

Over 100,000 Drug Addicts Reported Here

Health Officials Say That 1,500,000 Prescriptions Were Issued Illicitly During the Last Year

Startling revelations on the scope of the illicit traffic in drugs here were made yesterday by Federal and city officials active in the crusade against this traffic, which was inaugurated here Tuesday night when internal revenue officers arrested six physicians and four druggists for alleged violations of the Harrison act.

Health officials said that about 1,500,000 prescriptions for illicit use of narcotics have been issued to drug addicts by unscrupulous physicians in New York City in the last year.

The failure of the Harrison and Boylan acts and the high cost of whiskey have been responsible for the increase in the number of addicts to between 100,000 and 200,000 in the metropolitan district, according to Health Commissioner Copeland.

Between thirty and forty unscrupulous physicians and a like number of druggists have been making good incomes here by ministering to the cravings of narcotic addicts, Federal agents reported.

Commissioner Copeland will seek to prevent a serious crime wave here by opening a special drug addict clinic daily from 9 a. m. to 2 p. m. in the Health Department Building, 139 Centre Street, beginning this morning, to provide for the patients of the six physicians arrested Tuesday night.

The drug habit is on the increase here. Seventy per cent of the victims are under twenty-five years of age. Many of them are discharged soldiers and sailors. The effect of the Federal Harrison act, and of the Boylan act, a state measure, merely has been to shift the drug traffic from the hands of the "pedler" to those of the unscrupulous physician and druggist, according to internal revenue officers.

Physicians trafficking in drugs have written 50 to 150 prescriptions a day each, and the patients of the six physicians arrested Tuesday totaled 800, Commissioner Copeland said.

"Tightening up" by physicians, manifested in excess of telephone calls to the Health Department from cocaine and

heroin addicts, deprived of their usual narcotics, was the first reaction to the raids conducted Tuesday night by Major Daniel L. Porter, supervisor of Internal Revenue Office agents here.

Commissioner Copeland met in conference with police, Federal and health officials in his office, and late in the afternoon announced the opening of the drug clinic.

"We simply must care for the patients of the physicians arrested last night," said Dr. Copeland. "If we don't a serious crime wave will develop here. If deprived of drugs these unfortunates will simply go crazy and commit violence and murder."

"Drug addicts suffering because of the arrests and of a 'tightening up' in the traffic here can come to this clinic and we will examine them physically, after which such drugs as may be necessary will be prescribed and furnished at cost."

"The Health Department does not desire every narcotic victim in the city to report here for treatment. This is primarily a plan for helping those affected by this recent raid. The purpose of the plan is to take care of the clientele of the arrested physicians and we will administer the drugs with a view to the ultimate cure of addicts."

100,000 Prescriptions Found
Startling discoveries were made in the offices of some of the doctors and druggists arrested Tuesday night, according to officials. Several of the physicians had the names of their patients carefully indexed in card files. In the cellar of one drug store 100,000 narcotic prescriptions were found; in another, 50,000, all of them filled during the last year.

One hundred and fifty addicts have been examined. Many have confessed, it is said, and have given names of the men who prescribed and sold drugs to them.

Prices charged by doctors have ranged from 50 cents to \$1, varying with the quantity of drug demanded by the addict. Competition has become so keen recently that price cutting has developed and some physicians are issuing small quantity orders for 25 cents. Druggists are buying heroin at about \$15 an ounce and retailing it to addicts at prices ranging from \$50 to \$100, it was said.

The six physicians and four druggists taken into custody by internal revenue agents on Tuesday night were arraigned before United States Commissioner Hirschbeck yesterday. The complaint charged a conspiracy to violate the Harrison act by dispensing habit-forming drugs.

Ralph H. Oiler, of the Narcotic Division of the Internal Revenue Department, swore to the complaint. All the defendants entered pleas of not guilty and were held in bail ranging from \$3,000 to \$5,000 for examination on April 15. Surety was furnished for all the defendants.

