

TOBACCO CULTURE IN CANADA

The growing of tobacco in Canada is a comparatively recent industry which has considerably expanded since a duty has been placed on all foreign leaf imported into this country.

The chief tobacco-growing districts in Canada are located as follows: In southern Ontario, the counties of Essex, Kent, Elgin, and recently Norfolk, with a few scattered crops in the Niagara peninsula (counties of Haldimand, Welland and Lincoln). In Quebec the counties of Joliette, Montcalm, L'Assomption, Rouville, Berthier, Two Mountains, with a tendency to invade the county of St. Hyacinthe and part of the Eastern Townships.

Climatic conditions have specialized to a great extent the types of tobacco produced in the various districts, for instance, the Ontario counties produce plug tobacco of the White Burley type and smoking tobacco (for pipe use) of rather heavy texture (Kentucky types, large Seed Leaf, etc.), as well as some bright tobacco of the Virginia type. All require a comparatively long season found only in that part of Canada.

The northern counties of Quebec supply cigar tobacco (binders and fillers) and pipe tobacco, while the southern counties (Yamaska valley) produce a cigar leaf of a somewhat finer texture, as a rule of better size than that from the northern counties and yielding a higher percentage of binders.

The varieties of tobacco grown in the above-mentioned districts can be described as follows:—

Southern Ontario.—White Burleys, Large Connecticut, Snuff tobacco fire-cured, Bright tobacco fire-cured, also a small proportion of Zimmer Spanish and Havana Seed Leaf.

Quebec (Northern counties).—Comstock Spanish, Havana Seed Leaf, Connecticut, General Grant, Blue Pryor, Canelle, Small Havana, etc.

Quebec (Southern counties).—Comstock Spanish, Havana Seed Leaf, and Connecticut Seed Leaf.

There is an increasing demand in Canada for Ontario fire-cured tobacco of the best grade of really bright colour. However, the acreage of land adapted to the growing of that type of tobacco seems to be limited to parts of the northern shore of lake Erie. Tobacco growers desiring to specialize in the production of fire-cured tobacco in Canada must be very careful not to utilize for this purpose land too heavy in texture or too fertile, which generally gives a rank growth and yields a tobacco very hard to cure the right colour.

The production of White Burley in Canada, at present at least, seems to have reached the limit of the home consumption for that type of tobacco. It is claimed that if the quality of the leaf could be improved, more of it could be used by the Canadian

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

E. S. ARCHIBALD, B.A., B.S.A.

Director.

F. CHARLAN,

Dominion Tobacco Husbandman.

EXHIBITION CIRCULAR No. 19

(Revised December, 1920)

14285

