

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

C.C.1089.

Geneva,

December 9th, 1929.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND
OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

Scheme for limiting the output of manufactured drugs, submitted by Mr. C. K. Crane and forwarded by the Government of the United States of America through the Netherlands Government.

Letters from the Belgian and Italian Governments.

I. Letter from the Belgian Government.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
Brussels,

September 24th, 1929.

To the Secretary-General.

(Translation)

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Government has carefully considered Document C.l.M.1.1929.XI. of January 3rd, 1929, explaining the details of an American scheme for limiting the manufacture of narcotic drugs. It finds that as Belgium only imports drugs, the observance by the Belgian Government of the provisions of Article 21 of the Geneva Convention will allow of its complying with the recommendation contained in the American scheme with regard to the annual estimates of the quantities required for medical and scientific purposes.

Further, His Majesty's Government is prepared to carry out the American scheme both as regards the annual notification of the total quantity needed by each importer during the following financial year and as regards the statement concerning foreign supplying firms.

With this object, the Department of the Interior and of Public Health is already endeavouring gradually to reduce the fairly large number of its importers and only to retain the representatives of a strictly limited number of foreign firms. Moreover, in order more accurately to estimate the quantities required for medical and scientific purposes in Belgium and more easily to fix the quantities to be allowed for each importer, it is contemplating a number of measures designed to restrict exports and even to prohibit re-export.

It seems absolutely necessary, however, to proceed gradually with the execution of this programme, which tends, in a spirit of international co-operation, to eliminate interests which are, in themselves, perfectly legitimate.

Although the Belgian Government is prepared to adhere to the American scheme, it prefers not to give any formal undertaking until it is sure of being able to carry it out and until, side by side with the action taken by the non-manufacturing countries, effective measures have been adopted in the manufacturing countries to secure a real measure of supervision of the manufacture and sale of drugs in the factories themselves.

It also desires to satisfy itself beforehand that the system of determining the number of foreign supplying firms will not involve conditions which are too unfavourable to the consuming countries in regard to future commercial transactions.

(Signed) A. de RIDDER,
Director-General.
For the Minister.

2. Letter from the Italian Government.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
Rome,

October 16th, 1929. VII.

To the Secretary-General.

(Translation)

Sir,

You were good enough in Document C.I.M.I.1929.XI. of January 3rd, 1929 to communicate to the Italian Government, as well as to the other Governments concerned, a "scheme for limiting the output of manufactured drugs", submitted by an American, Mr. C. M. Crane.

This scheme has been carefully considered by the competent Italian authorities and I am now in a position to inform you, in confirmation of what the Italian delegate had occasion to say at the last session of the Advisory Committee on Opium, that the Italian Government agrees in principle with the essential ideas underlying the American scheme.

The Italian Government would be glad if the Government of the United States could be informed of its opinion.

(Signed) GRANDI.