, opium in the form mentioned is given to cattle to alleviate pain generally, and as a stimulant.

We are, &c.,

HATTON BANK AND AGENCY Co.

Mr. Sturgess then promised to make further inquiries, to call for samples, and to ascertain how far actual opium, as opposed to *titta abin*, is used as a cattle medicine.

Don Brampy Gunawardena (a leading Vedarala), of Hikkaduwa near Galle, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : Don Brampy Gunawardena.

The CHAIRMAN : Where do you live ?

WITNESS : At Hikkaduwa, near Galle.

The CHAIRMAN : You are a vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : In large practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : For any special ailments or all kinds of diseases ?

WITNESS : All diseases. Not surgery.

The CHAIRMAN : Was your father also a vedarala ?

WITNESS : My uncle was a vedarala.

The CHAIRMAN : Did you learn from him ?

WITNESS : I learned at Colombo, and also from my uncle.

The CHAIRMAN : You have served as an apprentice in Colombo, and worked with your uncle. Is that so ?

WITNESS : Yes, I served as an apprentice under my uncle.

The CHAIRMAN : For how long ?

WITNESS : About twelve years altogether. I had three or four years' apprenticeship.

The CHAIRMAN : And then you started to practice on your own account ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium at all in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes. I use opium.

The CHAIRMAN : For what diseases ?

WITNESS : Typhoid fever ; cases of confinement ; dysentery ; diarrhoea ; cholera ; rheumatism ; diabetes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it for malarial fever at all ?

WITNESS : Yes, for pills, I use it in malarial fever.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you always administer it in the form of pills ?

WITNESS : In pills and electuaries.

The CHAIRMAN : I suppose you have a small proportion of opium in each pill ?

WITNESS : Yes, very little.

The CHAIRMAN : Can you give us any idea of the proportion ?

WITNESS : The pills are not all the same size. Some are small ; some are large.

The CHAIRMAN : Supposing you had pills that weigh ten *manchadis* each, how many *manchadis* of opium would you have in each ?

WITNESS : For a pill of ten *manchadis*, one-tenth of a *manchadi* of opium is used - i.e., the opium is a one-hundredth part.

The CHAIRMAN : So that if you had pills of the weight of one hundred *manchadis* there would have to be one *manchadi* of opium in each ?

WITNESS : Yes, in some cases.

The CHAIRMAN : The proportion varies ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Sometimes the proportion would be a little more and sometimes a little less than that ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Whom do you get your opium from generally ?

WITNESS : From public places ; from Galle and Colombo.

The CHAIRMAN : At a licensed vendor's ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : And you mix up your own medicines ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you add the opium to the medicines ?

WITNESS : I destroy the poisonous effects first.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you purify the opium ?

WITNESS : I put a medicinal juice—a decoction—into the opium and allow it to remain a day ; and after that I filter with water and get the opium, and then expose it to the sun.

The CHAIRMAN : You expose it to the sun, and grind it up, do you ?

WITNESS : Yes. I expose it to the sun, and put the other ingredients in, and then grind it up.

The CHAIRMAN : How much opium do you use in a year, do you suppose ?

WITNESS : I cannot say exactly. Some years fifty *kalan*, and some years forty.

The CHAIRMAN : How many *kalan* go to a pound ?

WITNESS : I am unable to say that.

The CHAIRMAN : They tell us it is ninety-six. Is that right ?

WITNESS : Twenty *manchadis* go to a *kalanda*.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you ever administer opium unmixed with other drugs ?

WITNESS : No.

Mr. BOOTH : Do the medicines, pills, and electuaries which you prepare keep good for a considerable time ?

WITNESS : About two years.

Mr. BOOTH : You make a stock and keep them for a long time ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you always have the same amount of opium in your medicines, or do you sometimes put a little more, sometimes a little less ?

WITNESS : I take the proportions given in the books ; in some medicines it is more, in some less ; I act according to the instructions given in the books.

The CHAIRMAN : You always adhere to the proportion given in the books ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Are the books in Sinhalese ?

WITNESS : Some are in Sinhalese, and others in Sanskrit.

The CHAIRMAN : Are they in print or manuscript ?

WITNESS : There are some printed, and others are manuscripts.

The CHAIRMAN : Can you read Sanskrit ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You said you began your apprenticeship in Colombo ?

WITNESS : Yes, under Sumangala, the High Priest, at the *Vidyodaya* College, where I studied.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You always use the opium after purifying it ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Never unpurified ?  
 WITNESS : Never.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : In purifying, does it grow less ?  
 WITNESS : A little less.  
 Mr. SENEVIRATNE : How many patients do you have in a day ?  
 WITNESS : About 8 or 10.  
 Mr. SENEVIRATNE : With all you use opium ?  
 WITNESS : Not in every case.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You avoid, as much as possible, the medicines that require opium ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You prescribe those medicines when absolutely necessary ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : You had a long training ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : You prescribe in a scientific manner ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Now, are all vedaralas equally qualified with you, or are there a lot calling themselves vedaralas who have no pretensions to such ?  
 WITNESS : I am unable to say all are equally clever.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you think some practice without being properly qualified ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, there are some.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you think those sort of people could be safely trusted with the administration of opium to patients ?  
 WITNESS : I am unable to say.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Don't you think it is unsafe to allow those people to handle opium ?  
 Mr. BOOTH : People that are quacks ?  
 WITNESS : If they know how to destroy the poisonous effects of the opium, there is no harm in their using it.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Is it difficult to distinguish between the real vedarala and the quack ?  
 WITNESS : If you examine them, you can find out.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : But can the man in the street distinguish between them ?  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You examine by results ? That is how you determine ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : Can the man in the street tell the difference between the true vedarala and the quack ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, he can say.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : What is the distinction ?  
 WITNESS : By the results of the treatment of patients it can be found out.  
 The witness added that the quacks often followed the prescriptions given in the books, and that there was no danger. There were vedaralas who had a very large practice, who did not know Sanskrit, and who had received no education ; the calling ran in the family ; even the females treated a very little.  
 Mr. BOOTH : I am sure that there are a lot practicing who are not properly qualified.

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Henry Dias Abeyawardene, Veda Arachchi (a leading Vedarala), of Madawalamulla, Southern Province, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?  
 WITNESS : Henry Dias Abeyawardene, Veda Arachchi.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Where do you live ?  
 WITNESS : At Madawalamulla.  
 The CHAIRMAN : You are in practice as a vedarala ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : For what diseases.  
 WITNESS : For all diseases. I am a physician, not a surgeon.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How did you learn your profession ?  
 WITNESS : At the *Vidyodaya* College.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Did they give instruction in medicine there ?  
 WITNESS : I learned medicine at Galle under Silawansa. I was four years under the Priest Silawansa at Galle.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : In what ailments ?  
 WITNESS : Rheumatism ; chronic diarrhœa ; dysentery ; diabetes ; worm diseases in children ; tubercular diseases of the bowels.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it for enteric fever ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : In malarial fever ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, in the later stages of malarial fever.  
 The CHAIRMAN : You administer it, I suppose, in pills, electuaries, and pastes ?  
 WITNESS : Electuaries ; pills ; powders ; confections ; oils ; syrups.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it at all for external application as a linament ?  
 WITNESS : I use the tincture of opium for a linament.  
 The CHAIRMAN : All the medicines, I understand, are made from prescriptions which you have in writing, are they not ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Are they in Sinhalese ?  
 WITNESS : Sinhalese as well as in Sanskrit.

The CHAIRMAN : Can you read Sanskrit ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : You learned it at the College in Colombo, did you not ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : And you never alter the proportion of opium that is prescribed in the books, do you ?

WITNESS : Yes, in some cases.

The CHAIRMAN : You do alter ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : And you give a little more or a little less ?

WITNESS : Instructions are given in the book either to give a little more or less.

Dr. FERNANDO : What he means is that he mixes the preparation according to the book ; but in the dose administered to the patient he alters the number of pills to suit the case.

Mr. BOOTH : Does the book allow a margin ?

WITNESS : The porportion is given in the book, but we are able to use our discretion as to the dose according to the condition of the patient.

Dr. FERNANDO : What you do vary is the number of pills you give to a patient, not the proportion of the compound of the medicine ? You give one or two or three pills according to the case ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : We examined a witness just now, and he told us that in his pills there was about a one-hundreth part of opium. Do you agree with that ?

WITNESS : There are pills in which a one-hundreth part of opium is used, but in others there is more than that.

The CHAIRMAN : What is the proportion in the other medicines ?

WITNESS : Half of a seed, which comes to about one-twentieth.

The CHAIRMAN : In some cases then the proportion would be one-twentieth ?

WITNESS : Yes, for cholera especially.

The CHAIRMAN : That would be about the highest proportion which is ever prescribed ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : And you only prescribe it in extreme cases ?

WITNESS : Yes, specially for cholera.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you buy your opium in Galle ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : From the licensed vendors ?

WITNESS : Licensed boutiques.

The CHAIRMAN : About how much do you consume in the course of a year ?

WITNESS : The average is about sixty or seventy *kalan* in a year. Some years it may be more ; some years it may be less.

The CHAIRMAN : I suppose you have to purify the opium before you add it to the other ingredients ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you purify your opium ?

WITNESS : It is washed in a decoction, called sandalwood decoction.

The CHAIRMAN : What is this sandalwood decoction ?

WITNESS : I take a piece of sandalwood—say, twelve *kalan*—and that is boiled in water, which is evaporated down to one-eighth of the quantity of water taken.

The CHAIRMAN : How do you get the sandalwood ?

WITNESS : From boutiques.

The CHAIRMAN : You buy it ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : It is not grown in Ceylon ?

WITNESS : I have not seen it.

Dr. FERNANDO : It all comes from Bangalore.

The witness then stated that, in order to purify the opium, he washed the opium in the sandalwood decoction, putting the opium in, stirring it up, and then allowing the opium to settle down ; the sediment was washed a second time in another quality of sandalwood decoction and allowed to settle ; and the same process was repeated a third time. He then took the final sediment, mixed it with cow butter, and kept the mixture in the sun for three days in succession.

Dr. FERNANDO : How long does it take to do this purifying ?

WITNESS : One day.

Dr. FERNANDO : How many hours ?

WITNESS : The whole process of clarifying takes about half a day.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever give opium unmixed ?

WITNESS : No.

Mr. BOOTH : Is there any peculiar complication about mixing the opium with the other ingredients, or is that a simple matter ?

WITNESS : Yes, it is a simple matter.

The CHAIRMAN : You get all the other drugs ready, and then mix them ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Do these preparations of yours keep good for a considerable time after they are made ?

WITNESS : Pills not more than six months ; *kalka* the same.

Mr. BOOTH : I understand you to say your medicines are kept at least six months ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : You had a scientific training ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Are there to your knowledge people who call themselves vedaralas, but who really have no pretensions to scientific knowledge of medicines, and who prescribe without such knowledge ?

WITNESS : There are.

Mr. BOOTH : Whom you call a *kurapin-weda*, a quack ?

WITNESS : Yes. There are some such vedaralas who bring patients round.

Mr. BOOTH : Should the ignorant man who calls himself a vedarala be entrusted with opium ?  
 WITNESS : It is not proper to entrust the use of opium to an ignorant man.  
 Mr. BOOTH : But are there such people ?  
 WITNESS : There are ignorant vedaralas, but still they also bring patients round. They use opium also.  
 Mr. BOOTH : I take it that it comes to this : it does not matter whether you have a scientific training or not ?  
 WITNESS : It requires practice as well as knowledge. Experience as well as theory is necessary.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You spoke of a cholera pill. Is it a pill or a mixture ?  
 WITNESS : A preparation.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : Is it made according to the text book ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : You said you gave tincture of opium in a linament. Is that referred to in the text book ?  
 WITNESS : Not in the books.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : There is no way to tell between a trained vedarala and a quack ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, we can see the difference.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : How ?  
 WITNESS : We can tell the difference by his diagnosis of serious cases.  
 Dr. CHALMERS : But the man in the street—how can he tell ?  
 WITNESS : I am unable to say that.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You judge by results ?  
 WITNESS : They attend to minor ailments, and if a case becomes serious they send for a better vedarala.  
 Mr. OBEYSEKERE : But how do you judge ?  
 WITNESS : By the reputation.

Sadris de Silva Wiydiaratne (a minor Vedarala), of Ratgama, Southern Province, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?  
 WITNESS : Sadris de Silva Wiydiaratne.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Of Ratgama ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : You are a vedarala ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : In large practice ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : A surgeon or physician ?  
 WITNESS : Not a surgeon. I am a physician.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Where were you trained ?  
 WITNESS : Under Hendrick d'Abrew Rajapaksa.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How long were you under him ?  
 WITNESS : Eight years.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, I use opium.  
 The CHAIRMAN : What for ?  
 WITNESS : Dysentery ; chronic diarrhoea ; cholera ; rheumatism ; consumption ; diabetes. There are 20 diseases in which opium is used.  
 The CHAIRMAN : You use it in the form of pills ?  
 WITNESS : In pills, *kalka*, chemical preparations ; *rasayana*.  
 The CHAIRMAN : You make these preparations from recipes in your books ?  
 WITNESS : According to the instructions given in the books.  
 The CHAIRMAN : And you always use the proportion of opium that is prescribed in the books, do you ?  
 WITNESS : According to the proportion prescribed for each medicine.  
 The CHAIRMAN : We have been told that in pills there is about a one hundredth part of opium. In some it is more.  
 WITNESS : In some.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Is that right ? Do you agree with that ?  
 WITNESS : That is right—*i.e.*, of the purified opium.  
 The CHAIRMAN : What is the largest proportion of opium that there is in any medicine you use ?  
 WITNESS : I cannot give more than a one-fiftieth part of opium at a time in the medicine administered for dysentery. There is one medicine, however, which has to be as high as 1 in 20 ; that is the case for cholera also.  
 The CHAIRMAN : That is about the highest proportion you use ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Whom do you get your opium from ?  
 WITNESS : From the boutiques in which it is sold.  
 The CHAIRMAN : At Galle ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : About how much do you get in a year ?  
 WITNESS : About one hundred *kalan*.  
 The CHAIRMAN : There are two kinds of opium, are there not ?  
 WITNESS : There are two kinds of opium in the boutique. One is the opium that is in a ball ; the other is the extract out of the leaves. Of the pure—ball—opium, when purified, only three quarters can be used. Of the other kind *kiri abis*—only one-fourth can be used after it is purified (the witness appeared to refer to *thaslam*, a preparation of opium sold in boutiques).

The CHAIRMAN : How do you purify the opium ?

WITNESS : By a decoction and cow butter.

The CHAIRMAN : A decoction of sandalwood ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : How long does the process take ?

WITNESS : In three days it can be done.

The CHAIRMAN : Can it not be done in one day ?

WITNESS : If there is sun it can be done in one day.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever give opium unmixed ?

WITNESS : No.

Mr. BOOTH : You prepare the other ingredients, get them ready, and then mix them with opium ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Do these preparations when made up keep good for any length of time ?

WITNESS : Six months for pills.

Mr. BOOTH : Other kinds ?

WITNESS : Six months for powders ; *kalka* and *rasayana* three months.

Mr. BOOTH : Which do you use most ?

WITNESS : I use powders for rheumatism, consumption, and asthma.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : Can you read Sanskrit ?

WITNESS : Yes.

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Nadoris de Silva (a minor Vedarala), of Ambalangoda, Southern Province, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : Nadoris de Silva.

The CHAIRMAN : Of Ambalangoda ?

WITNESS : Of Ambalangoda.

The CHAIRMAN : Are you a surgeon or a physician ?

WITNESS : Physician.

The CHAIRMAN : Whom were you trained under ?

WITNESS : Poutuwila, the Kalutara priest, the Bentota priest, and Watagama, a third priest.

The CHAIRMAN : How long were you in training ?

WITNESS : Twenty-five years under the three priests.

The CHAIRMAN : And you learned to read Sanskrit ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : I suppose you always prescribe it in the amounts that are named in your books ?

WITNESS : Yes. There are certain proportions for certain diseases. Those proportions are used.

The CHAIRMAN : How much opium do you use in a year ?

WITNESS : In some years twenty-five *kalan* a year ; fifty *kalan* in other years ; and seventy in some years ?

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Frederick Vedarala (a minor Vedarala), of Mapitigama, Siyane Korale East, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : Frederick Vedarala.

The CHAIRMAN : Of Mapitigama in Siyane Korale East ?

WITNESS : Of Mapitigama in Siyane Korale East.

The CHAIRMAN : You are a vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Where were you trained ?

WITNESS : At the Maligakanda College.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : For what ailments ?

WITNESS : Dysentery ; cholera ; typhoid fever ; rheumatism ; worm diseases.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you ever administer it alone, or is it always administered with other ingredients ?

WITNESS : Mixed with other ingredients.

The CHAIRMAN : We have been told that the proportion in which opium is used is sometimes 1 in 50, and sometimes as high as 1 in 20. Do you agree with that ?

WITNESS : Yes, that is one proportion ; but it is not always the same.

The CHAIRMAN : And the highest proportion is about 1 in 20 ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : That is only used in certain diseases ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : What are the diseases for which you use this high proportion of opium ?

WITNESS : Cholera and dysentery.

The CHAIRMAN : Whom do you get your opium from ?

WITNESS : The Apothecaries' Company in Colombo.

The CHAIRMAN : And you buy it in a fluid form ?

WITNESS : I buy the liquid opium from the Apothecaries' Company. At Kayman's Gate I buy the other kinds.

The CHAIRMAN : How much of the solid opium do you use in a year ?

WITNESS : That depends upon the number of patients I get.

The CHAIRMAN : About how much ?  
 WITNESS : About a quarter of a pound of solid opium.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How much of the liquid opium ?  
 WITNESS : Very little of that.  
 The CHAIRMAN : For how much is opium sold at Kayman's Gate ?  
 WITNESS : Re. 1 for two *kalan*.  
 The CHAIRMAN : You have to purify the opium before you mix it with the other ingredients ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you use a decoction of sandalwood ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How long does the process take ?  
 WITNESS : About three days.  
 The CHAIRMAN : If there is a good sun, would you be able to do it in one day ?  
 WITNESS : We require sun. If there is no sun it requires a longer time.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Could you do it in one day if you had a good sun ?  
 WITNESS : It cannot be done in one day, because it should be kept in the cow butter about three days.  
 The CHAIRMAN : The opium is reduced in weight when it is purified ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : About how much is it reduced ?  
 WITNESS : One *kalanda* is reduced to fifteen *manchadis*. From twenty *manchadis* we get fifteen *manchadis* ; it becomes one-fourth less.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : You mentioned about the purification taking three days. It is only the second stage after the introduction of the cow butter which takes so long a time ? The first stage takes 3 or 4 hours ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, the washing can be done in one day.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : After the other ingredients are mixed, and the butter is mixed, then it takes some time ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : You spoke about the liquid form of opium. Is that what is known as *kiri abin* ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : Is there such a stuff known as *thailam* in the boutiques ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, I have heard of the name. I do not use it for medicines. *Kiri abin*—extract of opium—I get from the Apothecaries' Company.  
 At this point Mr. Lascelles had to leave the Commission, and Mr. Booth took the chair.

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Adonis Vedarala (a minor Vedarala), of Galpotugoda, Siyane Korale East, was examined through an Interpreter.