Uniformed Pedlers Mostly Impostors, Officials Say

"According to my observation, two-thirds of the men who are disgracing the navy uniform by 'strong arm' peddling and disorderly and offensive conduct were never in the service," Lieutenant Commander D. P. Wickersham, in charge of naval recruiting for the third district, made this statement yesterday.

Major P. L. Thomas, commanding the Provost Guard, stationed here, also stated that a number of the khaki clad pedlers and parashanders are illegals wearing the uniform. The impostors are being turned over to the local Federal authorities for prosecution.

Lieutenant Commander Wickersham said he had been aroused by the hard blows struck at recruiting by the disgraceful conduct of some men wearing navy uniforms and had determined to make an investigation. He confined operations to Union Square Park, where the land battleship Recruit is moored.

At various times members of the crew of the Recruit would sally out into the park and question sailors peddling or playing the leading role in crap shooting gatherings. On Tuesday Commander Wickersham's men were particularly vigilant and six were brought into the skipper's cabin of the Recruit and questioned.

Oil Men Accused Of Seeking to Force War With Mexico

"Nation's" Charge of Promoting the Diaz-Blanquet Revolution Called False by American Producers

"The Nation" in its issue to-day, declares editorially serious efforts are being made by American oil interests to bring about war between the United States and Mexico. This effort, the editorial says, is being made through propaganda of the Diaz-Blanquet revolution.

A statement by the Association of Oil Producers in Mexico makes emphatic denial of the facts and deductions set forth in the editorial. The oil companies, this statement declares, are doing no more than resisting confiscation in the courts of Mexico and have no connection with the revolt.

"The Nation" editorial is constructed around a recent statement in Chicago signed by three Mexican archbishops, Francis Plancarte of Linares, Leopold Ruiz of Michoacan and Francis Orozco y Jimenez of Guadalupe. This statement calls upon the citizens of the United States and Mexico to be patient and forbearing with each other lest the amity between the nations be broken by the evil forces arrayed against it.

After commenting on the fact that the news of Blanquet's landing in Mexico had received wide publicity, while the statement of the archbishops was passed over, the editorial says in part: "The archbishops have a bitter grievance against the Carranza government, yet, in the face of the situation which they see threatening, they refuse to lend their moral support to any movement fostering American or foreign intervention in Mexico."

"Why did the Mexican archbishops feel called upon to take such an extraordinary step? The archbishops must have discovered that they and their campaign for funds were being used by sinister forces as the moral cloak for a nefarious propaganda—as a spiritual blessing on an unholy enterprise. To put it bluntly, the Mexican archbishops must have smelt oil."

"There is reason to believe that efforts of serious proportions are being made to bring about war between the United States and Mexico. A drive is on, and the story of it is written plainly in the Blanquet propaganda. President Carranza is to be labelled pro-German, and his regime is apparently to fall into the category of Bolshevism. Foreign recognition is to be secured. And then, notch by notch, public opinion in America is to be whipped into favor of intervention. The Monroe Doctrine and the anti-Japanese sentiment can be used as a powerful lever. The oil magnates and their banking committee understand precisely the nature of the instrument which they are playing on."

U. S. Investigates Attack by Mexican Bandits on Border

WASHINGTON, April 9.—An investigation of the attack on a passenger train between Tampico and Monterey by Mexican bandits last Friday has been ordered by the State Department, Assistant Secretary Phillips announced today.

The department's advice show that J. P. Menzel, an American citizen, was reported wounded in the attack, which occurred about eighty-four miles north of Tampico. The degree of Menzel's injuries has not been learned.

Monterey newspaper accounts say that the train was derailed by the rebels and a number of passengers were wounded. A Federal guard is reported to have been killed. Part of the train was destroyed when the bandits set fire to the coaches.

Mexican newspapers reaching here report a revival of banditry in the State of Vera Cruz, immediately south of Tampico, and record six serious attacks on trains since the middle of March. This is largely the territory where Felix Diaz, recently reinforced by General Aureliano Blanquet, is reported to be operating.

