

INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC IS DISCUSSED

An international agreement permitting exercise of the right of search, seizure, and confiscation of drugs found illicitly on shipboard in the same manner that international law sanctions seizure and confiscation of contraband of war is recommended by F. H. Eldridge, chief, far eastern division, department of commerce, as the only practicable means to strike an effective blow at the international drug menace.

In a statement issued today Mr. Eldridge said that since practically all illicit drugs finding their way into American consumption are smuggled into the country, the only effective way to handle the situation is through dramatic control of the transit of drugs in international commerce. Before this is attempted certain foreign manufacturing countries must perfect their control over the manufacture and distribution of drugs. Control of the production of crude drugs seems out of the question at present, he added.

"Certain outstanding facts regarding the international traffic in drugs seem to be overlooked in popular discussion of the drug evil," said Mr. Eldridge.

"In 1912 most of the nations of the world signed a convention at The Hague whereby they undertook to pass such laws applicable to their own borders as would limit the trade in drugs to legitimate medical use. A great many of these nations have now passed such laws and have notified the Hague of their full adherence to the Hague convention. The most prominent exceptions are certain European and Asiatic countries and one or two countries of South America. The United States in the Harrison act has established strict control over the use of drugs for medical use. The important point in the present drug situation, therefore, is the fact that practically all of the illicit use of drugs in this country is of smuggled origin.

"Most of the opium used in this country originates in Asia Minor. This is also believed to be the source of much of the illicit traffic. Certain European countries are the intermediaries through which these illicit drugs reach this country. In the case of these countries the local administration of any laws to govern the drug traffic is embarrassed by lax governmental authority. Some are handicapped in administering national laws for the control of the drug traffic by their peculiar system of government which is proposed to remain in constitutional amendments. The fact that most of the opium used in this country originates from Asia Minor, however, makes any attempt to regulate the international drug traffic by control of production almost impossible. In certain middle eastern countries, where much opium is grown, it is handled as government monopoly by the government. Little, if any, of such drug is believed to reach the United States. Much opium is also grown in parts of the Far East, but its growth is in some countries illegal and it is only countenanced and encouraged by local military governors as a ready source of revenue. The traffic in such opium is almost entirely confined to these countries, as there are no manufacturers of the drug and its handling in a crude state by smugglers is most difficult. Other Oriental countries are apparently taking stringent measures to enforce administration of local drug restriction laws, as evidenced by the recent curbing of certain of their drug manufacturers, particularly growers and manufacturers of coca leaves.

"The above situations all have a direct bearing on the growth of the illicit drug traffic in this country, for the relatively high value of a small quantity of manufactured opium, or cocaine, makes the smuggling not only extremely difficult to detect, but extremely profitable as well. It is well to remember, therefore, that even drastic restriction of the legitimate trade in drugs—the importation of the same and the importation in compliance with the terms of the Harrison act—is unlikely to affect the illicit traffic so long as the smuggling of drugs is profitable to such extent. This illicit traffic can only be restricted in three ways—either by world-wide control of production of opium or coca leaves, by world-wide enforcement of strict supervision over manufacture and distribution of drugs and by international convention or agreement regarding the seizure and



Soldier families were separated at Coblenz when the American troops left German soil. Here is an American sergeant bidding au revoir to his wife and child who will join him on the transport St. Miniel.

and confiscation of drugs found illicitly on shipboard. The first alternative has been found to be impracticable because of the remote possibility, at present of getting the chief producers of opium or coca leaves for world consumption to agree to any such restriction or enforce it if they did. The second alternative seems to be the logical course to pursue, therefore, and is now being discussed. When the control over manufacture is perfected throughout the world the need for international action on the regulation of common carriers of drugs in peace time can and should be made as drastic as the rules of war regarding contraband. After all the world is, or should be, on a crusade against the illegitimate drug traffic, and the right of visit and search, of seizure, and of all other rules regarding contraband of war should apply with equal force against a weapon more deadly than cannon and with a growing list of fatalities laid at its door each year—the illegitimate drug.

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RED CROSS AID HELPS ASTORIA

EUGENE, Feb. 12. (Special).—The report of the family relief and rehabilitation work carried on following the Astoria fire by the American Red Cross was made public today, showing that although the devastation confined itself only to the business section, a large number of persons required aid immediately following the disaster.

Earl Kilpatrick, director of the University of Oregon Extension Division, was director of Astoria Disaster Relief for the Red Cross. Assisted with him were Dr. Philip A. Parsons, director of the University of Oregon School of Social Work; Miss Elvira E. Thomson, Associate Director of the school, and a large staff of skilled workers, including a number of persons on the staffs of social service agencies in Portland and graduates and students of the school.

Relief workers had a total of 1,358 interviews with fire sufferers. These interviews were conducted by case workers under the supervision of Miss Thomson who had direction of the work of family rehabilitation. Dr. Parsons was in general charge of emergency relief. One thousand six hundred ninety-six persons came

within the purview of the count. Five hundred and fifty-eight home visits were made by case workers. Four hundred and three families in all were given relief, of which two hundred and ten had children. Two hundred and seventy-nine unattached individuals were interviewed by the relief workers who ascertained their needs.

The report of the cases give the following additional information: clothing furnished 484 cases; bedding furnished 113 cases; fuel furnished 101 cases; stoves furnished 32 cases; relief in food for persons per day 9,055.

The American Red Cross was asked to assume the responsibility for the direction and co-ordination of family relief and rehabilitation by the mayor, the Committee of Ten, the Astoria Chamber of Commerce, and the Clatsop County Chapter of Red Cross. The Red Cross director and his staff co-operated with the Citizens' Committee in the administration of emergency relief. A requisition system was developed for handling the emergency supplies. The Red Cross was assisted by dozens of volunteer workers.

The Astoria fire presented certain phenomena of disaster relief, according to Director Kilpatrick. There was no loss of life and unusual features were the rapidity with which the disturbed population obtained homes and the quickness with which Astoria residents adjusted themselves to the situation. Because the School of Social Work faculty, a number of graduates and students of the school, and social workers lent to the Red Cross by agencies in Portland, took the field, the relief organization was able to bring a high degree of training and intelligence on the work immediately after the fire.

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A Good Thing—Don't Miss It

Good Breeding. Good manners is the art of making those people easy with whom we converse. Whoever makes the fewest persons uneasy is the best bred in the company.—Swift.

Advice to Office-Holders.

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