Mr. BOOTH : What is your name ?  
 WITNESS : Adonis Vedarala.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Of Galpotugoda ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : You are a vedarala ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : A physician or surgeon ?  
 WITNESS : Physician.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Where did you get your training ?  
 WITNESS : Under the priest called Sudarsana.  
 Mr. BOOTH : How long were you there ?  
 WITNESS : I was there three years.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you use opium in your practice ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you prescribe it unmixed or mixed with other drugs ?  
 WITNESS : Mixed with other drugs.  
 Mr. BOOTH : What ailments do you prescribe it for ?  
 WITNESS : Typhoid fever ; dysentery ; chronic diarrhoea ; rheumatism, —for such diseases.  
 Mr. BOOTH : How do you make up your prescriptions ? From books ?  
 WITNESS : According to books.  
 Mr. BOOTH : You adhere to the prescriptions laid down in the books ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : You do not vary them ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 Mr. BOOTH : What forms do your medicines take ?  
 WITNESS : Pills ; *kalka* ; syrups ; powders.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Now, what proportion does the opium in these medicines have to the whole medicine ?  
 WITNESS : In some there is about one-tenth, in some one-twentieth or one-thirtieth.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you use as much as one-tenth ?  
 WITNESS : No, not one-tenth.  
 Mr. BOOTH : I want to know what is the highest proportion you use ?  
 WITNESS : About one-thirtieth.  
 Mr. BOOTH : And some are less strong than that ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : How much opium do you use in a year in your practice ?  
 WITNESS : About Rs. 50 worth.  
 Mr. BOOTH : How much will that weigh ?  
 WITNESS : Twenty *kalan* is the average a year.

Mr. BOOTH : Now, do these preparations of yours keep good after they are made up ?

WITNESS : I cannot keep them more than a year.

Mr. BOOTH : Can you keep them as long as that ?

WITNESS : Some six months, and some one year.

Mr. BOOTH : Is six months the least ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you have to put the opium through any purifying process before mixing ?

WITNESS : Yes, a sandalwood decoction.

Mr. BOOTH : How long does the purifying process take ?

WITNESS : About seven days. Three days for the washing with the sandalwood decoction.

Mr. BOOTH : How many washings do you give it ?

WITNESS : Three times a day ; and it is washed for three days.

Mr. BOOTH : The other vedaralas said that they only give it three washings.

WITNESS : To do it quite well, it requires three days at three times a day.

Mr. BOOTH : After washing what do you do ?

WITNESS : I mix the opium with the other ingredients, and use it.

Mr. BOOTH : Does the original quantity of opium become reduced by these washings ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : By how much ?

WITNESS : If ten *manchadis* of opium are taken, the quantity will be reduced by about three *manchadis*.

Mr. BOOTH : Leaving seven for using ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The witness then stated that he could always get *kiri abin* from the Apothecaries' Company if the bazaar opium were not available. The extract could be used ; but he purified it.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : What is the effect of the so-called purifying of the opium ?

WITNESS : The poisonous effect is removed.

Mr. OBEYSEKERE : What is the poisonous effect you speak of ?

WITNESS : It is said to be poisonous in its effect on the nerves.

Dr. FERNANDO : Have you ever used the extract in your drugs without purifying ?

WITNESS : No.

M. A. Samarawikrama Vedarala (a minor Vedarala), of Kurunegala, was examined through an Interpreter.

Mr. BOOTH : What is your name ?

WITNESS : M. A. Samarawikrama.

Mr. BOOTH : You come from Kurunegala ?

WITNESS : From Kurunegala.

Mr. BOOTH : From Kurunegala town ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : You are a vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : A physician or a surgeon ?

WITNESS : Physician.

Mr. BOOTH : Under whom did you learn ?

WITNESS : Don Lewis Gunasekara, Veda Arachchi.

Mr. BOOTH : Of Kurunegala ?

WITNESS : No, of Matara.

Mr. BOOTH : Have you a large practice in Kurunegala ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you use opium in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : For what diseases ?

WITNESS : Cholera ; rheumatism ; diabetes ;—for such diseases.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you ever prescribe opium unmixed with other drugs ?

WITNESS : It is mixed up with other drugs.

Mr. BOOTH : In what form do you give your medicines ? Pills, or what ?

WITNESS : Pills, pills powdered and boiled in some medicines, syrups, *kalka*, and electuaries.

Mr. BOOTH : How much opium on the average do you think that you require in a year ?

WITNESS : In some years about twenty-five, fifty, sixty, or seventy *kalan*. In some years seventy *kalan*, in some twenty-five ; it is according to the number of patients.

Mr. BOOTH : What is the average, taking one year with another ?

WITNESS : About seventy-five *kalan*.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you put the opium through any process before you mix it with the other drugs ?

WITNESS : I destroy the poisonous effects.

Mr. BOOTH : What is the process ?

WITNESS : I put it in a medicine, wash it through, and then use it.

Mr. BOOTH : How long does the washing process take ?

WITNESS : Three days is quite enough.

Mr. BOOTH : For the whole process ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Can it not be done in less than that ?

WITNESS : There are other processes in which it can be done in less time.

Mr. BOOTH : Well, how long do they take ?

WITNESS : I put it into the centre of a plantain fruit, and then put it under hot ashes.

Mr. BOOTH : How long does that take ?

WITNESS : Six hours.



Mr. BOOTH : Do the pills, *kalka*, and other things keep when made up ?

WITNESS : For six months.

Mr. BOOTH : All of them ?

WITNESS : *Kalka* cannot be kept for long—only three months. Pills can be kept six months.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : What is your age ?

WITNESS : Thirty-four years.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : How long have you been practicing as a *vedarala* ?

WITNESS : Twelve years.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Are you a Kurunegala or Southern Province man ?

WITNESS : Matara.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : How long have you been in Kurunegala ?

WITNESS : Only three months.

The witness then stated that he got opium extract from the Apothecaries' Company, and considered it better for all purposes than the other opium. In using the extract of opium even that had to be purified. He subsequently modified this statement, adding that there were certain preparations for which the extract of opium was not recommended; for such preparations the crude opium must be obtained.

Where *kiri abin* was prescribed, his teacher had told him that the extract might be used; that was the only guide he had for the identity of extract of opium; wherever *kiri abin* was mentioned in the book he treated it as equivalent to the extract.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : You spoke of certain quantities which you used in twelve months ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Was that in the Kurunegala District, or when you were at Matara ?

WITNESS : When at Matara.

Mr. OBEYESEKERE : How much have you used at Kurunegala—more or less ?

WITNESS : I have only used opium three or four times at Kurunegala.

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K. M. J. Jayanetti Vedarala (a leading Vedarala), of Kurunegala, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : K. M. J. Jayanetti.

The CHAIRMAN : Are you a Low-country Sinhalese or Kandyan ?

WITNESS : Low-country.

Mr. BOOTH : Where are you living now ?

WITNESS : I have been living at Kurunegala for the last ten years.

Mr. BOOTH : Practising in the Kurunegala town ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Are you a physician, or a surgeon, or both ?

WITNESS : Physician.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you use opium in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : For what diseases ?

WITNESS : Cholera; dysentery; diarrhoea; rheumatism; diabetes. In chemical preparations for those diseases opium is used.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you prescribe opium unmixed, or mixed with other drugs ?

WITNESS : Mixed with other ingredients.

Mr. BOOTH : What do you make it up into ? What different kinds of medicines ?

WITNESS : Pills; *kalka*; powders; *rasayana* (syrups); chemical preparations; confections.

Mr. BOOTH : Have you a large practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : How much opium do you calculate that you use on an average in a year ?

WITNESS : The average is about 1 pound of opium in a year.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you use only one kind of opium, or more than one kind ?

WITNESS : Two kinds.

Mr. BOOTH : What are the kinds ?

WITNESS : Tincture or extract of opium, and what is sold in the boutiques.

Mr. BOOTH : What do you call *kiri abin* ?

WITNESS : What I think is the milk of fruits.

Mr. BOOTH : Where do you get the extract of opium ?

WITNESS : From the Apothecaries' shop.

Mr. BOOTH : Where else ?

WITNESS : From doctors.

Mr. BOOTH : Do you get any from dispensaries ?

WITNESS : From companies.

Mr. BOOTH : But where ?

WITNESS : I get it from the private drug stores, not from the Government dispensary. There is a private drug store in Kurunegala.

Mr. BOOTH : Which do you use most : the *kade* opium or *kiri abin*—extract ?

WITNESS : The *kade* opium.

Mr. BOOTH : You said you used 1 pound of opium. How much of that is *kade* opium, and how much *kiri abin* ?

WITNESS : One-sixteenth of a pound is *kiri abin*; the rest is *kade* opium.

Mr. BOOTH : Before mixing, is it subjected to any process ?

WITNESS : The poisonous effects are destroyed.

Mr. BOOTH : What do you do to effect that ?

WITNESS : It is washed with a decoction, and after that it is put in cow butter, and kept in the sun for three days.

Mr. BOOTH : How many washings do you give it ?  
 WITNESS : Three times it is washed.  
 Mr. BOOTH : How long does that take ?  
 WITNESS : Two or three days.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Can you not do it in one day ?  
 WITNESS : I can do it if it is urgently required in one day ; if it is not urgently required it is done in two or three days.  
 Mr. BOOTH : It can be done in one day ?  
 WITNESS : We do not do it in one day ; it is dried and washed again, and again dried, and washed a third time.  
 Mr. BOOTH : And the whole process—how long does it take before it is mixed with other drugs ?  
 WITNESS : Five or six days.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Does it become reduced in quantity by this purifying process ?  
 WITNESS : Yes ?  
 Mr. BOOTH : How much reduced ?  
 WITNESS : A *kalanda* is reduced by five *manchadies*.  
 Mr. BOOTH : How many *manchadies* are there in a *kalanda* ?  
 WITNESS : Twenty.  
 Mr. BOOTH : From twenty *manchadies* you get fifteen left to use ?  
 WITNESS : No, it should be thirty-five out of forty are left after the purifying process is finished.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : When do you most consume the opium ? During the malarial fever season at Kurunegala ?  
 WITNESS : No.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : Do you use opium for malarial fever ? During the acute stage of the fever do you use it ?  
 WITNESS : It is according to the condition of the patient. Sometimes we give it.  
 Dr. FERNANDO : It is not a regular drug for the fever ?  
 WITNESS : Not a regular drug for malarial fever.  
 Mr. OBEYESEKERE : Do you use opium without purifying it at all ?  
 WITNESS : No.

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Nanayakkarawasam Haloluwa Arachchige Vaidyachari (native doctor) Don Alexander de Silva, of Pattua, within the Gravets of Galle, was examined through an Interpreter.

Mr. BOOTH : What is your name ?  
 WITNESS : Nanayakkarawasam Haloluwa Arachchige Vaidyachari Don Alexander de Silva.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Where do you live ?  
 WITNESS : At Pattua, within the Gravets of Galle.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Are you a *vedarala* ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : How long have you been practising ?  
 WITNESS : I have been practising during the last thirteen years.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Did you have a training before that ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : For how long ?  
 WITNESS : Fourteen years in three places.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Under whom ?  
 WITNESS : I was under the Bentota priest for eight years ; two years under the Moragoda priest ; and four years under another priest at Galle.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Have you a large practice ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you use opium in your practice ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 Mr. BOOTH : For what diseases ?  
 WITNESS : Dysentery, consumption, cholera, worm diseases, chronic diarrhoea, typhoid fever, rheumatism, and such other diseases.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you prescribe it mixed with other drugs or unmixed ?  
 WITNESS : Mixed with other medicines.  
 Mr. BOOTH : What kind of medicines do you make it up into ?  
 WITNESS : Mostly pills.  
 Mr. BOOTH : The others ?  
 WITNESS : Syrups and oils.  
 Mr. BOOTH : What are the oils for ?  
 WITNESS : For external application.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you use *kalka* ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, for *kalka* also.  
 Mr. BOOTH : How much do you calculate you use in your practice throughout the year on an average ?  
 WITNESS : I am not sure. I think not less than sixty *kalan*.  
 Mr. BOOTH : Do you use only one kind of opium or more than one kind ?  
 WITNESS : Two kinds.  
 Mr. BOOTH : What are those ?  
 WITNESS : The boutique opium is one, and the extract of opium.

- Mr. BOOTH : Where do you get the extract from ?  
 WITNESS : I have bought it from Colombo as well as from Galle (at Ephraums').
- Mr. BOOTH : Which do you use mostly—boutique opium or extract ?  
 WITNESS : Boutique opium.
- Mr. BOOTH : Out of that sixty *kalan* how much is extract of opium ?  
 WITNESS : Not more than four or five *kalan* of extract of opium.
- Mr. BOOTH : It is nearly all *kade* opium that you use ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do you put that through any process before you mix it with other drugs ?  
 WITNESS : I purify it.
- Mr. BOOTH : How ?  
 WITNESS : A sandalwood decoction is prepared ; the opium is washed three times with that decoction. After that it is mixed with cow butter and exposed to the sun.
- Mr. BOOTH : How long does the purifying process take ?  
 WITNESS : About five days—to be well purified.
- Mr. BOOTH : Can you not do it in less ?  
 WITNESS : It can be done in less time, but it is better to give it the full time.
- Mr. BOOTH : Do the drugs keep good for some time when made up ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : For how long ?  
 WITNESS : There is a kind of chemical preparation in which opium is used ; that can be kept about a year. There are other medicines which cannot be kept more than six months.
- Mr. BOOTH : They can all be kept six months ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : Is there any difficulty about mixing the different ingredients ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : What ?  
 WITNESS : It has to be done according to the proportions necessary.
- Mr. BOOTH : Yes, but when they are in their proper proportion, all you have to do is to mix them together ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : The mixing part is not difficult ?  
 WITNESS : It is powdered on a stone.
- Mr. BOOTH : When powdered and ready, the mixing is done ?  
 WITNESS : It is separately powdered. The jungle leaves are separately powdered first.
- Mr. BOOTH : You get all your ingredients ready, and then you mix the opium with them ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. BOOTH : When you have got everything ready, the mixing is easy ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You can do that mixing ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You can do it at any place if you require to do it ?  
 WITNESS : After we have done the grinding it is well mixed up with the other ingredients.
- Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You can do it very easily ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- Mr. OBEYSEKERE : If we called you here to do it, you could do it ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, if the proper vessels were here.
- Mr. OBEYSEKERE : You would bring the vessels with you.
- Mr. SENEVIRATNE : You said you were using *kiri abin*. Where do you get it from ?  
 WITNESS : From shops.
- Mr. SENEVIRATNE then elicited from the witness that *kiri abin* would do for all compounds for which crude opium is used, and that although he did not consider it necessary to purify it, yet he did so ; the slightest purification would do.
- Mr. SENEVIRATNE : You buy the opium from boutiques for its cheapness ?  
 WITNESS : For one *kalanda* of extract of opium I would have to buy seven or eight *kalan* from the boutique.
- Mr. SENEVIRATNE : Then *kiri abin* is better for you ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, if it can be obtained easily it is better.
- The witness further stated that if the extract were procurable in the Government dispensaries, and in the Apothecaries' shop, and similar places, then the *vedaralas* need not go to boutiques. There were great disabilities in procuring the extract of opium ; if these were removed, they could use the extract for all their requirements—if Government dispensaries would give it. They would require a medical certificate from a doctor.
- Mr. BOOTH : What is the cost of a *kalanda* of opium at the boutique—*kade* opium ?  
 WITNESS : Formerly it was 25 cents a *kalanda* ; then it was 40 cents ; and now, I believe, it is 50 cents a *kalanda*.
- Mr. BOOTH : What do you pay for a bottle of the extract ?  
 WITNESS : I do not buy a bottle.
- Mr. BOOTH : Not a full bottle at a time. Well, how do you buy it ?  
 WITNESS : Re. 1 a *kalanda*.
- Mr. OBEYSEKERE : And you said one *kalanda* of extract would answer the same purpose as eight *kalan* of the other.  
 WITNESS : About three or four times the boutique opium ; the extract of opium is so strong. It is ten times more powerful than the boutique opium.
- Dr. FERNANDO : Then it is by far the cheaper ?  
 WITNESS : I do not think it is dearer.
- Mr. BOOTH : Then the extract is cheaper than the *kade* opium.

Dr. FERNANDO : The extract of opium is ten times as strong as the ordinary crude opium, and it only costs twice as much. Therefore in the end it must be five times as cheap ?

WITNESS : The same weight of opium is used for the medicine whether of the extract of opium or the other opium.

Mr. SENEVIRATNE : The standard opium is the crude Bengal opium ?

The witness further stated that he used the same weight either of extract of opium or ordinary boutique opium according to the prescription given in the book, and as the extract was twice as dear, it cost him more. But he thought the effect of the extract was better.

1. The Commission then decided to call a prominent cattle doctor in large practice from the North-Western Province, one from the North-Central Province, and one from the Hambantota District of the Southern Province, together with the cattle doctor who attends Lady de Soysa's cattle, for the next meeting.

2. It was resolved to ask Mr. R. M. Thurley, the expert from India appointed to advise the Ceylon Government on the subject of the organization of an excise system in connection with arrack and toddy, whether he could afford any useful information with regard to the regulations under which opium is sold and consumed in India, especially with regard to the point whether opium is easily procurable in India.

3. The Commission adjourned to 11.30 A.M. on Monday, November 1, 1909.

### Meeting held on Monday, November 1, 1909.

*Present* :—The Hon. Mr. A. G. LASCELLES, K.C., *Chairman*; the Hon. Mr. L. W. BOOTH; the Hon. Mr. W. G. VAN DORT, M.D.; Dr. A. J. CHALMERS; Dr. H. MARCUS FERNANDO; Mr. SOLOMON SENEVIRATNE.

Mr. H. K. HILLYER, *Secretary*.

The Hon. Mr. S. C. OBEYESEKERE was unable to be present.

The Commission resumed its proceedings at 11.30 A.M.

Dr. John Attygalle, M.D., was examined.

The CHAIRMAN : Dr. Attygalle, you have had considerable experience of the native medical practice, have you not ?

WITNESS : Oh, yes.

The CHAIRMAN : As well as of your own practice ?

WITNESS : Yes, as well as of my own.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you agree that opium is used in the native practice much ?

WITNESS : It is used.

The CHAIRMAN : To a considerable extent ?

WITNESS : Not a considerable extent. It is only in certain cases that it is used.

The CHAIRMAN : In what cases ?

WITNESS : Dysentery; rheumatism; that is what the native doctors use it for. Diarrhoea.

Mr. BOOTH : Diabetes ?

WITNESS : Yes, diabetes.

The CHAIRMAN : How is it used ?

WITNESS : It is generally used in the form of pills, or a sort of electuary—a paste like an electuary.

The CHAIRMAN : Pills or electuaries ?

WITNESS : They also use what are called *giritā*.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you know the proportion that is used ?

WITNESS : So far as I know, the prescription for a dose would not come to more than 1 grain.

The CHAIRMAN : A grain, I understand, is a small dose.

Dr. CHALMERS : Fairish.

WITNESS : Perhaps they will give that twice a day or three times a day. That will be 3 grains at the most.

The CHAIRMAN : It is used in the crude form ?

WITNESS : Yes, what is sold in the bazaar.

The CHAIRMAN : It has to be purified ?

WITNESS : They have a process prescribed for purifying it in their own way.

The CHAIRMAN : I suppose you do not know the total amount that a vedarala would use in a year ?

WITNESS : Well, I think the usual practitioner will not require more than a pound a year, or, perhaps, a little more; of course, that is my idea.

The CHAIRMAN : Of course. It is only a rough estimate ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you think it would be easy to make a register of all the *bona fide* vedaralas in Ceylon ?

WITNESS : That is rather a difficult matter, because you have to decide who is a *bona fide* vedarala and who is not. At present we have very few *bona fide* properly trained native doctors. They are mostly quacks in my opinion.

Mr. BOOTH : Some we have had before us have been *bona fide* vedaralas.

WITNESS : There are exceptions, of course, but their number is very limited. In former days there was a regular system, under which a man was apprenticed to an older vedarala, and there he would go on for four or five years; then he would practice for five or six years under the older vedarala before

taking up a practice of his own. But now a man buys printed books in the bazaar, reads them, and then goes and practises.

The CHAIRMAN : That is due to the spread of education, I suppose ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you think a board composed of the Government Agent of the Province, the Mudaliyar of a korale, and, perhaps, a medical officer would be able to prepare a register of *bona fide* vedaralas ?

