

slightly modified by the various methods of culture and the nature of the soils. The Yellow Prior seems to be a hybrid; the products of this variety have a good colour, but they are larger and have coarser fibres than products of other varieties.

But the dealers do not seem to attach much importance to the question of variety. Qualities of tissue (elasticity, resistance, colour, gum) and aroma are the chief consideration. Nor do they concern themselves about the shape of the leaves, provided the width is sufficient. However, an exception should be made for some varieties well known for their narrow leaf, such as Flanagan, One Sucker, &c., but colour and body appear to be the chief characteristic qualities of bright tobaccos. In a well grown crop, the aroma generally bears a close relation to body and elasticity.

Apparently, the grower endeavours to obtain a leaf well filled, elastic, not too thick, and with a good colour. Such products generally give a good yield per acre, and obtain a good average price, leaving a fairly good profit. Although fancy tobacco commands a high price, it does not seem to be always profitable for the grower to go in exclusively for colour.

*Manuring.*—Fertilizers are used very sparingly. Generally speaking, growers are opposed to the use of barn-yard manure on the ground that it tends to produce fibrous tobacco, with a poor texture and a poor colour, the product being slow to ripen and hard to cure.

Barn-yard manure is therefore generally applied only in very small quantities, commercial fertilizers being chiefly used at the rate of 500 to 1,000 lbs. per acre. The fertilizer is spread around each plant with a spoon, or simply buried under the low ridges on which the tobacco plants are set.

However, it is a question whether a somewhat thicker plantation, with a normal application of manure, would not give as light products as those that are obtained with this system of half manuring, which leaves the soil exhausted and makes it difficult to follow a good rotation.

The following is the average composition of the chemical fertilizers used by the tobacco growers of the district: Nitrogen, 3 per cent; phosphoric acid, 8 per cent; potash, 4 per cent. As will be seen, there is a large excess of phosphoric acid, which can be utilized only if the rotation includes a grain crop.

However, rotations are not altogether unknown. On this particular farm, where most of our observations were made, a two years' rotation is in use: tobacco and grain. Sometimes grain is followed by clover, but it is claimed that tobacco grown after clover ripens slowly and does not readily take on the right colour in curing. Sometimes two crops of tobacco are followed by one crop of grain. Very few cattle are kept on the farms around Danville. Horses or mules are used for farm work. Farm help almost exclusively consists of coloured people, and the salaries range from 50 cents to 75 cents per day.

*Seed-beds.*—The area where the seed-beds are to be established is previously burnt with wood fires. The beds are sown by the end of April. Canvas, stretched above, is used for shelter.

*Setting the plants.*—The plants are set 3 feet or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  x 3 feet apart, on small ridges. The setting is generally done by hand.