

Tobaccos. Considerable attention is being devoted in a number of the Colonies to the experimental cultivation of tobacco suitable for the English market, and during the year samples from Nigeria, Nyasaland, Tanganyika, Cyprus, Virgin Islands, Palestine and Egypt were investigated. The reports furnished have included the results of laboratory investigations, the opinions of manufacturers and brokers on the characters and value of the leaf, and recommendations for improving the quality of the product.

A consignment of tobacco from Nigeria, consisting of 14 bales, was in general of better quality than the earlier consignments and realised a higher price. The results of the examination of the several consignments have indicated that a good grade of leaf suitable for the British market could be produced in Nigeria by native growers if further improvements in curing could be effected. It has been found, however, that the industry is not very attractive to the natives, and the Department of Agriculture has decided to discontinue, for the present, the efforts to produce tobacco for export.

Six samples of tobacco from Nyasaland, some of which had been grown on manured and others on unmanured land, were of good quality and possessed excellent burning properties. Observations were furnished in the report on the composition of the tobaccos in relation to that of the soils and on the effect of manuring, together with the market values of the tobaccos in London.

The tobaccos from Tanganyika were of Turkish type, and, although not of very good quality, were of promising character. It seems probable that, with better curing and fermentation, Turkish tobacco of satisfactory quality could be produced in the Territory.

The examination of samples of the different Turkish varieties grown in Palestine showed that such leaf could only be marketed in Great Britain at a low price for blending purposes, and that, under present conditions, it would not be able to compete with the Turkish tobacco grown in countries of the Empire which enjoy the preferential rate of duty.

Samples of Turkish tobacco from Egypt were of satisfactory colour and texture, but the burning properties were not good and the flavour and aroma were quite different from those of ordinary Turkish leaf.