WITNESS : Yes, if the medical officer knew anything of native medicine, he could ; but there are very few medical officers who know native medicine.

The CHAIRMAN : The Mudaliyar of a korale ?

WITNESS : I have no faith in Mudaliyars.

The CHAIRMAN : Well, they were asked to select the leading vedaralas, and certainly the men who were sent to us seemed very respectable men.

WITNESS : Oh, yes ; but as far as registration goes, I have no faith in the Mudaliyars.

Dr. VAN DORT : What would you suggest, then, in place of the board such as mentioned just now ? What officers should compose this board for registering the *bona fide* vedaralas ?

WITNESS : I do not know how you can do so in Ceylon, unless you get a medical man who knows native medicine also, and then you could make a list. Altogether, I think, there are 3,000 vedaralas in Ceylon.

The Secretary stated that according to the last Census returns there were 3,350 vedaralas in the Island.

Dr. CHALMERS : Would it not do to have one or two really respectable vedaralas on that board ?

WITNESS : Yes, if you can get them.

Dr. CHALMERS : Dr. Attygalle, I think you have studied the *ayurvedic* medicines very considerably ?

WITNESS : Yes, I have.

Dr. CHALMERS : And you know these better class vedaralas ?

WITNESS : Yes, there are some good class men.

Dr. CHALMERS : How would you tell a vedarala—a really qualified vedarala ?

WITNESS : They must go through a regular course of instruction first, and then go round for three or four years practicing under an older doctor.

Dr. CHALMERS : Under whom ?

WITNESS : He must go round with his teacher before he practices himself.

Dr. CHALMERS : A well known vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes. That was the old system. It is like the system of apprenticeships in England.

Dr. CHALMERS : And after receiving instruction he would be apprenticed ?

WITNESS : In fact, altogether the apprenticeship would be for three or four years, and he would be learning at the same time.

Dr. CHALMERS : Instruction and apprenticeship are one ?

WITNESS : Yes ; and afterwards the pupil would go about with the old vedarala, and see cases treated. That was the old system.

Dr. CHALMERS : What definition would you give ? Would you say that a vedarala was a man who had been apprenticed, and who had served for some years with a well-known and reputed vedarala ?

WITNESS : Yes. There are well known vedaralas like that.

Dr. CHALMERS : That is the definition ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Dr. VAN DORT : Do you see any objection to some of the best Buddhist priests being on the board of registration ?

WITNESS : No, men like Sumangala, for instance, might be on.

Dr. CHALMERS : Would they be better than the Mudaliyars ?

WITNESS : They would know the science better. They do not practise it.

Dr. CHALMERS : Would one central board do ?

WITNESS : Yes, I think that would be quite enough. It is not so difficult. They can come a distance.

Mr. BOOTH : Or a couple of boards in each Province ?

WITNESS : That would be more convenient.

Dr. CHALMERS : I do not think there would be any difficulty about a central board if we wished for it.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you think it would be feasible to require the vedaralas to add the opium to their medicines in the presence of some official ?

WITNESS : I do not think that could be done. They have a process of preparing them which takes several days.

Mr. BOOTH : They have told us that after getting their different ingredients ready—they get them and grind them up—all they have to do, having purified the opium, is to mix them up together. The question is, will there be any difficulty in making them bring all the other ingredients up to a fixed place ?

WITNESS : Some might object. Some of the medicines are secret preparations.

Mr. BOOTH : Yes, but they would bring those already prepared ; they would merely come to the central place and add opium to them. Then they could never have any crude opium in their possession.

WITNESS : Yes, they could come and do that. But it is a rather difficult subject. They would have to come some distance.

Mr. BOOTH : But only once in six months. They only prepare the medicines about once in six months.

WITNESS : Yes, they are kept for some time. They do not prescribe opium daily.

Mr. BOOTH : That would better ensure that there was no crude opium in their possession.

WITNESS : That could be done.

Mr. BOOTH : Well, do you mean that it could be applied to those that are called quacks ?

WITNESS : Yes, but it would be rather hard on the real ones.

Mr. BOOTH : I do not mean apply it to the real ones.

WITNESS : Yes. I think there is no objection to that.

Mr. BOOTH : Then there is another question. Their books are old books, are they not ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : Is it not a fact that in the days when these books were written, opium was not so carefully prepared ?

WITNESS : In the old Hindu books it was never mentioned. It is only during the last three or four hundred years that opium has been mentioned in the books.

Mr. BOOTH : I am referring to the days when the later books were written. In those days it was not so carefully prepared ; it was more impure ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : The opium we now get from Calcutta is carefully prepared. It is pure opium. Is this purification which the vedaralas go in for necessary ?

WITNESS : They only remove the sand ; there is no other purification.

Mr. BOOTH : Those that have come before us say that they sometimes get opium extract from the Apothecaries' Company, and that they proceed to purify that.

WITNESS : I do not think so.

Mr. BOOTH : They tell us so.

WITNESS : Well, I do not know.

Mr. BOOTH : They first of all make a decoction of sandalwood, and wash the opium three times, and then mix it with cow butter, and put it out in the sun to dry.

WITNESS : I am not aware of it.

Mr. BOOTH : Is it necessary ? That is what I want to know.

WITNESS : It is not necessary at all.

Mr. BOOTH : They are simply going on old tradition ?

WITNESS : Yes.

Mr. BOOTH : The process is now changed ; the opium is now pure.

Dr. CHALMERS : I suppose at the present moment any cooly can become a vedarala ?

WITNESS : That is what I say. They have only to go to the Pettah and buy books, read them, and become a vedarala.

Dr. CHALMERS : You consider that is not good for the people of Ceylon ?

WITNESS : Of course not.

Dr. CHALMERS : Do you consider the registration of vedaralas would in any way benefit the people ?

WITNESS : Of course. It would keep it to some one class of people.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you think all the opium that is consumed in Ceylon is all bought from the licensed opium shops ?

WITNESS : I think so. But I think these people go and sell it illicitly outside.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you think all the opium is passed through the Customs ?

WITNESS : Sometimes, I think, they smuggle. I remember a case, when in the Western Province, some years ago, it was taken out without passing through the Customs.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you know whether opium is used as a cattle medicine ?

WITNESS : It is used ; it is largely used by carters.

Dr. CHALMERS : Largely ?

WITNESS : Yes, since ten years ago.

Dr. CHALMERS : Why is that ?

WITNESS : They seem to use it when there is rheumatism. At the present time they give it.

Dr. VAN DORT : Pure opium ?

WITNESS : What is bought from the boutiques.

Dr. VAN DORT : There is a preparation called *titta abin* ?

WITNESS : That is aloes. I am not thinking of that.

Dr. VAN DORT : But the vedaralas say it is used.

WITNESS : That shows their ignorance. It is only socotrine aloes. In the beginning they called one simple opium, and the other bitter opium.

The CHAIRMAN : Opium is rather an expensive thing to give to bulls.

WITNESS : It is necessary. I see it is sold for about 25 cents a drachm.

Dr. CHALMERS : Really !

Dr. VAN DORT : 60 grains ?

WITNESS : What is called a *kalanda* they sell for about 25 cents.

Mr. BOOTH : I do not think that can be the case. It is sold for about Rs. 48 a pound. The duty is Rs. 4 a pound. That cannot be right.

WITNESS : It may be that I am misinformed, but that is what I understood.

Mr. BOOTH : We have been speaking of what the carters give to their bulls. When a vedarala treats a bull, does he prescribe opium—a cattle doctor ?

WITNESS : Yes, he does.

Mr. BOOTH : Does he prescribe it generally ? You say a grain is given three times a day for a human being. How much do they prescribe for a bull ?

WITNESS : For bulls they give more.

Mr. BOOTH : What do they give for a bull ?

WITNESS : I think they give 9 cents' worth a day for a bull.

Mr. BOOTH : What quantity does a cattle doctor prescribe for a bull ? How much is there in a dose ?

WITNESS : I think about 5 grains for a dose.

Mr. BOOTH : Two or three times a day ?

WITNESS : About that for a bull.

Mr. BOOTH : Then he will give 10 or 15 grains a day for a bull. That is rather expensive.

WITNESS : They do give it. I read in a letter of Mr. Beven's that they give 9½ cents' worth a day for a bull.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you any further questions to ask, gentlemen ? Thank you, Dr. Attygalle.

**Don Pedrick Dissanayaka, a Cattle Doctor from the Hambantota District of the Southern Provinces, was examined through an Interpreter.**

- The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?  
 WITNESS : Don Pedrick Dissanayaka.
- The CHAIRMAN : You are, I think, a cattle doctor ?  
 WITNESS : I am a cattle doctor, too ; but I treat human beings also.
- The CHAIRMAN : I see. You are a vedarala, as well as a cattle doctor ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- The CHAIRMAN : Have you a large practice as a cattle doctor ?  
 WITNESS : During this epidemic (rinderpest) I have had much work.
- The CHAIRMAN : You come from the Hambantota District ?  
 WITNESS : From Tangalla. That is in the Hambantota District.
- The CHAIRMAN : There they have had the epidemic extremely badly, have they not ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium as a cattle medicine ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- The CHAIRMAN : What for ? For what ailments ?  
 WITNESS : For diarrhoea, purging, and for shivering.
- The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it at all for rinderpest ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, it is used for rinderpest also.
- The CHAIRMAN : How do you use it ? In pills, or how ?  
 WITNESS : In pills with other ingredients.
- The CHAIRMAN : How much opium do you have in a dose ?  
 WITNESS : If there are 30 ingredients—30 ounces of ingredients including opium—an ounce of opium is taken.
- The CHAIRMAN : One in 30 is the proportion of opium in the medicine ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- The CHAIRMAN : In a dose to an animal, do you have a *manchadi* of opium or two *manchadis*, or what ?  
 WITNESS : One or two *manchadis*.
- The CHAIRMAN : In one dose ?  
 WITNESS : About two *manchadis* in a dose.
- The CHAIRMAN : How much opium in a year do you prescribe for cattle—only for cattle ?  
 WITNESS : Cattle seldom get sick. During the epidemic, of course, a larger quantity is used. But, in general, little is used.
- The CHAIRMAN : But about how much in a year ?  
 WITNESS : In a year about sixty *kalan* may be required during a time when there is no epidemic.
- The CHAIRMAN : And about how much in an epidemic year ?  
 WITNESS : During the last six months I have used about 160 *kalan*.
- The CHAIRMAN : Do you consider it to be a good medicine for rinderpest ?  
 WITNESS : It is considered a good medicine, but we are not always able to bring the animal round.
- The CHAIRMAN : It is not always successful ?  
 WITNESS : It is generally successful.
- The CHAIRMAN : From whom do you get your opium ?  
 WITNESS : From places where they have it for sale.
- The CHAIRMAN : At Tangalla or Hambantota or Matara ?  
 WITNESS : At Tangalla.
- The CHAIRMAN : Is there a licensed shop there ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.
- The CHAIRMAN : You use about sixty *kalan* in a year generally. Is all that for cattle, or for human beings as well ?  
 WITNESS : For cattle alone.
- Dr. CHALMERS : Do you sell opium to human beings at all ?  
 WITNESS : I do not sell it to human beings.
- Dr. CHALMERS : Nor prescribe it ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, I prescribe it.
- Mr. BOOTH : He means in his medicines.
- Dr. CHALMERS : What do you mean by cattle ? Do you include dogs and goats ?  
 WITNESS : Only cows.
- Dr. FERNANDO : And buffaloes, I suppose ?  
 WITNESS : Yes, buffaloes also.
- Dr. CHALMERS : Nothing else ? No other animals ?  
 WITNESS : No.
- Dr. FERNANDO : Is there a drug used for young buffaloes, newly born buffaloes ?  
 WITNESS : There are medicines for worm diseases in cattle given to them when young.
- Dr. FERNANDO : How much do you give for such a purpose ?  
 WITNESS : Much less than the quantity given for the other.
- Dr. FERNANDO : Can you not state how much ? You make 100 pills ? How many pills do you make at one time ?  
 WITNESS : About 50 pills.
- Dr. FERNANDO : For such an amount how much opium do you use ?  
 WITNESS : Five *kalan* of opium.
- Dr. FERNANDO : You use a pill for each dose ?  
 WITNESS : One pill at a time.

Chandrasekara Podi Appuhamy, a Cattle Doctor from the North-Central Province, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : Chandrasekara Podi Appuhamy.

The CHAIRMAN : Where do you live ?

WITNESS : Anuradhapura, near Abhayagiri.

The CHAIRMAN : Are you a vedarala, or a cattle doctor, or both ?

WITNESS : A cattle doctor.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you a large practice as a cattle doctor ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you use opium in your practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Largely ?

WITNESS : A sufficient quantity.

The CHAIRMAN : A moderate quantity ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : What illnesses do you use it for ?

WITNESS : Diarrhoea, tympanitis, and purging.

The CHAIRMAN : And you administer it in pills ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : How many pills do you give an animal in the course of a day ?

WITNESS : Three of the small pills.

The CHAIRMAN : How much opium would there be in each of the pills ? Half a *manchadi* or a *manchadi* ?

WITNESS : If three *manchadis* of opium are taken, the other ingredients amount to about half a pound, when I make my pills.

In reply to further questions put to the witness as to how he made his last lot of pills, he stated : The crude drugs amount to 120 *kalan* ; to the 120 *kalan* I add one and a half *kalan* of opium. I made a number of pills that I did not count ; I made a very large number ; about 350 to 400 out of the quantity of drugs mentioned.

Three pills form a dose ; so I have more than 100 doses ; therefore one and a half *kalan* of opium make over 100 doses.

There is practically 1 grain of opium in a dose ; and I made about 120 doses.

I give 2 such doses a day for colics and similar complaints.

I treat animals for rinderpest, but I do not use opium for that. I use it for diarrhoea, colics, and flatulence.

Dr. CHALMERS : That is for the adult animal ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The witness further stated :—

I use opium in the treatment of newly-born calves and newly-born buffaloes. That is also in the form of a pill. For that pill I use *titta abin*. (The witness meant that he used *titta abin* and not opium proper in the treatment of newly-born calves and newly-born buffaloes.)

I know for certain that ordinary crude opium is not used for calves, and I use only aloes ; and it is according to what is mentioned in the books. I do not know of any other cattle doctor using crude opium for calves.

I use more opium during epidemic years. This year I used Re. 1.50 worth. That is about three *kalan*.

Last year there was no epidemic. Last year I did not have occasion to buy any opium.

Dr. CHALMERS : How were you trained ? How did you become a cattle doctor ?

WITNESS : I learnt from books, and I was also trained under my teacher. I was trained for two years.

The witness further stated :—

I was educated and trained at Kandy ; but I am a low-country man. Fifteen years ago I settled in Anuradhapura.

I do not attend to the large herds in the Anuradhapura district. My business is confined to the beasts of burden which come to work in the town and the immediate neighbourhood.

The CHAIRMAN : Have you any other occupation ?

WITNESS : Yes, cultivation.

Dr. CHALMERS : Do you shoe bulls ?

WITNESS : No.

The CHAIRMAN : Are there many cattle doctors in your district ?

WITNESS : I am the only man in the district.

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Appuhamy, late Arachchi, a Cattle Doctor from the North-Western Province, was examined through an Interpreter.

The CHAIRMAN : What is your name ?

WITNESS : Appuhamy, late Arachchi.

The CHAIRMAN : Where do you come from ?

WITNESS : Near Kurunegala—on the road from Kurunegala to Kandy—Pillewa.

The CHAIRMAN : You are a cattle doctor ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : In large practice ?

WITNESS : Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Do you give the cattle any opium ?

WITNESS : There are diseases in which opium is administered.



- The CHAIRMAN : What diseases are they ?  
 WITNESS : Worm diseases in calves.  
 The CHAIRMAN : What sort of opium do you give the calves ? Is it *titta abin* or other opium ?  
 WITNESS : The good opium.  
 Mr. BOOTH : *Kade* opium ?  
 WITNESS : I get it from the licensed boutique.  
 The CHAIRMAN : What are the other diseases besides worm diseases in calves ?  
 WITNESS : Pills are given for cattle diseases and epidemic diseases.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Do you use it for diarrhœa ?  
 WITNESS : Yes.  
 The CHAIRMAN : Colic ?  
 WITNESS : It is not possible to decide whether it is colic or some other complaint in cows. All I know is that it is a pain in the stomach.  
 The CHAIRMAN : How much opium do you give in a dose ?  
 The witness then stated : I take eight parts in my drugs for the diseases of cattle, one part of which is opium equivalent in bulk to each of the other seven parts. Then I mix them all up, and grind them, and make them into pills. I make about 50 or 60 pills at a time.  
 For calves I made my pills two years ago. There are a few remaining yet.  
 I buy one or two *kalan* of opium at a time, but I do not use it all ; I keep it in the house, and use it as I require it ; so that in mixing a pill mass, I do not use even as much as one *kalanda* at a time. There is about one-hundredth part of a *kalanda* in one pill (i.e., under a grain—there are 72 grains in a *kalanda*).  
 I have not purchased opium either this year or last year. I had no occasion to do so.  
 There has been no epidemic disease in cattle in my district for the last twelve years. It is only when there is an epidemic that we have to buy opium in any quantity. In 1898 I had to buy opium when there was a big epidemic. The last epidemic was in 1898, and I bought two *kalan* of opium. That was the year in which I used more opium than any other year since.  
 It is the custom to give buffalo calves worm medicines when young, after they are born.  
 The pills which are used for these young calves contain only wild herbs, and no opium or aloes is given in such pills. In the worm pills there is neither crude opium nor aloes used by me. I use another purgative, the latex of the *demata* tree bark.
1. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. R. M. Thurley, stating that he would be pleased to attend a meeting of the Commission on any day between November 8 and November 14. It was resolved to ask Mr. Thurley to attend on November 8.
  2. The Commission adjourned to 11 A.M. on Monday, November 8, 1909.

*Meeting held on Monday, November 8, 1909.*

*Present* :—The Hon. Mr. A. G. LASCELLES, K.C., *Chairman* ; the Hon. Mr. L. W. BOOTH ; the Hon. Mr. S. C. OBEYSEKERE ; the Hon. Mr. W. G. VAN DORT, M.D. ; Dr. A. J. CHALMERS ; Dr. H. MARCUS FERNANDO ; Mr. SOLOMON SENEVIRATNE.

Mr. H. K. HILLYER, *Secretary*.

The Commission resumed its proceedings at 11 A.M.

1. Mr. R. M. Thurley, Excise Adviser to the Ceylon Government, who had been asked whether he could afford information as to the regulations under which opium is sold and consumed in Madras, placed the following memorandum before the Commission :—

*Opium Administration in the Madras Presidency.*

Note by Mr. R. M. Thurley.

THE sale of opium was, till 1880, unregulated, chiefly because it was not generally consumed except for medicinal purposes. Its use, however, was pretty general in the hill tracts of the four northern districts and on the Nilgiris, the drug being considered to be a prophylactic against malarial fever. Inquiries instituted at the instance of Dr. Cornish tended to show that the consumption of the drug was very considerable, and that a special enactment restricting the traffic was urgently called for, and it was then determined to deal with the subject, together with that of the hemp drugs. Accordingly the Indian Opium Act (1 of 1878) was extended to the Madras Presidency and was brought into force from July 1, 1880. The provisions of the Act penalize the cultivation, manufacture, possession, transport, import, export, or sale of opium otherwise than in accordance with rules framed by the local Government, which have the force of law. Breaches of the Act and rules issued thereunder are punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or fine not exceeding Rs. 1,000, or both.

*Supply*.—Up till a few years ago the monopoly of supply was disposed of either by tenders or was assigned to a contractor on condition of his supplying the shopkeepers licensed by Government at a fixed rate. As this system was not found to work satisfactorily, the Government undertook the supply, for which purpose it has established two central stores, from which opium is issued on indent from the several districts, where it is stocked in *Talug* (revenue divisional) offices and from thence sold to licensed shopkeepers.