U. S. Chemists Organize Anti-German Division

Special Correspondence
BUFFALO, April 9.—In an effort to free America from German propaganda and influence, chemists attending the convention of the American Chemical Society to-day formed an organization to be known as the dye division of the society. Dr. J. M. Reese, of Philadelphia, was elected president of the division. Other divisions will be formed to include physical, inorganic, biological, industrial and engineering chemistry.

That mustard gas was the most effective of the forms used at the front by the American army was brought out during an interesting symposium this afternoon. Fifteen expert chemists from various sections of the country gave evidence to show that the mustard gas was most dependable and could be used to better advantage than any other variety. A. E. Hill, a government expert, testified to the failure to devise a gas proof cloth, and this failure was explained by A. H. Lamb, who emphasized the perfect penetrability of the gas.

Veterans Will Pick Delegates at Caucuses

Major Cornelius W. Wickersham, secretary for New York State of the American Legion, which is being organized to form ex-soldiers and sailors into an army of peace to fight for American ideals, announced yesterday that the state had been divided into districts for the purpose of electing delegates to the St. Louis convention to begin May 8. Major Wickersham is the son of George W. Wickersham, New York City, with the exception of Brooklyn and Queens, comprises one state district. The other districts are Long Island, Western New York, Northern New York and Middle New York. Major General John F. O'Ryan is chairman of the New York committee. Other members are Brigadier General Charles I. De Bevoise, Colonel Henry L. Stinson, Colonel William J. Donovan, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bacon, Colonel Charles W. Whitteley, Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Kincaid, Lieutenant Colonel Grenville Clark, Chaplain Francis A. Kelly, Ensign W. G. McAdoo, jr., and Major Wickersham.

District caucuses will be called to elect delegates. Eighty-six delegates and an equal number of alternates will be chosen. It is expected that more than half of those selected will be enlisted men.

Swann Urges Soldiers' Civil Service Preference

District Attorney Swann yesterday sent a letter to the State Civil Service Commission at Albany, in which he declared "that all red tape should be dispensed with and the men who have been at the front on the firing line should be given preference" in appointments.



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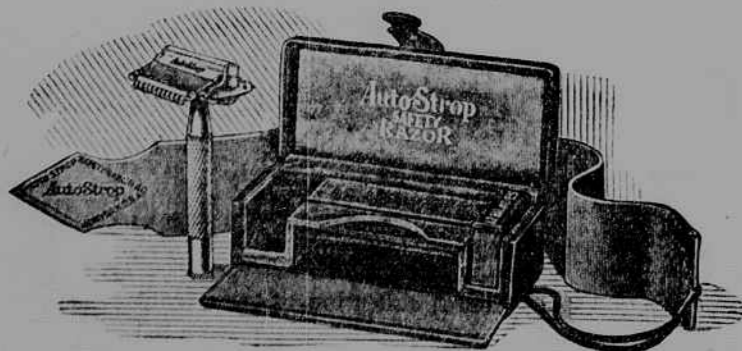
A fresh razor blade every day is out of the question for most men, but a perfectly satisfactory shave every day is not out of the question for any man. You don't need a new blade to insure a keen blade if you use the AutoStrop Razor.

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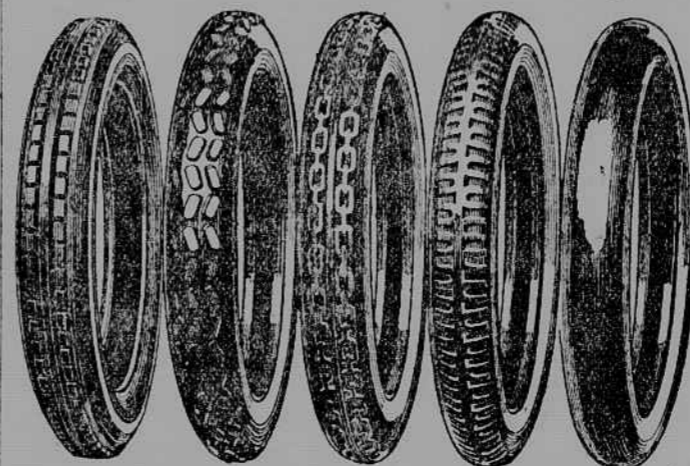
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