*Shops*.—The shops are sold annually by auction, the right of sale being assigned to the highest bidder. No considerations of pushing sales or raising revenue are allowed to operate in fixing the number of shops, the sole and invariable criterion for determining the number being the actual demand for the drug. Consumption of opium in any shape on premises licensed for sale is strictly prohibited, and every care is taken to see that

such premises are not used as rendezvous of bad characters. Artificial stimulus to the consumption of the drug is provided against by the prohibition of sales by barter. Honesty in the daily transactions of the shop-keeper is secured, and fraud controlled and frustrated by the frequent inspection of shops by the Land Revenue and Excise Officers, and the compulsory maintenance of accounts in a prescribed form. These precautions effectually prevent an increase in the number of shops and effect a continual diminution in consumption of the drug.

*Possession.*—No person, unless he is a licensed vendor or medical practitioner duly qualified, may possess more than one *tola* of prepared or three *tolas* of raw opium (a *tola*, it may be noted, is the weight of a rupee).

*Consumption.*—The opinion was long prevalent that there was little or no consumption of opium in the Madras Presidency, but searching inquiries dispelled this idea and showed that there was a considerable consumption not only as a prophylactic against malarial fever, but in the administration of opium pills in very small quantities to children purely medicinally, and as an antidote to infantile disorders or as a soporific. It is also used as an aphrodisiac. It is generally consumed by those working in malarial and low marshy and forest lands and by "byragis," religious mendicants. The periodical pearl fisheries held at Marichchikaddi cause a large increase in the sale of the drug on the adjoining mainland of India, as it is said to enable the men engaged in the fisheries as well as the merchants who attend the sales to withstand exposure better.

November 8, 1909.

R. M. THURLEY,  
Excise Adviser.

2. The memorandum was considered by the Commission, and it was further ascertained from Mr. Thurley that—

- (1) In the *Talug* offices the opium is kept and accounted for as cash.
- (2) Bombay and Calcutta are the only ports in India from which opium can be exported under Government control.
- (3) No special arrangements have been made in Madras to deal with the native medical practitioners there corresponding to the *vedaralas* of Ceylon.
- (4) A man is presumed to have committed an offence in Madras, unless he can prove otherwise, *i.e.*, if an officer seizes a certain quantity of pills, and they are alleged to contain more than one *tola* of prepared opium, the onus of proof that they do not contain that quantity is thrown on the accused.

3. The following letter received from Dr. John Attygalle, with reference to the price of opium sold in the opium shops in Colombo, was laid before the Commission by the Secretary:—

Dr. JNO. ATTYGALLE to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

Mabola, November 2, 1909.

SIR,—I THINK it right to state for the information of the Opium Commission that the price of opium sold in the opium shops in Colombo is not twenty-five cents for a *kalan* or *tola* of 60 or 70 grains, but about fifty cents. I have verified this by getting my dispenser to buy me two *kalans* from one of the opium shops in Colombo, for which he paid one rupee. On weighing the quantity I got for one rupee, I found it to be 135 grains or very near two cents weight. But the actual weight should be two *tamba sallies* of the old Dutch coinage, which are slightly heavier than the present one-cent piece.

My calculation of twenty-five cents for 60 or 70 grains in my evidence before the Opium Commission was based on the scale given in the old medical works, such as *Sussrutha*, which I now note, is about double that of the one adopted by the modern *vedaralas*. Two *kalans* of the old scale would be equal to 240 grains.

At the rate of one rupee for 135 grains, as sold in the licensed opium shops in Colombo, the price would be about Rs. 52 for a pound of 7,000 grains apothecaries' weight.

I have, &c.,  
JNO. ATTYGALLE.

4. The Commission then considered the terms of its report, the general lines of which were determined. It was resolved that a draft report should be drawn up, and that a final meeting should be held to consider the draft when ready.

5. The Commission adjourned accordingly.

### Meeting held on Monday, December 13, 1909.

*Present.*—The Hon. Mr. A. G. LASCELLES, K.C., *Chairman*; the Hon. Mr. L. W. BOOTH; the Hon. Mr. S. C. OBEYSEKERE; Dr. W. G. VAN DORT; Dr. A. J. CHALMERS; Dr. H. MARCUS FERNANDO.

Mr. H. K. HILLYER, *Secretary*.

Mr. SOLOMON SENEVIRATNE was unable to be present.

The following letter from Dr. John Attygalle was read by the Secretary:—

Dr. JNO. ATTYGALLE to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

(*Vide* evidence given on November 1, 1909.)

Mabola, November 13, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to return herewith the rough proof slips of my evidence before the Opium Commission, and to inform you that I have no corrections of any importance to make therein. I would however like to add here for its information that I have made inquiry since as to the alleged purification of opium by native *vedaralas*, and I find that they do purify it in the manner that was stated by some of the *vedaralas*, but only in the preparation of certain remedies, and not in all in which the drug is used as an ingredient.

In the olden days, when opium was brought to Ceylon by the Arabian and Persian traders, in a crude and impure state, doubtless some sort of purification was needed before mixing it up with other ingredients in the preparation of any particular remedy; but in my opinion the Patna opium now imported to the Island from Calcutta is quite pure enough for all practical purposes of the vedaralas and needs no further purification than save to satisfy the directions of the old prescriptions, which the vedaralas would in no way alter from a belief that any deviation from the strict letter of them would interfere with their efficacy.

The preparation of a list or register of vedaralas who should be supplied with opium, I think, could be made by a Board composed of two or three *bona fide* vedaralas of recognized ability and experience and a qualified Western practitioner of medicine with some knowledge of the native system of medicine, presided over by the Registrar of the Ceylon Medical College or some other European official, and the average quantity that each vedarala should be supplied with in a year judged by the extent of his practice, which the Board could easily ascertain from inquiring from people in the districts where they practise, should be entered in the register against their respective names for the guidance of the authorized vendors of opium. As I said in my evidence before the Commission, there are only about 3,000 and odd vedaralas in the whole Island; more than half of these are quacks who neither use nor know how to use opium; many are "specialists," such as bone setters, boil doctors, &c., and I do not think the actual number of *bona fide* vedaralas, whose names should be entered in the suggested opium register, would exceed a couple of hundreds at the most—of course new vedaralas should apply to the Board referred to from time to time to have their names entered in the register as those to whom opium should be supplied for medicinal purposes, and the Board will have to be a permanent one. There will be then no need for a Board in every Province, as was suggested by one of the members of the Opium Commission, which, if not impracticable in itself, would put the vedaralas who use opium in the preparation of their nostrums into much inconvenience, by reason of their having to bring in their various ingredients, travelling perhaps many miles before such a Board to have the opium added to them in the presence of its members.

I have, &c.,

JNO. ATTYGALLE, M.D., Aberd., M.R.C.S., Eng.

2. The Commission then further considered the terms of their report to Government, which was adopted.

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## APPENDIX I.

## Information furnished by the Chief Headmen through the Government Agents.

The SECRETARY, Opium Commission, to all GOVERNMENT AGENTS.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Colombo, September 27, 1909.

SIR,—I AM directed by the Chairman of the Opium Commission to request that you will be so good as to obtain from the Chief Headmen in your Province, and forward to me for the use of the Commission, the following information :—

- (a) The number, as near as possible, of vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in each Chief Headman's division of your Province.
  - (b) The name and residence of one prominent and representative vedarala of good repute and in large practice in each Chief Headman's division.
  - (c) The opinions of the Chief Headmen, and the grounds for those opinions, as to the extent to which opium is used by vedaralas as an ingredient in medicines administered—(1) to human beings, (2) to cattle.
  - (d) The names and residences of the prominent opium dealers in your Province.
2. I am to explain that the term "opium" does not apply to *titta abin*.
  3. The Commission would be much obliged if they could receive the above information as early as possible.

I am, &amp;c.,

HERBERT K. HILLYER,  
Secretary.

## REPLIES.

The Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 3,677.

Colombo, October 20, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter of 27th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith the reports received from the Mudaliyars and the Assistant Government Agent, Kalutara, together with a statement giving the information therein called for.

I am, &amp;c.,

L. W. BOOTH,  
Government Agent.

The ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT AGENT, Kalutara, to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province.

No. 1,181.

Kalutara, October 13, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter No. 638/165 E of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to annex the information therein required :—

(a) Number of vedaralas in *bona fide* practice :—

Totamunes	..	..	..	..	183
Rayigam korale	..	..	..	..	54
Pasdun Korale West	..	..	..	..	18
Pasdun Korale East	..	..	..	..	65

(b) Names and residences of prominent and representative vedaralas :—

Totamunes	..	Don Brampy Vidyasekera Jayatilaka, Veda Arachi of Kuda Wadduwa.
Rayigam korale	..	Kahawitage Guneris de Alwis of Galtude.
Pasdun Korale West	..	Don Pilak Jayawardane of Welipenna.
Pasdun Korale East	..	Don Andris de Silva Weerasinha of Agalawatta.

(c) The opinions of the chief headmen and the grounds for those opinions as to the extent to which opium is used by vedaralas as an ingredient in medicines administered (1) to human beings ; (2) to cattle :—

A.—*Totamune Mudaliyar* reports :—Kiri-abin and opium, i.e., the ordinary opium which is sold in the licensed shops, are both used by vedaralas in the preparation of "rasayanas" and such like preparations, mostly administered in the case of rheumatism and other kindred ailments. It is indispensable in the preparation of these "rasayanas," and I am not expressing this as a matter of opinion, but from my own observation during a long period of the treatment of vedaralas. It is also used in the preparation of pills used for stomach complaints to human beings. It is also used in the preparation of medicines administered to cattle, and in the case of cattle suffering from rheumatism it is sometimes given to them plain.

B.—*The Mudaliyar of Rayigam Korale* reports :—Vedaralas use opium as an ingredient in medicines administered to human beings, and cattle to some extent according to the exigencies of the cases, but I am unable to say with any certainty to what extent.

C.—*The Mudaliyar of Pasdun Korale West* reports :—There are only two vedaralas who use opium as an ingredient in their medicines, and they would not use more than 12 "kalans" during the year. No opium is used in any medicine for cattle.

D.—*The Mudaliyar of Pasdun Korale East* reports :—Opium is used by the vedaralas in the preparation of pills for cholera, choleraic diarrhoea, dysentery, flatulency, rheumatism, and also for diarrhoea in cattle. All vedaralas use opium for the preparation of medicines for the above diseases, but the vedarala who enjoys the largest practice does not use more than 5 pounds of opium in any one year. One pound of opium for each vedarala for one year would, in my opinion, be a fair average.

(d) There are no opium dealers in this district except the licensed dealers. Their names are V. Sultan Bawa, J. A. Juwanjuu, K. J. Peris, V. Sinnatamby, M. Johannes Cooray, and the opium shops are at Kalutara, Panadure, and Horana.

I am, &amp;c.,

G. F. PLANT,  
Assistant Government Agent.

The MUDALIYAR, Alutkuru Korale South, to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province.

No. 986.

Wattala, October 12, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to report that—

(a) There are about 50 vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in my district.

(b) (1) Don Johannes Gunsekera, Registrar of Marriages, &c., Hendala peruwa, Hendala, Wattala ;  
(2) Don Gregoris Kapurubandara of Gampaha Medagama, Henaratgoda. These two vedaralas are of equally good repute and practice.

(c) Opium, I learn, is not used in its crude stage for decoctions. It is used for the preparation of kalkes and pills, and given for cases of dysentery, cholera, tetanus, worm complaints, and convulsions for children, rheumatism, and nervous disorders.

These vedaralas who have the largest practice inform me that about half a pound is used by each of them for a year for the preparation of medicines, so that the other vedaralas may be using the same quantity or less.

Opium is also used as an ingredient in medicines for cattle in cases of rinderpest, veppu, adappare, worm complaints for calves, and the cattle vedarala who has the largest practice informs me that he uses about half a pound for a year for the preparation of medicines.

(d) None.

I am, &c.,

S. E. PERERA,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Hewagam korale, to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province.

No. 1,200.

Hanwella, October 10, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to annex below the required information :—

(a) The number as near as possible of vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in my district is 41.

(b) Chittrachcharinekatige Bastian Gomes of Jaltara, in the Meda pattu of Hewagam korale.

(c) From inquiries made by me I learn that about a quarter of the medicines given by native vedaralas for human beings require opium, and about one-eighth of the medicines administered to cattle contain this drug. Where opium is required nothing else could be substituted in its place ; in consequence opium is a *sine qua non* in making medicines.

The average quantity of opium used by the 41 vedaralas mentioned in paragraph (a) in *bona fide* practice is about 2 pounds per annum.

I am, &c.,

H. A. PIERIS,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR of Colombo to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province.

No. 1,405.

Dematagoda, October 9, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your Circular letter No. 320 of 29th ultimo, I beg to report that—

(a) The number of vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in my division as near as possible is 100.

(b) The Colombo division being the most populous there are a great many prominent and representative vedaralas, so that I am obliged to submit the following ten names :—

- (1) D. M. Obeyesekere of No. 22, St. Sebastian street.
- (2) Mudaliyar Ediriweera of Dehiwala.
- (3) Romal de Alwis, Veda Arachchi of Kirillapone.
- (4) Jothiratna Sedris Arachchi of No. 33, St. Sebastian.
- (5) J. P. Jayatilleka, Wekanda, Slave Island.
- (6) W. Elaris de Alwis of No. 77, New Chetty street.
- (7) Sarnelis Perera Ranasingha of Meetotamulla.
- (8) P. F. Perera Wijeyagunawardena of No. 166, Alutmawata.
- (9) R. Jusey Fernando, Nagalagam street.
- (10) C. Moses Fernando of No. 47, New Moor street.

(c) Opium is only required by vedaralas for making up pills, kalkes, girithas, and churnas, admixed with various other ingredients, and the quantity so used is very limited owing to its binding properties. I should say that one-fourth of a pound would be the most that a vedarala used for the preparation of medicines such as I have stated during the course of a year. It is only when epidemics, such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, &c., break out that medicines, especially pills composed of opium, are in great demand, and at such times opium would be necessary far in excess of the quantity needed at ordinary time. It is not only for the convenience of the vedaralas that these pills are made in large quantities at one time, but for administering them in sudden cases of illness when they find that the patient's life is in danger.

The quantity of opium used by each vedarala who treats sick cattle does not exceed a pound during a year, and there are about 40 such vedaralas in this division. Opium is not mixed with other ingredients to make up pills, but a quantity four times as much as is used for human beings is prescribed as a dose to be dissolved separately to be given with a pill or medicine in all cases of internal complaints of cattle, such as murrain, diarrhoea, oppression, &c., but it is never used for external application.

(d) The following are the prominent opium dealers :—

- (1) N. V. P. Ramanathan Chetty,
- (2) K. S. V. N. Sinnnetamby, both of Sea street in Colombo.

I am, &c.,

JOHN A. ABEYESEKERA,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Siyane Korale West, to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province.

No. 1,133.

October 9, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to give the following information :—

(a) There are about 50 vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in my korale.  
 (b) Wickrama Arachchige Vellun Perera, Vedarala, of Nedungomuwa.  
 (c) (1) Opium is used in almost all the pills, ointments, churna, leha, lepa, giritha, &c., as an ingredient. I have spoken to several vedaralas on the subject. Some of them use opium in fairly large quantities, while others use little. I am of opinion that the vedaralas in my korale do not on an average use more than half a pound of opium each for a year.

(2) From inquiries made I find that not more than 10 pounds of opium are used during a year in my korale for medicines for cattle.

(d) There are no opium dealers in my district.

I am, &c.,

L. DE LIVERA,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Siyane Korale East, to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province.

No. 876.

Veyangoda, October 9, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to give the information desired as follows :—

(a) There are 47 vedaralas who treat human diseases and 5 cattle vedaralas.  
 (b) Sobitha Unnense of Ratambale, Urapola.  
 (c) Opium is not used by every vedarala. It is used only in connection with pills, girithas, churnas, &c., but never in decoctions. These pills, &c., are not very frequently used. From inquiries made I find that on an average each vedarala does not use more than 4 ounces of opium for a year in medicines administered to human beings, and not more than 6 for medicines for cattle.

(d) There are no opium dealers in my korale.

I am, &c.,

JNO. D. PERERA,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Salpiti Korale, to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Colombo.

No. 906.

Moratuwa, October 8, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to forward the information asked for by your Circular No. 325 of 29th ultimo.

2. Replies to (a), (b), and (d) are hereto annexed :—

- (a) There are about 75 vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in my division.  
 (b) Two of the prominent vedaralas from my division were already summoned before the Commission, viz., the Vidane Arachchi of Mampe and Attigala Vedarala of Madapata. The third name is Don Abraham, Police Vidane, Makaduwa.  
 (d) (1) Mututantiripatabendige Johannes Cooray of Moratumulla; (2) Vidanelage Peter de Mel of Digarolla; (3) Lindemulege William Silva of Moratuwella.

3. With regard to (c), I beg to state that these vedaralas are doing much good in the country; very many of them are very successful in the treatment of diseases, and the people have great faith in them. Very often they have to use opium as an ingredient in the medicines administered by them, and I therefore think that they be given every facility to obtain it on certifying that it is for medicinal purposes, and I am of opinion that their requirements will be well served if opium can be procured from Government dispensaries and the leading druggists' shops.

4. There are about 75 vedaralas of repute in my division who treat for human beings and cattle, and it may be said that each of them uses on an average half an ounce of opium a month, though, as a matter of fact, I do not think the majority of them use even half that quantity. Opium is generally administered in very small quantities. At a time when there is an epidemic a larger quantity will be required by the vedaralas.

I am, &c.,

S. R. DE FONSEKA,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Hapitigam Korale, to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province.

No. 973.

October 8, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to report that—

(a) There are about 26 vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in my korale.  
 (b) Don John Kulasekera of Imbulanwala, who appeared before the Opium Commission on the 4th instant for examination, is the prominent and representative vedarala of good repute and large practice of this korale.  
 (c) Opium is used in the preparation of pills and oils necessary for the treatment of the ailments of human beings. Opium is never recommended by the vedaralas to be taken as a medicine by itself, and in cases when relief could be obtained by the use of this drug, they invariably give a preparation of this drug and some other ingredient, so that the latter may counteract the bad effects of the opium. Further, opium is never used in the preparation of decoctions, though it is used to some extent in the making up of tonics recommended to be used in case of acute rheumatism, nervousness, &c. This drug is not kept by the vedaralas in their dispensaries; they obtain the drug from Colombo when they require it. Opium is used in the treatment of cattle in cases of worm complaints and stiffness.

(d) There are no opium dealers in my korale.

I am, &c.,

L. A. DASSANAIKE,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Hapitigam korale, to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province.

No. 985.

October 13, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to inform you that I find on inquiry a quantity of about 15 pounds of opium a year is now used by vedaralas in medicines administered to human beings and cattle. This drug is not kept by them in stock. They obtain it from Colombo when required.

I am, &c.,

L. A. DASSANAIKE,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Alutkuru Korale North, to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province.  
 No. 734. Minuwangoda, October 6, 1909.  
 SIR,—I HAVE the honour to state that there are about 100 vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in my district. This is an approximate number.

- (b) Kumarasinhettiarachchige Ransirinel Perera of Ewariwatta.
- (c) The vedaralas do use opium for some diseases in the course of their treatment. On inquiry I learnt that they use opium in treating rheumatism and other diseases of the nerves and muscles, also gripe. Opium is also used in treating cattle that are suffering with swollen joints and other diseases which cause pains in the body.
- (d) Aiyadurai of Sea street, Negombo.

I am, &c.,  
 WALTER DIAS,  
 Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Alutkuru Korale North, to the Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Western Province.  
 No. 750. Minuwangoda, October 12, 1909.  
 SIR,—WITH reference to your memorandum No. 389 of October 8, 1909, I have the honour to state that on inquiry I find that in Alutkuru Korale North about 200 pounds opium is used by the vedaralas as an ingredient in medicine administered to human beings, and about 50 pounds for cattle. These amounts are for one year.

I am, &c.,  
 WALTER DIAS,  
 Mudaliyar.

Statement referred to in Government Agent's letter.

Name of Korale.	Number of Vedaralas.	Names and Residences of prominent Vedaralas.	Extent of Opium used by each Vedarala per annum.		Names of prominent Opium Dealers.
			Human Beings.	Cattle.	
			lb. oz.	lb. oz.	
Alutkuru Korale South..	50	Don Johanes Gunasekera Registrar of Marriages, &c., of Hendala Peruwa	0 8	—*	—
Hewagam Korale ..	41	C. Bastian Gomes of Jaltara	2 0	Not given.	—
Colombo Mudaliyar's Division ..	100† († includes 40 cattle)	D. M. Obeyesekere of No. 22, St. Sebastian Mudaliyar Ediriweera of Dehiwala Romal de Alwis, Veda Arachchi of Kirillapone Jothiratna Sedris Arachchi of No. 33, St. Sebastian J. P. Jayatilleka, Wekanda, Slave Island W. Elaris de Alwis of No. 77, New Chetty street Sarnelis Perera Ranasingha of Meetotamulla P. F. Perera Wijeyagunawardena of No. 166, Alutmawata R. Jusey Fernando, Nagalagam street C. Moses Fernando of No. 47, New Moor street	0 4	1 0	N. V. N. Ramanathan Chetty and K. S. V. N. Sinne Tamby, both of Sea street
Siyane Korale West ..	50	W. A. Vellun Perera Vedarala of Nedungommuwa	0 8	10 0 (total)	—
Siyane Korale East ..	47 (plus 5 cattle)	Sobitha Unnanse of Ratambale	0 4	0 6	—
Salpiti Korale ..	75	W. Don Kornelis, Vidane Arachchi of Kesbawa	0 6	0 6	M. Johannes Cooray of Moratumulla, V. Peter de Mel of Digarolla, and L. William Silva of Moratumulla
Hapitigam Korale ..	26	Don John Kulasekera of Imbulanwala	0 1	0 9	—
Alutkuru Korale North..	100	K. Ransirinel Perera of Ewariwatta	2 0	50 0 (total)	A. Aiyadurai of Sea street, Negombo
Kalutara totamune ..	183	Don Brampy Vidyasekera Jayatilleke, Veda Arachchi of Kuda Wadduwa	Not given.	Not given.	V. Sultan Bawa of Galle; J. A. Juwanjuu of Colombo; K. J. Peiris of Pansdure.
Rayigam Korale ..	54	Kahawelege Guneris de Alwis of Galtude	Unable to state the quantity.	to state the quantity.	V. Sinna Tamby of Sea street, Colombo; M. Johannes Cooray of Moratumulla
Pasdun Korale West ..	18	Don Pilak Jayawardane of Welipenna	—†	—	—
Pasdun Korale East ..	65	Don Andris de Silva Weerasinghe of Agalawatta	1 0	Quantity not given.	—

\* Each cattle vedarala uses about 8 oz. of opium a year, and the number of vedaralas not given.  
 † The Colombo Division being the most populous there are a great many prominent and representative vedaralas, so that I am obliged to submit all their names.  
 ‡ Two vedaralas out of eighteen use opium in Pasdun Korale West; they use about 12 *kalas* per annum.

The Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Kandy, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 2.

Kandy Kachcheri,  
November 15, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a statement giving you the information asked for by your letter dated September 27, 1909.

The Ratemahatmayas of Pata Dumbara and Harispattu have been wired to to furnish their reports at once. The information therein contained will be forwarded to you as soon as received.

I am, &c.,

B. G. DE GLANVILLE,  
for Government Agent.

The Hon. the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Kandy, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 3.

Kandy Kachcheri,  
November 17, 1909.

SIR,—IN continuation of my letter No. 2 of 15th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith the information received from the Ratemahatmayas of the divisions of Pata Dumbara and Harispattu.

I am, &c.,

B. G. DE GLANVILLE,  
for Government Agent.

Statement referred to.

Name of Chief Headman's Division.	Number of Vedaralas in <i>bona fide</i> Practice	Names and Residences of Prominent and Representative Vedaralas	Chief Headman's Opinion.	Names of Prominent Opium Dealers.
<i>Kandy.</i> Gravets, Kandy ..	10	Sri Candrasekera Napane, Kandy	Opium is very essential for purposes of curing rheumatism, nervous debility, cholera, dysentery, &c. It is used in the preparation of medicines in quantities varying from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 12 drachms. People subject to rheumatism often use it daily, and those who are accustomed to this habit cannot give it up. In cases of cattle diseases opium is administered in large quantities, and the efficacy of other medicinal ingredients will be practically nil without it	V. Sinnatamby Kandy
Udapalata ..	36	Ranamukage Don Carolis Ranasinge Appuhamy, Gampola	Opium is used for preparing medicines for rheumatism, cancer, carbuncles, abscesses, and ulcers. In cholera and dysentery, too, it is given in small doses. The quantity used in medicines for human beings does not exceed 5 grains in each case. For cattle the quantity depends on the build and breed of the animal	M. J. Cooray Gampola
Uda Bulatgama ..	16	Karahandungala Jayasundra Mudiyanseleage Panchirala, Nawalapitiya	Opium is used by vedaralas as an ingredient for the preparation of medicines to human beings and cattle, in quantities of 1 to 6 ounces in the case of the former and 4 to 12 in the case of the latter	M. J. Cooray Hatton V. Sinnatamby, Nawalapitiya
Yetinuware ..	118	Disanayake Mudiyanseleage Appuhamy, Arachchi, Peradeniya	Opium is used for preparation of medicines for fits, convulsions, snake bites, cholera, diarrhoea, worm complaints of children, rheumatism, and diseases of the nervous system, and it has never been found to be injurious to human life. In chronic cases of rheumatism and nervous debility opium eating in moderate quantities has proved beneficial. If the sale of opium is stopped, the native medical profession will suffer a great deal, and consequently the poor villagers who cannot afford European treatment will have to die, as the majority do not wish to go to hospitals. Opium is also extensively used for cattle diseases, such as murrain and rinderpest	
Uda Dumbura ..	12	1, M. Bodia Veda, Gabbela; 2, H. Appu Naide, Motamura	About $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a pound of opium would be sufficient for a native vedarala for six months for the preparation of medicines administered to both human beings and cattle	—



Name of Chief Headman's Division.	Number of Vedaralas in <i>bona fide</i> Practice.	Names and Residences of Prominent and Representative Vedaralas.	Chief Headman's Opinion.	Names of Prominent Opium Dealers.
Udunuwara ..	25	1, Ratnapala Unnanse, Pathiagoda; 2, Attadasi Unnanse, Kadugannawa	Opium is used for preparing medicine for treatment of patients who are suffering from rheumatism, worm complaint, dysentery, cholera, fits, &c. It is also used for different kinds of cattle diseases. In both cases 4 to 5 pounds of opium would be required for a year	—
Tumpane ..	6	Awasadha Hamy or Veda Henaya, Galagedara	Opium is largely used by vedaralas as an ingredient for preparing medicine for nervous debility, rheumatism, &c., and it is indispensable in the preparation of such medicines. It is also used as an ingredient in medicines administered to cattle. The native treatment will suffer much if the use of opium is stopped. The lives of almost all the villagers of this division are cured by native treatment, and if the vedaralas who attend on them are debarred from using opium, the lives of many villagers would be at a risk	—
Pata Hewaheta ..	15	Ukkuwa, Veda Vidane, Umpitiya	Opium is an essential ingredient for the preparation of medicines for rheumatism, dysentery, diarrhoea, &c., administered to both human beings and cattle. Opium is not used in ordinary cases of sickness	—
Harispattu ..	51	L. B. Ekiriwatte, Anwatu-goda	The quantity of opium required by vedaralas for human beings and cattle as an ingredient in medicine cannot be estimated, as they require opium to the extent they make medicine. They use this ingredient in cases of serious diseases for human beings and cattle	—
Pata Dumbura ..	103	W. M. Kiri Banda, Taldeniya	Opium as an ingredient in treating certain diseases both in human beings and cattle is a necessity, and as its poisonous qualities are destroyed by other medicinal substances I see no harm in its use	—
Nuwara Eliya. Uda Hewaheta ..	15	Chandradoti High Priest, Medapitiya	The vedaralas state that opium is used for windy complaints of men and cattle	—
Walapane ..	4	Kirigolle PUNCHIRALA, Demambure	Opium is used for pills administered both to men and cattle. It is used in cases of rheumatism, piles, and diabetes. I am of opinion that there is no better remedy for rheumatism than opium. There are about 32 men who take opium once or twice a day as an antidote for rheumatism. A man who has used opium a year to two finds it difficult to give up the practice, for if he does, the sickness would reappear. If the use of opium is discontinued, these sicknesses would be rampant among the villagers	—
Kotmale ..	22	S. M. S. Sirnan Naide, Veda Arachohi, Kotmale	It is of very little use except in chronic cases of rheumatism and extreme cases of dysentery. Opium, I may mention, is very little used by the vedaralas. I do not find any use made of opium in cases of cattle disease	S. Velupulley, Nuwara Eliya.
Gravets ..	3	Cornelis Silva, Hill street, Nuwara Eliya	There is a belief among villagers as to the efficacy of opium as an antidote against rheumatism and a cure for diabetes. It has been used for both ailments, with considerable success. It is administered by some vedaralas both to men and cattle. To cattle in small quantities at regular intervals as a pick me up. The majority of opium eaters in the villages use it from hearsay as a cure against ailments peculiar to old age. It is also used by a class of people chiefly in towns for improper purposes	M. J. Cooray, Talawakele

Name of Chief Headman's Division.	Number of Vedaralas in <i>bona fide</i> Practice	Names and Residences of Prominent and Representative Vedaralas.	Chief Headman's Opinion.	Names of Prominent Opium Dealers.
<i>Matale.</i> Matale South ..	10	Kiri Banda, Registrar, Yatawatta	Opium is required as an ingredient for medicines for rheumatism, dysentery, ulcers, parangi, leprosy, and chronic nature of diseases. The quantity used cannot be estimated. Opium is used for making medicines for cattle and elephants	—
Matale North ..	15	L. Kirihamy, Veda, Embulamba	Opium is used as an ingredient in medicines administered to human beings—about 2 or 3 <i>pisas</i> (1 oz. = 3 <i>pisas</i> ), for cattle about 3 or 4 <i>pisas</i>	—
Matale East ..	6	K. Mudalihamy, Weeragama	Opium is used by vedaralas for cases of rheumatism, dysentery, and piles to the extent of about $\frac{1}{2}$ a pound per annum. About 20 per cent. of the patients would be treated for the above complaints with medicines where opium is used. The vedaralas consider the use of opium in medicines absolutely necessary for treating human beings. Cattle, too, is treated with opium medicines, but not to such an extent as that to human beings. Rheumatic bulls are given opium by carters quite independently of the vedaralas	M. J. Cooray Matale

THE GOVERNMENT AGENT, Jaffna, to the SECRETARY, OPIUM COMMISSION.

No. 480.

Jaffna Kachcheri,  
November 11, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter dated September 27, 1909, I have the honour to annex a summary of the reports received from the Chief headmen of the Northern Province giving the information asked for by your letter under reference.

I am, &c.,

F. H. PRICE,  
Government Agent.

Summary referred to.

Chief Headman's Division.	Number of Native Physicians in <i>bona fide</i> Practice.	Names and Residences of one Prominent and Respectable Native Physician.	Extent to which Opium is used as an ingredient in Medicines administered (1) to Human Beings and (2) to Cattle. The grounds for these opinions are not specified.	Names and Residences of Prominent Opium Dealers.
	a	b	c	d
<i>Jaffna District.</i> Jaffna Division ..	20	Vettivelu Sivasuppiramanipillai, Resident Surgeon and Physician of Mailvaganampillai's Hospital at Nayanmarkaddu, Nallore	Opium goes very largely into the preparation of specific native medicines both for human beings and for cattle	Sinnappah Mutt of Vannarponnu East
Valigamam West ..	48	Vairamuttu Arumugam of Chulipuram	Opium is more largely used for human beings than for cattle. It is mixed in medicines for diabetes, dysentery, sores, swellings, gumboil, and toothache. The quantity used is very insignificant in comparison with other drugs. A total of 4½ lb. is used annually in the division, but the quantity varies with the prevalence of diseases	None
Valigamam North ..	41	Ampalavaner Katiritamby of Alaveddy	Opium is used to some extent in treating human beings and cattle	do.
Valigamam East ..	25	SinnattambyThamotherampillai of Averankal	Opium is used in cases of purging and for cholera, also for some cattle diseases. It forms 3 to 5 per cent. of the ingredients in medicines administered to human beings	do.
Vedamaradohi West ..	32	Kanapathippillai Vallipuram of Puloly East	Nearly 20 oz. of opium are used in the case of human beings and 10 oz. in the case of cattle every year	do.

Chief Headman's Division.	Number of Native Physicians in bona fide Practices.	Names and Residences of one Prominent and Respectable Native Physicians.	Extent to which Opium is used as an ingredient in Medicines administered (1) to Human Beings and (2) to Cattle. The grounds for these opinions are not specified.	Names and Residences of Prominent Opium Dealers.
	a	b	c	d
Vadamaradchi East ..	—	—	Opium is not used by the native physicians of Vadamaradchi East	None.
Tenmaradchi ..	75	Appakkuddy Gnanasekarampillai of Sarasalai	Opium is used in cases of purging and cholera. Its use in medicine administered to human beings may be estimated at 3 to 5 per cent. and to cattle at 6 to 10 per cent. as compared with other drugs used in native medicine	do.
Pachchilappali ..	12	Vaitiampillai Migalepillai of Kilali	About 6 oz. of opium are used in the division in a year	do.
Karaichchi ..	—	—	There are no prominent and respectable native physicians in Karaichchi	do.
Pooneryn-Tunukkai ..	15	Nallatamby Visuvalingam of Madduviluadu	About 95 grains of opium are used in the division annually	do.
The Islands ..	20	Sanmugam Vaithianather of Narantanai, Kayts	Opium is necessary for native medicines. It is largely used both in the case of human beings and cattle, especially in diseases such as looseness of bowels, nervous weakness, and disorder of brain	do.
Delft ..	4	Nakappan Murukesar of Delft East	Opium is used to a very small extent in medicines administered to human beings, about 1 oz. being used annually in the division, and is seldom or never used for cattle	do.
<i>Mannar District.</i>				
Mannar Island ..	11	Pichaikani Akamado Meera Saibu of Mannar town	About 1 lb. of opium is used annually in the division for human beings; none is used for cattle	do.
Mantai, &c. ..	26	Alphonso M. Jovan Parikari of Kattankulam	About 1½ lb. is used for human beings; none is used for cattle	do.
Musali-Nanaddan ..	29	K. M. Marisalpillai of Nanaddan	About 1 lb. is used for human beings; none is used for cattle The Chief Headmen of Mannar state that opium is used by Tamil native physicians sparingly, especially as an astringent	do.
<i>Mullaitivu District.</i>				
Maritime Pattus ..	10	Kantappan Manikkam of Mullaitivu	About 1 lb. is used for human beings and ½ lb. for cattle	do.
Vavuniya South ..	24	Velu Ponnaiya of Ellappan-Marutankulam	About ¾ lb. is used for human beings and ¼ lb. for cattle	do.
Vavuniya (Ratemahatmaya's Division) ..	3	Kapurala Vedaralage Appurala Vedarala of Madukanda	About ¼ lb. is used for human beings and ¼ lb. for cattle. Opium is used mostly in treating worm diseases	do.
Vavuniya North ..	10	Katiravelu Sinnattampi of Otiamalai	About 4 oz. are used for human beings and 5/6 oz. for cattle	do.

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Southern Province, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 4,319.

Galle Kachcheri, October 19, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your letter dated September 27, 1909, I have the honour to forward herewith copies of letters received from the Mudaliyars of the Galle District on the above subject, with the exception of those of the Mudaliyars of the Four Gravets and Wellaboda pattu. They will be sent as soon as they are received.

2. My Assistants at Matara and Hambantota have not yet furnished the required information. I am inviting their attention to-day.

3. The names and residences of the prominent opium dealers in the Province are also annexed hereto.

I am, &c.,

C. M. LUSHINGTON,  
Government Agent.

The MUDALIYAR, Talpe Pattu, to the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Southern Province.

No. 511.

October 14, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your Circular No. 47 of October 2, 1909, I have the honour to inform you that there are fourteen vedaralas in my district, and of these, Kaharade Kanattege Don Mathes de Silva, Veda Arachchi of Ahangama, is the most prominent and representative vedarala of good repute and in large practice.

2. The quantity of opium used by these as an ingredient in medicines administered to human beings and cattle during twelve months may, according to information available on the subject, be put down at three pounds for the whole district at the highest.

I am, &c.,

J. D. C. PERERA,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Gangaboda Pattu, to the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Southern Province.

No. 478.

October 13, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your Circular No. 47 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that there are about thirty vedaralas *bona fide* practising in this division, and the most prominent and representative vedarala of good repute is Henagodavitaneachchi Don Dias de Silva, Veda Arachchi of Mapalagama.

Each vedarala uses from 4 to 6 drachms of opium for making medicinal pills for a year, and those who make *griththas* require about 6 ounces of opium for a year, but *griththas* are very rarely made in this division.

Opium is used for medicinal pills made for cholera, acute dysentery, acute diarrhoea, &c., for *griththas* made for long-standing diseases.

There are no opium dealers in this division.

I am, &c.,

H. D. PERERA,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Hinidum Pattu, to the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Southern Province.

No. 270.

October 5, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your Circular No. 47 of October 2, 1909, I have the honour to report that there are three vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in Hinidum pattu, and they are Cornelis Jayasekera of Tawalama, Don Marthenis Wijewardena of Hiniduma, and Albert Jayasundera of Opata.

(b) Of these, the vedarala with the best practice is Albert Jayasundera of Opata, and the Pattu Arachchi states that he can be considered a representative native physician.

(c) Opium is a drug that is used in cholera and other diseases of the bowels where it is necessary to employ a drastic remedy, but for ordinary stomach complaints it is seldom taken. It is, however, made use of in pills given for rheumatism in the case of human beings and for *weppuwa* in the case of cattle.

(d) There are no licensed dealers of opium in this pattu.

I am, &c.,

GODWIN DE LIVERA,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Bentota-Walallawiti korale, to the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Southern Province.

No. 774.

October 12, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your Circular letter No. 47 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to annex herewith a list of vedaralas of some repute in this korale. There are many others who call themselves vedaralas, going from place to place with medicinal oils, &c., with the object of selling them and making money. These vedaralas generally buy pills, &c., from prominent vedaralas and administer them to the sick without first diagnosing the disease. More harm is done than good by these quacks.

(b) Nos. 4, 11, 12, 13, 16, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 32 in the annexed list are said to be vedaralas of good repute. No. 23, Sirineris de Zoysa of Kosgoda, is the oldest vedarala in Bentota-Walallawiti korale, and has been practising for over forty years. He is a Veda Arachchi.

(c) Almost all the vedaralas mentioned in the annexed list appeared before me and stated that opium is one of the chief ingredients in Sinhalese medicine used for the following diseases, viz., rheumatism, dysentery, fever, neuralgia pains, and many others. They further state that they burn the poisonous matter of the opium by mixing it with ginger juice and then administer it with other ingredients. The demand for opium is not much in this korale as in the adjoining villages in the Western Province. About a quarter of a pound to two pounds of opium are required by each vedarala of this korale yearly. It entirely depends on the number of cases. I think that a prominent vedarala from this korale may be sent before the Opium Commission to explain fully how opium is used by the Sinhalese vedaralas as given in their books. *Titta abin* is generally used for cattle diseases.

(d) There are no opium dealers in this korale.

I am, &c.,

W. A. PERERA,  
Mudaliyar.

List of Vedaralas in *bona fide* Practice in Bentota-Walallawiti Korale.

No.	Name and Residence.
1	B. D. Karunadasa, Aturuwella.
2	Don Sadris, Galboda.
3	K. D. Prolis, Galagama.
4*	Gonagalavitanege Elias <i>alias</i> Suratahamy, Gonagala.
5	H. Peris Sinno Dharmasekera, Gonagala.
6	Ranchagodage Don Arnolis, Yalagama.
7	W. P. Don Luis Senanayake, Kaikawala.
8	H. Don Louis, Bandarigoda.
9	Rajage Don Francis, Kaikawala.
10	D. O. Kumarasingha, Haburugala.
11*	Don Davit Kumarakoon, Veda Arachchi, Dope.
12*	N. H. Pederick de Silva Senatileke, Veda Arachchi, Alawatugoda.
13*	H. Don Andris, Angagoda.
14	H. Adrian Sinno, Angagoda.
15	Don Charlis Jayawira, Obadawatta.
16*	W. Peris Tillekaratne, Yattramulle.
17	Dondias Jayasekera, Kommala.
18	Jayanetti Julius Tillekaratne, Kommala.
19	P. L. Don Hendrick, Hungantota.
20	M. V. Podisinno <i>alias</i> Arnolis, Dedduwa.
21	K. Don William, Dope.
22	T. Appu Sinno, Dope.
23*	S. de Zoysa Siriwijeraksita Wickramasinghe, Veda Arachchi, Welangoda.
24	D. de Zoysa Siriwijeraksita Wickramasinghe, Welangoda.
25*	P. de Zoysa Siriwijeraksita Wickramasinghe, Welangoda.
26*	A. de Zoysa Wijegunawaidiyaratne, Veda Arachchi, Nape.
27*	Andris de Zoysa Wijegunawaidiyaratne, Nape.
28	A. H. de Zoysa Wijegunawaidiyaratne, Nape.
29*	A. Aralis Mendis Abeysekera, Ahungalla.
30	M. de Silva Jayasekera, Ahungalla.
31	H. Hingoris de Silva, Egodamulla.
32*	A. Don Mendis, Mahapitiya.
33	H. de Zoysa Wijesinghe, Welangoda.
34	T. de Zoysa Siriwijeraksita Wickramasinghe, Welangoda.
35	G. Heralis, Godagama.
36	W. Endris Mendis, Patagangoda.
37	W. Mendis Kappina, Godagedara.
38	T. Jamis de Silva, Wellaboda.
39	N. Barlis de Silva, Wellaboda.
40	Sadoris Rupasinghe, Veda Arachchi, Welawatugoda.
41	P. Davit Wijeratne, Batuwanhena.
42	Mattakagamage Hendrick, Mattaka.

Those marked \* are said to be vedaralas of good repute, of which No. 23 is the oldest, and has been practising for over forty years.

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Southern Province, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 4,685.

Galle Kachcheri, November 6, 1909.

SIR,—IN continuation of my letter No. 4,319 dated October 19, 1909, I have the honour to forward herewith copies of letters received from the Mudaliyars of the Four Gravets and Wellaboda pattu of the Galle District, and letter No. 1,101 of October 29, 1909, from the Assistant Government Agent, Matara, and copy of letter No. 772 of October 20, 1909, and its annexures from the Assistant Government Agent, Hambantota.

I am, &c.,

C. M. LUSHINGTON,  
Government Agent.

The MUDALIYAR, Four Gravets, to the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Southern Province.

No. 392.

October 18, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your Circular No. 47 of 2nd instant, I have the honour to submit the information called for in your letter under reference.

(b) There are seven Vidane Arachchi divisions in the Four Gravets and Akmimana, and there are at least twenty vedaralas who practise native medicines, and those who follow that calling as a profession are (1) Seneris Perera Wickremasinghe Vedarala, Police Officer of Welipitimodara, specialist in ulcers, &c.; (2) Selaratna Terunnanse of Kumbalwella, specialist in eye diseases; (3) Dedrick Bastiansz of Piyadigama has a reputation as a good vedarala for ailments of children; (4) Alex. Silva, Pattu Police Officer of Uluwitike; (5) Henry Abeywardena, Police Officer of Madawalamulla; (6) Charles Ratnayaka, Police Officer of Dangedara. The 4th and 5th have a reputation as good vedaralas in general. They had their education at the Piriwana in Colombo, and the 6th has received his education under the late Potuwila Terunnanse.

(c) The vedaralas state that opium is administered only in certain cases when the disease is likely to take a chronic form; they either use in simple form or reduced to ashes by a process (*sinduram*).

(d) This information has to be obtained from the Kachcheri books.\* *Titta abin* is only used for ailments externally.

I am, &c.,

E. V. GOONERATNE,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, Wellaboda Pattu, to the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Southern Province.

No. 896.

October 19, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your Circular No. 47 of October 2, 1909, I have the honour to state that there are thirty-eight vedaralas in the division in *bona fide* practice.

Brampy Goonewardena of Hikkaduwa and Sadris de Silva Widyaratna of Ratgama are two of the representative vedaralas in the division.

Opium is used in the preparation of medicines for rheumatism, dysentery, anæmia, cholera, diarrhoea, &c. In almost every preparation made for cattle disease opium forms an ingredient. As a cheap substitute *titta abin* is used.

The principal opium dealer in the division is Kumarawattege Charles Fernando of Ambalangoda.

I am, &c.,

J. P. GOONETILAKA,  
Mudaliyar.

The ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT AGENT, Matara, to the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Galle.

No. 1,101.

The Kachcheri,  
Matara, October 29, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter No. 566 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to annex hereto the information required in paragraphs (a) and (b) of letter dated September 27, 1909, from the Secretary of the Opium Commission.

As regards paragraphs c (1) and c (2), I have the honour to state that the estimates vary enormously. The Mudaliyar of Weligam korale estimates that each vedarala in practice prescribes three pounds of opium for human beings per annum. The Mudaliyar of Gangaboda pattu states that ordinary vedaralas do not prescribe any. These figures are, I consider, guesswork. The Mudaliyar of Four Gravets inquired from all vedaralas, and gives nearly one pound a year prescribed by each vedarala for human beings, and about one-third pound for cattle. One Mudaliyar says that opium used for cattle is *titta abin*, but this is not universally true. By examination of the opium books of the town renters, who would supply all opium consumed in Weligam korale, Four Gravets, Gangaboda pattu, Kandaboda pattu, Morawak korale, and half of Wellaboda pattu, I find that thirteen pounds a month have been consumed on an average this year. The Mudaliyar of Four Gravets reports that a very small proportion of these sales appear to be to vedaralas.

(d) There are two opium dealers in the Four Gravets, viz., (1) Vettasin Arachchige Carolis of Kade-weediya; (2) S. J. K. Girigoris Appu of Kotuwegoda. There is one dealer in Wellaboda pattu, viz., S. S. N. Ramanathan Chetty of No. 27, Sea street, Colombo.

I am, &c.,

W. L. KINDERSLEY,  
Assistant Government Agent.

\* This information has already been furnished (*vide* paragraph of letter 4,319 of October 19, 1909, addressed to Secretary, Opium Commission).

Information required at Paragraphs (a) and (b) of Letter dated September 27, 1909, from the Secretary of the Opium Commission.

Name of Chief Headman's Division.	Number of Vedaralas in <i>bona fide</i> Practice.	Name and Residence of one Prominent Vedarala.
Four Gravets	21	Don Johanis Samaraweera, Veda Muhandiram of Pallimulla, Matara.
Weligam korale	30	Don Appu Samarakoon Jayawardana, Veda Arachchi of Denepitiya.
Morawak korale	1	Sumana Unnanse of Banagala.
Wellaboda pattu	72	Don Diyonis Senerat Yapa Abewardana Kulatinga, Veda Arachchi.
Gangaboda pattu	Nil	Nil.
Kandaboda pattu	37	Don Siyadoris Samarasingha Gunasekara, Veda Arachchi of Vepotaira.

The ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT AGENT, Hambantota, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 772.

Hambantota Kachcheri,  
October 20, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your letter No. 440 of 4th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the reports of the Mudaliyars of the three pattus which compose this district.

I am, &c.,

L. S. WOOLF,  
Assistant Government Agent.

The MUDALIYAR, Magam Pattu, to the ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT AGENT, Hambantota.

No. 974.

Tissamaharama, October 15, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter No. 827 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report as follows :—

(a) The number of vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in Magam pattu is nine.

(b) Ratubaduge Appu Singho of Tissamaharama is a prominent and representative vedarala of some repute and practice in the pattu.

(c) Opium is used by the vedaralas as an ingredient in medicine to a considerable extent, the ordinary adult dose being from 1 to 4 grains. It is used as an astringent and narcotic in chronic diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes, cough, and asthma, and is treated as a valuable drug in the native pharmacopœia. It also enters into the composition of external application in the form of paste.

As a stimulant it has been accepted as superior to liquor, in that it is a comparatively harmless habit, and attended with beneficial results in chronic ailments that have baffled all ordinary medical treatments. One vedarala describes it as an excellent stimulant—a Hridya, quickening the pulse, increasing the strength, raising the spirits, and producing a happy and joyous state of mind—in fact all those happy sensations so vividly described in "The Confessions of an Opium Eater."

2. It is administered in case of cattle to cart bulls as a cure for rheumatism, and as a drug that increases strength and gives power to endure fatigue. The dose is from 20 to 24 grains once a week. This drug, however, is not so extensively used in this pattu as in some parts of the Island, as its price is prohibitive.

Usuph Deen of Hambantota is the only dealer in the pattu.

I am, &c.,

H. E. AMARASEKERA,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, West Giruwa Pattu, to the ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT AGENT, Hambantota.

No. 1,291.

October 17, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your No. 1,226 of 7th instant, I have the honour to report that 95 vedaralas are in *bona fide* practice in my division.

(b) I give the names of four prominent and representative vedaralas of good repute in my division who are in large practice. I am hardly able to distinguish one out of these four who can be considered as having the largest practice, but the most learned of them is Don Pedrick Dissanaike, Veda Arachehi :—

(1) Don Pedrick Dissanaike, Veda Arachchi of Pollonnaruwa, Tangalla.

(2) Don Johannes Atapattu, Veda Arachchi of Nakulugama.

(3) Ranasingha Kalumediriya Don Hendrick, Veda Arachchi of Kinchigune, Wiraketiya.

(4) Don Samel Ediriwira Wijesuriya of Tellawatawana in Ranna.

(c) Opium is used by the vedaralas in this district to only a little extent. This ingredient becomes necessary in cases of cholera, dysentery, and rheumatism among human beings, and only rheumatism in cattle. These diseases, except dysentery, occur very seldom in West Giruwa pattu.

I know from personal experience that opium helps to cure rheumatism. I was cured of a slight touch of it by use of extract of opium mixed with other native drugs made into a *rasayana* or *giritha*. Ordinary opium is plainly taken by patients who suffer from gonorrhœal rheumatism.

The opium dealer in my division is S. Mailwaganam.

I am, &c.,

HARRY JAYAWARDENE,  
Mudaliyar.

The MUDALIYAR, East Giruwa Pattu, to the ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT AGENT, Hambantota.

No. 836.

October 16, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your letter No. 819 of the 7th instant, enclosing copy of letter from the Secretary of the Opium Commission, I have the honour to report as follows :—

(a) There are only two vedaralas in my pattu who are in *bona fide* practice.

(b) The name of the more prominent and representative vedarala is Don Janis Ediriwira Jayawardene of Kiula in East Giruwa pattu.

(c) There is not a single vedarala in this pattu who uses opium as an ingredient in medicines administered either to human beings or cattle.

I am, &c.,

B. HAGIRIM DOOLE,  
Mudaliyar.

Names and Number of Prominent Vedaralas, &c., in the Southern Province.

Name of Pattu.	Number of Vedaralas.	Names and Residences of Prominent Vedarala.	Extent of Opium used by each Vedarala per Annum.		Names of Prominent Opium Dealers.
			Human Being.	Cattle.	
Talpe pattu ..	14	K. K. Don Mathes de Silva, Veda Arachchi of Ahangama	3 lb. for the whole	both (for pattu)	See list below
Gangaboda pattu ..	30	Henagodavitaneeschchi Don Dias de Silva, Veda Arachchi of Mapalagama	4-6 drachms		
Hinidum pattu ..	3	Albert Jayasundera of Opata	Not given.		See enclosure to letter of Mudaliyar, Bentota-Walallawiti korale
Bentota-Walallawiti korale	42	Sirineris de Soysa of Kosgoda	4 oz.-2lb.		
Four Gravets and Akmi-mana	20	Alexander Silva, Pattu Police Officer of Uluwiteke; (2) Henry Abeyawardena, Police Officer of Madawalamulla; (3) Charles Ratnayake, Police Officer of Dangedara	—	—	—
Wellaboda pattu ..	38	Brampy Goonewardena of Hikkaduwa and Sadrus de Silva Widyaratne of Ratgama	—	—	Kumarawattege Charles Fernando of Ambalangoda
Matara ..	161	—	156 lb. for the whole	both (for district).	—
Magam pattu ..	9	Ratubaduge Appusingho of Tissamaharama	—	—	—
West Giruwa pattu ..	95	Don Pedrick Dissanayake, Veda Arachchi of Polionnaruwa, Tangalla	—	—	—
East Giruwa pattu ..	2	Don Janis Ediriwira Jayawardena of Kiula	—	—	—

Names of Prominent Opium Dealers in the Southern Province.

Name.	Residence.	Remarks.
M. K. M. P. R. Letchman Chetty and Cassim Sultan Bawa	.. Galle	.. Galle Opium Renter
M. Johanns Coorey	.. Moratuwa	..
Navenna Vena Navenna Sinnatamby	.. No. 27, Sea street, Colombo	.. Ambalangoda Opium Renters
S. S. N. Ramanathan Chetty	.. No. 73, Sea street, Colombo	.. Dikwella Opium Renter
K. Jorolis Pieris	.. Panadura	.. Tangalla Opium Renter
M. S. P. Meyappa Chetty	.. No. 73, Sea street, Colombo	.. Hambantota Opium Renter

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Batticaloa, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 873 C.

Batticaloa Kachcheri,  
November 15, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter dated September 27, 1909, I have the honour to annex the information required by the Opium Commission, and to state that two Chief Headmen of the Batticaloa District have not yet reported. On receipt of their reports copies will be forwarded.

I am, &c.,

J. O'K. MURTY,  
Government Agent.

Batticaloa District.

(a) The number, as near as possible, of vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in each Chief Headman's division in the Batticaloa District :—

1. Manmunai North ..	.. 75	6. Karavaku Pattu ..	.. 21
2. Manmunai South ..	.. Nil	7. Eruvil-Porativu Pattus ..	.. 5
3. Bintenna Pattu ..	.. 8	8. Eraur-Koralai Pattus ..	.. 30
4. Panawa Pattu ..	.. 4	9. Sammanturai Pattu ..	.. 11
5. Akkarai Pattu ..	.. 13		

(b) The name and residence of one prominent and representative vedarala of good repute and in large practice in each Headman's division :—

1. Manmunai North	.. Periyatampi Canagaretnam of Koddamunai, Batticaloa.
2. Manmunai South	.. None.
3. Bintenna Pattu	.. Kumbukkona Appuhamy Vedarala in Miriswalla.
4. Panawa Pattu	.. V. Velan Parigary (among Tamils), M. Eruralevvai Parigary (among Moors), both of Pottuvil.
5. Akkarai Pattu	.. P. H. Adamlevvai Parikari of Oluvil.
6. Karavaku Pattu	.. Nakappiar Velayuthar of Murai Melavanai.
7. Eruvil-Porativu Pattus	.. Kanapathiyar George Kandappan of Endatchimadam.
8. Eraur-Koralai Pattus	.. V. Thambipillai Sastiri of Kiran.
9. Sammanturai Pattu	.. I. P. Ismail Parikari and I. P. Meeralevvai Parikari.

(c) The opinions of the Chief Headmen, &c., as to the extent opium is used, &c :—

1. *Vanniah, Manmunai North.*—Native physicians generally use opium with other ingredients for abscess, bowel complaint, rheumatism, gout, &c., and meet with success in these cases. They also use it for almost similar complaints in cattle.

2. *Vanniah, Manmunai South.*—In my opinion opium is used to some extent by native physicians as an ingredient in medicines for the treatment of disease in human beings and cattle. The quantity used depends on the nature of illness and the urgency of the case.

3. *Ratemahatmaya, Bintenna*, is of opinion that opium is required as an ingredient in medicines administered to human beings and cattle.

4. *Vanniah of Parava Pattu* is informed that opium is used by the native physicians for rheumatism, diarrhoea, &c., and in also preparing medicine for the improvement of constitution of human beings, but seldom cattle are treated with medicine with opium.

5. *Vanniah of Akkarai Pattu* is of opinion that opium is used in treatment of (1) human beings and (2) cattle.

6. *Vanniah of Karavaku Pattu* states that opium is used for diarrhoea, &c. It is also given to cattle with other medicines.

7. *Vanniah of Eruvil-Porativu Pattus*.—Opium is used by physicians in preparing medicines for the undermentioned diseases, viz., rheumatism, parangi, pneumonia, diarrhoea, dysentery, and boils, and also in some cases of cattle disease.

8. *Vanniah of Eraur-Koralai Pattus*.—(Vide Government Agent's letter of December 7.)

9. *Vanniah of Sammanturai Pattu*.—(Vide Government Agent's letter of November 30.)

(d) The names and residences of the prominent opium dealers in Batticaloa District:—

(i.) M. J. Cooray of Colombo, who conducts the opium shops in Puliyantivu and Kattankudi through his agents.

(ii.) The opium licenses of Puliyantivu and Kattankudi for first half-year of 1910 have been bought by I. M. Abdul Cader Marikar of Kattankudi Division No. 5.

*Trincomalee District.*

(a) The number, as near as possible, of vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in each Chief Headman's division in the Trincomalee District:—

Town of Trincomalee	.. 20	Kaddukkulam East	.. 5
Koddiyar Pattu	.. 6	Kaddukkulam West	.. 13
Tamblegam Pattu	.. 12		

(b) The name and residence of one prominent and representative vedarala of good repute and in large practice in each Chief Headman's division:—

Town of Trincomalee	.. Muttu Ananther of Division No. 2, Trincomalee.
Koddiyar Pattu	.. Pattinian Parikari Sittampalam Parikari of Mallikaitivu.
Tamblegam Pattu	.. Supper Tambaiya of Naduvuppiramputtidal.
Kaddukkulam East	.. Sinnatamby Kanagasabai of Kumpurupiddi.
Kaddukkulam West	.. Kappuralai Vairalai of Kivulakkada.

(c) The opinions of the Chief Headmen:—

*Town Vanniah*.—Opium is used in small quantities as an ingredient in medicines for diarrhoeic diseases of man and cattle, for suppression of abscess, boils, &c., and for rheumatic affections of human beings. For medicines administered for these diseases opium is considered to be an indispensable ingredient, and without which the medicines will not prove effective.

*Koddiyar Vanniah*.—Opium is used in small quantities with caution in cases of cholera, diarrhoea, sleeplessness, &c., and as an external application. It is used for suppressing carbuncle and abscess. It is an indispensable ingredient in certain native medicines, but it is used to a small extent in such cases. For cattle it is administered in large doses for cases of colic, diarrhoea, &c.

*Tamblegam Vanniah*.—Opium is used by vedaralas for checking dysentery, diarrhoea, boils, rheumatism, &c., and for the use of cattle when they are subject to indigestion or purging.

*Udaiyar of Kaddukkulam East*.—Opium is not so much used, though it forms part of medicines in a very small quantity for cure of dysentery, diarrhoea, and other chronic diseases of human beings and those of cattle.

*Koralai of Kaddukkulam West*.—No opium is used as an ingredient to medicines administered to human beings and cattle, and the reason for this is that medicines in this district are composed of medicinal herbs.

(d) The name and residence of the prominent opium dealer in the Trincomalee District:—

There is only one opium dealer in this district and his name is M. J. Cooray of Colombo. His shop is situated in Division No. 7, Trincomalee.

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Eastern Province, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 925.

Batticaloa Kachcheri,  
November 30, 1909.

SIR,—ADVERTING to my letter No. 873 of the 15th instant and your telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honour to annex the information from the Vanniya of Sammanturai, and to state that the reply of the other headman will be forwarded as soon as it is received.

I am, &c.,

T. REID,  
for Government Agent.

*Reply of Vanniah of Sammanturai.*

(a) Eleven vedaralas in practice.

(b) I. P. Ismail Parikari and I. P. Meeralevvai Parikari.

(c) About 96 ounces of opium is used annually for medicines to human beings.

(d) No opium dealers in his division.

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Batticaloa, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 939 C.

Batticaloa Kachcheri,  
December 7, 1909.

SIR,—ADVERTING to my letter No. 925 of November 30, 1909, I have the honour to annex the information from the Vanniah of Eraur and Koralai pattus. There are nine vedaralas in Kattankudi division and none at Manchantodurai (vide statement sent with No. 873 of November 15, 1909).

I am, &c.,

T. REID,  
for Government Agent.



Information referred to.

- (a) Thirty vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in the Eraur and Koralai pattus.
- (b) V. Thambipillai Sastiri of Kiran.
- (c) Opium being an astringent it is prescribed by all native physicians in diarrhoea and rheumatic cases.
- (d) No one is licensed to deal in opium in my division.

*Vanniah's Opinion.*—“ In my opinion the right of prescribing opium as an ingredient should be given to all those who practise native medicines, as the restriction of the right to prescribe it to any one particular man will be dangerous to suffering humanity.”

List of Vedaralas and Opium Dealers.

Name of Division.	Number of Vedaralas.	Names and Residences of Prominent Vedarala.	Name of Prominent Opium Dealer.	
<i>Batticaloa District.</i>				
Manmunai North ..	75	Periyatampi Kanagaretnam of Koddamunai, Batticaloa	M. J. Cooray of Colombo.	
Manmunai South ..	—	—		
Bintenna Patu ..	8	Kumbukkona Appuhamy Vedarala in Miriswalla ..		
Panawa Patu ..	4	V. Velan Parigary (among Tamils), M. Eruralevvai Parigary (among Moors), both of Pottuvil ..		
Akkarai Patu ..	18	P. H. Adamlevvai Parikari of Oluvil ..		
Karavaku Patu ..	21	Nakappiar Velayuthar of Murai Melavanai ..		
Eruvil-Parativu Pattus ..	5	Kanapathiyar George Kandappan of Endatchimadam ..		
Eraur-Koralai Pattus ..	30	V. Thambipillai Sastiri of Kiran ..		
Sammanturai Patu ..	11	I. P. Ismail Parikari and I. P. Meeralevvai Parikari ..		
<i>Trincomalee District.</i>				
Town of Trincomalee ..	20	Muttu Ananther of Division No. 2, Trincomalee ..		
Koddiyar Patu ..	6	Pattinian Parikari Sittampalam Parikari of Mallikaitivu ..		
Tamblagam Patu ..	12	Supper Tambaiya of Naduvuppiramputtidal ..		
Kaddukulam East ..	5	Sinnatamby Kangasabai of Kumpurupiddi ..		
Kaddukulam West ..	13	Kappuralai Vairalai of Kivulekkada ..		

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Kurunegala, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 1,743.

Kurunegala Kachcheri,  
November 12, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter of September 27, 1909, I have the honour to report as follows :—

(a) The number of vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in each Chief Headman's division is approximately—

Kurunegala ..	..	Dambadeni Hatpattu ..	43
		Hiriyala Hatpattu ..	6
		Wanni Hatpattu ..	7
		Katugampola Hatpattu ..	259
		Dewameddi Hatpattu ..	84
		Weudawili Hatpattu ..	107
			506
Puttalam and Chilaw ..	..	Puttalam Gravets ..	7
		Puttalam Patu ..	22
		Demala Hatpattu ..	30
		Kalpitiya Division ..	30
		Pitigal Korale North ..	30
		Pitigal Korale Central ..	78
			75
			272
			778

(b) Name and residence of one prominent and representative vedarala of good repute and large practice in each Chief Headman's division :—

*Kurunegala.*

Dambadeni Hatpattu: Appuhamy Vedarala of Haliyayala.  
 Hiriyala Hatpattu: A. M. Banda Vedarala of Haimillawa.  
 Wanni Hatpattu: A. M. Appuhamy Vedarala of Olupeliyawa.  
 Katugampola Hatpattu: Puchappuhamy Vedarala of Deegala.  
 Dewameddi Hatpattu: Hapuwa Vel-Duraya of Kedapatvehera.  
 Weudawili Hatpattu: Mr. Dirasekere of Kurunegala.

*Puttalam and Chilaw.*

Puttalam Gravets: P. S. Sembaperuma of Puttalam.  
 Puttalam Patu: V. Anthonipulle of Sembukulam.  
 Demala Hatpattu: Appuhamy Vedarala of Lasmiyawa.  
 Kalpitiya Division: Kader Saibo Pariyari Seguladu Pariyari of Musalpiddy.  
 Pitigal Korale North: Chandrasekere Appuhamy Vedarala of Maiyawa.  
 Pitigal Korale Central: Alexander Perera Gunatilaka of Madampe.  
 Pitigal Korale South: J. E. Peris Sinno Appuhamy of Haldanduwana.

(c) The Ratamahatmayas of Dambadeni, Dewameddi, and Wanni hatpattus are of opinion that very little opium is used by vedaralas as an ingredient in medicines either for human beings or cattle. The Ratamahatmayas have this opinion on conversations they have had with vedaralas on the subject. The Ratamahatmaya of Weudawili hatpattu states that he has learnt from inquiry amongst vedaralas that opium is much used for the preparation of pills, *rasayanas*, and oils administered to human beings, while *sitta abin* is used for cattle. The Ratamahatmaya of Hiriyala hatpattu mentioned certain pills in which opium is used.

The opinion of the Chief Headman of Puttalam District is that opium is used by vedaralas as an ingredient in medicines administered both to human beings and cattle. The quantity used is small—a few grains at a time—but it is not possible to give a correct estimate of the quantity used during a stated period. All the Chief Headmen agree that opium is indispensable to the vedarala.

(d) Prominent opium dealers in the Province are :—

*Kurunegala District.*

V. Sinnatamby, &c., Wariyapola.  
 S. S. N. Ramanathan Chetty, &c., Dandagamuwa.  
     Do. Narammala.  
     Do. Katupota.  
     Do. Giriulla.  
     Do. Vennappuwa.  
 M. J. Cooray and S. S. N. Ramanathan Chetty, Kurunegala.

*Puttalam District.*

W. Peter de Mel, Puttalam.  
 M. Johannes Cooray of Colombo, selling at Chilaw.  
 M. Johannes Cooray, Madampe.  
 V. Sinnatamby, Nattandiya.  
 P. D. Cornelis Perera, Dankotuwa.

I am, &c.,

G. S. SAXTON,  
 Government Agent.

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Kurunegala, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 1,644.

November 2, 1909.

SIR,—REFERRING to your letter of September 27, 1909, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of letter No. 1,256 of October 26, 1909, from my Assistant at Puttalam giving the information called for in respect of his district.

I am, &c.,

T. G. WILLETT,  
 for Government Agent.

The ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT AGENT, Puttalam, to the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Kurunegala.

No. 1,256.

Puttalam Kachcheri,  
 October 26, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your endorsement No. 1,013 of September 29, 1909, forwarding copy of a letter dated 27th idem from the Secretary of the Opium Commission, I have the honour to report as follows. Taking the questions seriatim :—

(a) The number of vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in each Chief Headman's division is approximately as follows :—

Puttalam Gravets .. .. .	7
Puttalam Pattu .. .. .	22
Demala Hatpattu .. .. .	30
Kalpitiya Division .. .. .	30
Pitigal Korale North .. .. .	30
Pitigal Korale Central .. .. .	78
Pitigal Korale South .. .. .	75
	272

(b) Name and residence of one prominent and representative vedarala of good repute and large practice in each Chief Headman's division :—

Puttalam Gravets: P. S. Sembaperuma of Puttalam.  
 Puttalam Pattu: V. Anthonipulle of Sembukulam.  
 Demala Hatpattu: Appuhamy Vedarala of Lasmiyawa.  
 Kalpitiya Division: Kader Saibo Pariyari Seguladu Pariyari of Musalpiddy.  
 Pitigal Korale North: Chandrasekera Appuhamy Vedarala of Maiyawa.  
 Pitigal Korale Central: Alexander Perera Gunatilaka of Madampe.  
 Pitigal Korale South: J. E. Peris Sinno Appuhamy of Haldanduwana.

(c) Opium is used by vedaralas as an ingredient in medicines administered both to human beings and to cattle. The quantity used is small—a few grains at a time—but it is not possible to give a correct estimate of the quantity used during a stated period. All the Chief Headmen agree that opium is indispensable to the vedarala.

(d) Prominent opium dealers :—

W. Peter de Mel, Puttalam.  
 M. Johannes Cooray, of Colombo, selling at Chilaw.  
 M. J. Cooray, Madampe.  
 V. Sinnatamby, Nattandiya.  
 P. D. Cornelis Perera, Dankotuwa.

These are all licensed dealers.

I am, &c.,

A. C. ALLNUTT,  
 Assistant Government Agent.

List of Prominent Vedaralas and Opium Dealers in the North-Western Province.

Name of Division.	Number of Vedaralas.	Names and Residences of Prominent Vedaralas.	Names of Prominent Opium Dealers.
<i>Kurunegala District.</i>			
Dambadeni Hatpattu ..	43	Appuhamy Vedarala of Haliyayala	V. Sinnatamby, &c., of Wariyapola; S. S. N. Ramanathan Chetty, &c., Dandugamuwa, Narammala, Katupota, Giriulla, and Vennappuwa; M. J. Cooray and S. S. N. Ramanathan Chetty, Kurunegala
Hiriyala Hatpattu ..	6	A. M. Banda Vedarala of Hal-millawa	
Wanni Hatpattu ..	7	A. M. Appuhamy Vedarala of Olupeliyawa	
Katugampola Hatpattu ..	259	Punchappuhamy Vedarala of Deegala	
Dewamedi Hatpattu ..	84	Hapuwa Vel-Duraya of Kedapatvehera	
Weudawili Hatpattu ..	107	Mr. Dirasekere of Kurunegala	
<i>Puttalam and Chilaw.</i>			
Puttalam Gravets ..	7	P. S. Sembaperuma of Puttalam	W. Peter de Mel, Puttalam; M. Johannes Cooray of Colombo, selling at Chilaw; M. J. Cooray, Madampe; V. Sinnatamby, Nattandiya; P. D. Cornelis Perera, Dankotuwa
Puttalam Pattu ..	22	V. Anthonipulle of Sembukulam	
Demala Hatpattu ..	30	Appuhamy Vedarala of Lasmiyawa	
Kalpitiya Division ..	30	Kader Saibo Pariyari Seguladen Pariyari of Musalpidy	
Pitigal Korale North ..	30	Chandrasekera Appuhamy Vedarala of Maiyawa	
Pitigal Korale Central ..	78	Alexander Perera Gunatilake of Madampe	
Pitigal Korale South ..	75	J. E. Peris Sinno Appuhamy of Haldanduwana	

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Anuradhapura, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 2,313.

Anuradhapura Kachcheri,  
November 16, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter dated September 27 last, I have the honour to forward herewith a return giving the information asked with regard to each Chief Headman's division in this Province.

I am, &c.,

T. A. CAREY,  
for Government Agent.

Particulars wanted by the Opium Commission (*vide* Letter dated September 27, 1909, of the Secretary addressed to the Government Agent, North-Central Province).

Palata or Chief Headman's Division.	Number of Vedaralas in bona fide Practice.	Name and Residence of one Prominent and Representative Vedarala of good repute and in large practice.	Opinions of the Chief Headmen, and the grounds for those opinions as to the extent to which Opium is used by Vedaralas as an ingredient in Medicines administered (1) to Human Beings, (2) to Cattle.	Names and Residences of the Prominent Opium Dealers in the Province.
Anuradhapura Gravets	7	Rasa Marikar of Ottupallama in Anuradhapura town. Post town, Anuradhapura	Opium is used in small quantities as an ingredient in a few medicines administered to human beings and cattle	N. J. Cooray of Kurunegala and N. V. V. Ramanaden Chetty of Anuradhapura in partnership under a license issued by the Local Board of Anuradhapura
Nuwaragam Palata ..	10	Jayesundera Kapuruhami, ex Korala of Pahala Talawa in Nuwaragam korale. Post town, Talawa	Opium is used to some extent as an ingredient in medicines administered for windy complaints of human beings, and for worm diseases and diarrhoea amongst cattle	
Hurulu Palata ..	5	Kandappu, ex Korala of Kahatagasdigiya in Uddiyankulama korale. Post town, Kahatagasdigiya	Opium is used in very small quantities for medicines for human beings; <i>titta abin</i> is used in most cases for medicinal purposes for human beings and cattle	
Kalagam Palata ..	26	Adikari Mudiyansele Udayare, Korala of Malawa in Kalagam Korale South. Post town, Kekirawa	About 3 lb. of opium is used annually in the palata for medicines for rheumatic pains and windy complaints of human beings	
Tamankaduwa District	12	H. S. Jayatilleke of Topawewa in Meda pattu. Post town, Topawewa via Dambulla	Opium is seldom used as an ingredient for medicines administered to cattle. About 16 lb. a year would meet the requirements of the people and cattle in the palata.	

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Province of Uva, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

Badulla Kachcheri,  
October 28, 1909.

No. 4,120.

SIR,—REFERRING to your letter of September 27, 1909, I have the honour to forward herewith a tabular statement embodying the reports furnished by the Chief Headmen of this Province giving the desired information.

I am, &c.,

C. R. CUMBERLAND,  
Government Agent.

Tabular Statement embracing the Reports furnished by the Chief Headmen of the Province of Uva.

Division.	Number of Vedaralas.	Name and Residence of a Prominent Vedarala.	Opinion of Chief Headman.	Names and Residences of Prominent Opium Dealers.
Yatikinda ..	28	Polgaswattededara W. D. M. Appuhami of Mayilagastenna in Rilpola korale, Badulla	About 3 <i>palams</i> or 36 <i>kalan</i> is requisite for a year to make pills for treatment for cases of <i>sanni</i> (enteric, typhoid fever, &c.), cholera, and such other contagious diseases, and for cattle diseases. But during the prevalence of contagious diseases double the above quantity is required	(1) V. Siwaguru (2) N. Kandiah (3) A. Somanathan Pulle (4) V. Ambalavan, all living in house No. 135 in the town of Passara (5) M. Chelliah Vayitilingam of Lower street, Badulla
Udukinda ..	37	Divigalpitiye Wijesinha Mudiyanseleage Mohotti of Udalata korale in Udukinda	There are but very few vedaralas in the division who make use of opium as an ingredient in the medicines they prepare. I am, therefore, of opinion that about 6 ounces will be an adequate supply for medicines both for human beings and cattle	(1) N. V. N. Ramana-nathan Chetty of Haputale (2) N. Marie Muttu of Bandarawela
Wellassa ..	3	Bakinigahawela Walawwa Tennakoon Banda of Bakini-gahawela in Medagam pattu, Wellassa	The use of opium as an ingredient in the preparation of native medicinal pills, <i>kalka</i> , <i>pattu</i> , &c., for rheumatic pains, cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, sprains, &c., is indispensable, but it is rarely used in my division, as the greater number of patients resort to charms and devil ceremonies instead of taking medical treatment, and there are only three good vedaralas	—
Viyaluwa ..	52	Velangolle Kiriwante of Udalelegama in Soranatotota korale, Viyaluwa	To a large extent opium is used by the vedaralas in preparing pills, <i>kalka</i> , <i>churna</i> , and <i>rasayana</i> for human beings, and medicines for cattle epidemics. Without opium some of these medicines cannot be prepared	—
Buttala ..	8	Dewarakhita, resident priest of Kirigalpotta Vihare in Kirigalpotta, Buttala	It is considered that about $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. is required for the preparation of pills, <i>rasayana</i> , and <i>kalka</i> . There is no substitute for opium. It is believed that if opium is not used in the preparation of certain medicines the desired effect of the medicine cannot be realized.	—
Wellawaya ..	11	Wijesundara Mudiyanseleage Siyatu of Koslanda town	I am of opinion that the vedaralas do make use of the drug in the preparation of their remedies, there being no other drug to supplant it in their materia medica as in European practice, to produce sleep or remove pain in diseased state of the body both in human beings and in cattle. I am also of opinion that the drug is abused or wrongly used by some incompetent men who practise as vedaralas. I think that opium is used in cattle diseases, especially in looseness of the bowels, febrile state of the body. During the last outbreak of rinderpest, I am aware opium was to some extent administered along with other medicines	—
Bintonna ..	21	Kadirekumbure Sudu Banda of Magagama, late Registrar of Palwatta	Opium is used in small quantities by almost all the vedaralas for making pills for human beings as well as cattle, but the extent to which it is used is not known	—

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Province of Sabaragamuwa, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 2,014.

Ratnapura Kachcheri,  
November 8, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to append the required information with regard to (a) the number of vedaralas in each Chief Headman's division, (b) the names and residences of prominent vedaralas, and (c) the names and addresses of the chief dealers in opium in the Ratnapura District.

2. With regard to (c), I have ascertained that opium is used for the treatment of rheumatism, diarrhoea, dysentery, and kindred ailments in human beings. As to the quantity used, the Ratemahatmaya of Kadawata and Meda korales reports: "I think for my division 1½ pound would be sufficient for a month for all the vedaralas. My ground for this opinion is that I have been practising Ayurvedic medicines for the last twenty years. I require about 2 to 2½ pounds of opium a year, but in some years, when there happens to be an outbreak of dysentery and diarrhoea in an epidemic form, the quantity rises up to 3 and sometimes 4 pounds."

3. The Ratemahatmaya of Kuruwiti korale writes that it is administered in large quantities to bulls, and in many cases in weekly doses, as a preventive against rheumatism.

4. I annex for the information of your Commission copy of a letter from Mr. Mahawalattenna, Ratemahatmaya of Meda and Kadawata korales, on the subject of the issue of opium to vedaralas.

5. My Assistant's report on the Kegalla District will follow.

I am, &c.,

R. B. HELLINGS,  
Government Agent.

List of Prominent Vedaralas and Opium Dealers.

Name of Division.	Number of Vedaralas.	Names and Residences of Prominent Vedaralas.	Names of Prominent Opium Dealers.
Kuruwiti Korale	.. 118	.. Lindamulage Romiel Silva of Dewalegawa; Waturawita Sumanasara Terunnense of Eknelligoda; A. D. S. Wijesinghe of Kuruwita	S. S. N. Ramanathan Chetty, 73, Sea street, Colombo, and M. Johannes Cooray of Moratuwa, Renters, Province of Sabaragamuwa: (1) Ratnapura town; (2) Higgashena; (3) Ellagawa.
Nawadun Korale	.. 20	.. H. A. Kalinghamy, Registrar of Palnadulla	—
Kadawata and Meda Korales	.. 40	.. Heen Appuhamy Vedarala of Naluwala; Denes of Mahawalattenna; Heenhamy Vedarala of Massena; Sumanasara Unnense of Balangoda	Balangoda: do.
Atakalan Korale	.. 10	.. Gajanayaka Mudiyanse Lage Kiri Banda <i>alias</i> K. B. Gajanayaka of Welandure	Rakwana: do.
Kolonna Korale	.. —	.. —	.. —
Kukul Korale	.. —	.. —	.. —

MAHAWALATTENNA RATEMAHATMAYA to the GOVERNMENT AGENT, Province of Sabaragamuwa.

Mahawalattenna, September 24, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to draw your attention (I think it my duty to do so in the interests of the people whom I represent) to one or two points in connection with the opium question.

I read to-day that a Commission has been issued to report on the registration of vedaralas. The members, as far as I am aware, may not know much of the Kandyan Districts.

We have in Kandyan Districts a large number of vedaralas, some efficient, others not, but both are very helpful to those districts where medical aid is very difficult to get at. Therefore, to withhold registration of these vedaralas will be to cut off a good deal of the medical aid available to the people.

At the same time it will be fatal to the opium scheme to allow all such vedaralas to buy opium, for there may be many such vedaralas who will not scruple to retail the drug to consumers.

If I may do so, I beg to suggest that for the Kandyan Districts, where it is deemed undesirable to reduce the number of vedaralas by non-registration, some local officer whom Government could trust may be entrusted with the issuing of opium in such quantities as will suffice for medical purposes only.

Such local officer from his knowledge of the district, the people, and their requirements may be able to pretty accurately judge what quantity would actually be sufficient for each vedarala, according to the extent of his practice.

I beg to add that it is not presumption but a sense of my duty as a Chief under you that prompted me to submit this suggestion for your information.

I am, &c.,

S. D. MAHAWALATTENNA,  
Ratemahatmaya.

The ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT AGENT, Kegalla, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 2,224.

Kegalla Kacheheri,  
November 15, 1909.

SIR,—ON instructions received from the Government Agent, Ratnapura, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a report from the Ratemahatmaya of Galboda and Kinigoda korales on the subject of opium.

2. The reports from the remaining Ratemahatmayas of my district have been sent to the Government Agent, Ratnapura, who will forward them on to you.

I am, &c.,

S. T. DE SILVA,  
Head Clerk,  
for Assistant Government Agent on Circuit.

The RATEMAHATMAYA, Galboda and Kinigoda Korales, to the ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT AGENT, Kegalla.

Rambukkana, November 15, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to order No. 1,952 of the 2nd ultimo, I beg to submit the following:—

(a) There are about 43 vedaralas in *bona fide* practice in my division.

(b) Bodenimulle Pansale Rewata Unnense of Hingula is one of the most prominent and representative vedaralas in my division.

(c) From inquiries made I gather that pills and *kalkas* used in serious and extreme cases are always compounded with small quantities of opium, and the extent they are used cannot, however, be much.

My opinion is that opium is used as it has a greater and quicker effect on the human system to allay pain and relieve suffering in place of the European system of injecting medicines. Further, in places where medicinal herbs are not quickly procurable, the pill treatment is first given effect to, hence the use of these pills till the necessary ingredients are procured for the preparation of decoctions and mixtures.

Same applies to cattle, but in greater quantities with decoctions, and also this is given to them plain for rheumatic pains, &c.

(d) There is only one opium dealer at Rambukkana in my division.

I am, &c.,

W. T. MAPITIGAMA,  
Ratemahatmaya.

The GOVERNMENT AGENT, Province of Sabaragamuwa, to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.  
No. 2,078.

Ratnapura Kachcheri,  
November 15, 1909.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter No. 2,014 of 8th instant, I have the honour to append a statement giving (a) the number of vedaralas in each Chief Headman's division, (b) the names and residences of prominent vedaralas, and (d) the names and addresses of the chief dealers in opium in the Kegalla District.

2. As regards (c), the Ratemahatmaya of Three Korales reports that the largest quantity of opium used in medicine administered to a human being is the weight of one *madatiya* seed for any one dose, and to cattle the weight of 10 *madatiya* seeds (20 *madatiya* seeds = 1 *kalanda*; 80 *kalandas* = 1 pound); that one pound of opium is used annually by vedaralas in their divisions in preparing medicines for human beings, and double that quantity for cattle; and that opium is used by vedaralas as an ingredient in medicine prepared for human beings who suffer from rheumatism, diarrhoea, and dysentery, and in medicines prepared for cattle suffering from convulsions.

3. The Ratemahatmaya of Paranakuru korale reports that on rare occasions a small quantity of opium is used as an ingredient in medicine administered to human beings and cattle in hopeless cases of rheumatism and worm complaints.

4. My Assistant at Kegalla will send the report *re* Galboda and Kinigoda korales direct to you.

I am, &c.,

J. C. W. ROCK,  
for Government Agent.

List of Prominent Vedaralas and Opium Dealers.

Name of Division.	Number of Vedaralas.	Names and Residences of Prominent Vedaralas.	Names of Prominent Opium Dealers.
Three Korales	.. 140 ..	Madagammana Arachchilage Siriwardena Hamy of Talapitiya	Dehiowita: S. S. N. Ramanathan Chetty, 23, Sea street, Colombo, and M. Johannes Cooray of Moratuwa, Renters.
Paranakuru Korale	.. 45 ..	Imiyarallage Ukku Banda of Erigama	Kegalla: do.
Beligal Korale	.. 75 ..	Kalu Achchi Patirannehelage Loku Appuhami of Nelundeniya	Ampe: do.

List of Prominent Vedaralas and Opium Dealers in the Province of Sabaragamuwa.

Name of Korale.	Number of Vedaralas.	Names and Residences of Prominent Vedaralas.	Names of Prominent Opium Dealers.
Kuruwiti Korale	.. 116	Lindamulage Romiel Silva of Dewalegawa; Waturawita Sumanasara Terunnase of Eknelligoda; A. D. S. Wijesinghe of Kuruwita	S. S. N. Ramanathan Chetty, Sea street, Colombo, and M. Johannes Cooray of Moratuwa, Renters, Province of Sabaragamuwa: (1) Ratnapura Town; (2) Higgashena; (3) Ellagawa.
Nawadun Korale	.. 20	H. A. Kalinguhamy, Registrar of Pelmadulla	—
Kadawata and Meda Korales	.. 40	Heen Appuhamy, Vedarala of Naluwala; Denes of Mahawalatenne; Heenhamy Vedarala of Massena; Sumanasara Unnanse of Balangoda	Balangoda: do.
Atakalan Korale	.. 10	Gajanayaka Mudiyanse Kiri Banda <i>alias</i> K. B. Gajanayaka of Walandure	Rakwana: do.
Kolonne Korale	.. —	—	—
Kukul Korale	.. —	—	—
Galboda and Kinigoda Korales	.. 43	Bodenimulle Pansale Rewata Unnanse of Hingula	—
Three Korales	.. 140	Madagammana Arachchilage Siriwardena Hamy of Talpitiya	S. S. N. Ramanathan Chetty, Sea street, Colombo, and M. Johannes Cooray of Moratuwa, Renters, Dehiowita.
Paranakuru Korale	.. 45	Imiyarallage Ukku Banda of Erigama	Kegalla: do.
Beligal Korale	.. 75	Kaluchchi Patirannehelage Loku Appuhami of Nelundeniya	Ampe: do.

APPENDIX II.

Summary of Reports received from the Chief Headmen through the Government Agents.

THE number of vedaralas in Ceylon according to the returns furnished to the Government Agents by the Chief Headmen is 3,815, the number for each Province being—

Western Province	..	..	..	..	814
Central Province	..	..	..	..	467
Northern Province	..	..	..	..	405
Southern Province	..	..	..	..	414
Eastern Province	..	..	..	..	228
North-Western Province	..	..	..	..	778
North-Central Province	..	..	..	..	60
Province of Uva	..	..	..	..	160
Province of Sabaragamuwa	..	..	..	..	489

This number contains some cattle vedaralas.

1.—*Western Province.*

2. Opium is used for human beings in every district, and for cattle in all districts except in Pasdun Korale West. The quantity used by each vedarala for human beings per annum varies from 4 oz. to 5 lb., but the general opinion favoured by the headmen would appear to be that something between a quarter of a pound and one pound is sufficient for the purposes of the vedaralas.

The Mudaliyar of Hewagam korale states that one-fourth only of the medicines used by vedaralas for human beings contains opium and one-eighth only for cattle.

The opium would appear to be always mixed with some other ingredients for human beings.

Opium is not used for decoctions in some divisions.

With regard to cattle, the following extract from a report made by the Mudaliyar of Colombo is of interest :—

“ Opium is not mixed with other ingredients to make up pills, but a quantity four times as much as is used for human beings is prescribed as a dose to be dissolved separately to be given with a pill or medicine in all cases of internal complaints of cattle, such as murrain, diarrhoea, oppression, &c., but it is never used for external application.”

The Mudaliyar of Siyane Korale East states that opium is *not* used by every vedarala.

According to the Mudaliyar of Hapitigam korale the drug is not kept in the vedaralas' dispensaries; the vedaralas obtain the drug from Colombo when they require it.

2.—*Central Province.*

Opium is administered by vedaralas to both human beings and cattle, sometimes very largely to the latter. The headmen state that it is indispensable. One headman states that one-eighth to one-fourth of a pound of opium would be sufficient for a native vedarala for six months for the preparation of medicines administered to both human beings and cattle. Generally the quantity required would appear to be small.

The Chief Headman of Pata Hewaheta states that it is not used in ordinary cases of sickness.

3.—*Northern Province.*

Opium is used for both human beings and cattle in most parts of the Northern Province, but the quantity used by each vedarala must be very small, as the largest quantity used in any division but one is stated to be 1½ lb.

In one division opium is not used by the native physicians.

A very small quantity of opium is said to be used for cattle.

4.—*Southern Province.*

Opium is generally used for human beings and cattle, but the quantity is very small.

The quantity used by each vedarala for human beings varies from 4 to 6 drachms to 3 pounds per annum, but the quantity required would appear not to exceed one pound at the most.

The Mudaliyar of West Giruwa pattu states that ordinary opium is “ plainly ” taken by patients who suffer from gonorrhœal rheumatism.

The vedaralas in East Giruwa pattu do not use opium either for human beings or cattle.

One headman says that quacks do much harm.

5.—*Eastern Province.*

Opium is generally used for both human beings and cattle, but not to any considerable extent.

In one district no opium is used, the reason being that the medicines used are composed entirely of medicinal herbs.

6.—*North-Western Province.*

Opium forms an ingredient in medicines administered to both human beings and cattle, and it is said to be indispensable, but the quantity used is very small.

7.—*North-Central Province.*

Opium is generally used for both human beings and cattle, but the quantity required is very small—about 3 pounds in the whole of one palata, for rheumatic pains and windy complaints in human beings, in a year.

One headman states that *titta abin* is used in most cases for medicinal purposes for human beings and cattle.

8.—*Province of Uva.*

Opium is used for both human beings and cattle but apparently to a very small extent, the quantity being something between 6 oz. and three-quarters of a pound per vedarala per annum.

One headman thinks the drug is wrongly used by some incompetent men who practise as vedaralas.

Opium has been to some extent administered with other medicines for rinderpest during the recent outbreak.

## 9.—Province of Sabaragamuwa.

Opium is used for both human beings and cattle. The largest amount used by any one vedarala in an average year is apparently 2½ lb., used by one of the Ratemahatmayas. The Ratemahatmaya of Three Korales states that one pound of opium per annum is used "by vedaralas" (? meaning "by each vedarala") in his division for human beings and double that quantity for cattle.

Opium is given to cattle "plain" for rheumatic pains, &c., in one district.

The largest quantity of opium used in medicines administered to human beings is the weight of a *manchadi* seed for any one dose, and for cattle the weight of ten *manchadi* seeds.

HERBERT K. HILLYER,  
Secretary.

November 23, 1909.

## APPENDIX III.

## Correspondence with Sinhalese Medical Association.

The SECRETARY, Sinhalese Medical Association, to the CHAIRMAN, Opium Commission.

Grandpass, Colombo,  
October 11, 1909.

SIR,—IN accordance with the resolution passed at the meeting of the above Association held on the 29th ultimo, I am directed by the said Association to forward a memorial *re* the use of opium and the registration of vedaralas, and to request that you will be good enough to lay it before the Opium Commission.

I am, &c.,

FRANCIS PERERA WIJAYAGUNAWARDANA,  
Secretary.

The SECRETARY, Sinhalese Medical Association, to the CHAIRMAN, Opium Commission.

Sinhalese Medical Association,  
Colombo, October 11, 1909.

SIR,—I beg on behalf of the above Association to present you with the views of the said Association *re* the use of opium and the registration of vedaralas for your favourable consideration.

1. The Association begs to approve of the Opium Ordinance, provided that the Government adopt a scheme which would enable vedaralas to obtain and use opium lawfully.

2. Opium is indispensable in the treatment of dysentery, dyspepsia, rheumatism, diabetes, cholera, and hydrophobia, and is largely employed for the cure of diseases of cattle and in cases of fractures.

3. The yearly amount of opium used by vedaralas varies from 24 to 100 *kalans* (quarter of a pound to one pound in the English system of weights). The nature of the diseases which come under their daily treatment necessitates the constant presence of the drug at home, though the quantity used may be small.

4. Before it can be used by vedaralas in the treatment of diseases, opium has to be purified by them according to a process stated in Sinhalese medical works.

5. As no Sinhalese Medical College exists at present, our Association is of opinion that the appointment of a Board of Examiners is impracticable, and begs to suggest that the registration of the vedaralas in connection with opium should be entrusted to the Government Agent of each Province after he has made inquiries to his satisfaction.

6. The Association is of opinion that about twelve vedaralas should be appointed within the Municipality of Colombo.

7. In order to check the almost daily increase of pseudo-vedaralas or quacks in the towns, the Association begs to make the following suggestions in this connection.

8. In future no person under twenty years of age should be allowed to practise as a native medical practitioner. Any one who desires to be a native medical practitioner should know how to write and read his native language, and after a course of five years under a competent vedarala, should obtain a certificate from him. He should then produce his certificate before a Justice of the Peace, and swear an affidavit with regard to his competency, &c.; the affidavit should be forwarded by him to the Government Agent, on whose approval will depend his registration as a vedarala.

9. If the above or a similar scheme is approved of by the Commission, the Association feels confident that it will be a great boon to the native medical profession in particular, and generally to the various communities in the Island.

10. The Association, which has been in existence for the last seventeen years, will be glad to furnish any further information on the subject.

I am, &c.,

FRANCIS PERERA WIJAYAGUNAWARDANA,  
Secretary.

The SECRETARY, Opium Commission, to the SECRETARY, Sinhalese Medical Association.

Colombo, October 13, 1909.

SIR,—I AM directed by the Hon. Mr. Lascelles, Chairman of the Opium Commission, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, forwarding a memorial from the Sinhalese Medical Association *re* the use of opium and the registration of vedaralas.

I am, &c.,

HERBERT K. HILLYER,  
Secretary.



APPENDIX IV.

Correspondence with the Government Veterinary Surgeon (*vide* evidence given by him on October 21, 1909, page 27).

The SECRETARY, Opium Commission, to the GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Colombo, October 27, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to the evidence given by you at the meeting of the Opium Commission held on October 21, I am directed by the Chairman of the Commission to request that you will be so good as to make the further inquiries you promised on that occasion with regard to the extent to which preparations containing opium are used as cattle medicines in Ceylon.

2. The Commission would be glad if you would call for samples, and ascertain how far actual opium as opposed to *titta abin* is used as a cattle medicine.

3. I am to request that you will favour me with a report at as early a date as possible.

I am, &c.,  
HERBERT K. HILLYER,  
Secretary.

The GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON to the SECRETARY, Opium Commission.

No. 1,498/V.

Colombo, November 12, 1909.

SIR,—IN reply to your letter of October 27, I have the honour to inform you that opium (*abin*) is used for the purposes indicated in my evidence. *Titta abin*, I find, is not opium, but aloes, and is used externally in preparing plasters for tumours on cattle, and is not given internally to any extent to cattle.

English.		Sinhalese.		Tamil.
Opium	..	Abin	..	Abin
Aloes	..	Titta-abin	..	Kariyapolam

2. With reference to the question regarding the mixing of *asafetida* with opium—for animals the mixture is sooner beneficial than not, and it is questionable if it will prevent human beings eating it, as *asafetida* (*perunkayan*) is a common remedy for stomach-ache, especially amongst Tamils, and is I believe also put into some curries.

I am, &c.,  
G. W. STURGESS,  
Government Veterinary Surgeon.

XXIII.—1911.

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OPIUM ORDINANCE AMENDMENT BILL.

---

REPORT of a SELECT COMMITTEE of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL appointed to report upon the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend 'The Opium Ordinance, 1910.'"

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• Ordered by the Legislative Council to be Printed.

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Colombo:

PRINTED BY H. C. COTTLE, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CEYLON.

To be purchased at the GOVERNMENT RECORD OFFICE, COLOMBO, price 5 cents.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Legislative Council dated July 31, 1911.

Resolved,—That the following gentlemen be appointed a Select Committee to report upon the Bill intituled “ An Ordinance to amend ‘ The Opium Ordinance, 1910 ’ ” :—

The Hon. Mr. ANTON BERTRAM, Attorney-General.

The Hon. Mr. C. D. VIGORS, Acting Controller of Revenue.

The Hon. Mr. H. W. BRODHURST, C.M.G., Government Agent, Western Province.

The Hon. Mr. E. TURNER, } Unofficial Members.  
The Hon. Mr. S. SENEVIRATNE, }

## OPIUM ORDINANCE AMENDMENT BILL.

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THE Sub-Committee recommend the enactment of the Bill with the amendments shown in the accompanying printed copy.

2. They have amended the clause allowing Provincial Surgeons to exempt prescriptions from the restrictions of the principal Ordinance by extending the same power to Medical Officers of the First Grade of the Medical Department.

3. A new clause has been added suspending the coming into operation of the Ordinance, so as to give time for rules to be prepared under clause 5.

4. Mr. Brodhurst, having left the Colony, does not sign the report, but was in agreement with its proposals.

Legislative Council Chamber,  
Colombo, August 29, 1911.

ANTON BERTRAM.  
C. D. VIGORS.  
EDGAR TURNER.  
SOLOMON SENEVIRATNE.

XIV.—1910.

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**THE OPIUM BILL.**

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REPORT of a SELECT COMMITTEE of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL appointed to report upon the Bill intituled “ An Ordinance to amend the Law with regard to the Importation, Sale, and Distribution of Opium, and to prohibit the Possession and Sale of Bhang and Ganja.”

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Ordered by the Legislative Council to be Printed.

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Colombo:

PRINTED BY H. C. COTTLE, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CEYLON.

To be purchased at the GOVERNMENT RECORD OFFICE, COLOMBO, price 5 cents.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Legislative Council dated April 15, 1910.

Resolved,—That the following gentlemen be appointed a Select Committee to report upon the Bill intituled “ An Ordinance to amend the Law with regard to the Importation, Sale, and Distribution of Opium, and to prohibit the Possession and Sale of Bhang and Ganja ” :—

The Hon. Sir HUGH CLIFFORD, K.C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.  
\* The Hon. Mr. A. G. LASCELLES, K.C., Attorney-General.  
The Hon. Mr. H. L. CRAWFORD, C.M.G., Controller of Revenue.  
The Hon. Mr. W. H. JACKSON, Principal Collector of Customs.  
The Hon. Mr. S. C. OBEYESEKERE,  
The Hon. Mr. W. M. ABDUL RAHIMAN, } Unofficial Members.  
The Hon. Mr. A. KANAGASABAI,

## THE OPIUM BILL.

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THE Select Committee recommend the adoption of the Draft Ordinance subject to the amendments shown in the accompanying printed copy of the Bill.

Legislative Council Chamber,  
Colombo, April 19, 1910.

HUGH CLIFFORD.  
ALFRED G. LASCELLES.  
H. L. CRAWFORD.  
W. H. JACKSON.  
S. C. OBEYESEKERE.  
W. M. ABDUL RAHIMAN.  
A. KANAGASABAI.