

OTTAWA, January 5, 1915.

The Honourable,

The Minister of Agriculture,

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your approval, Bulletin No. 21 of the second series, entitled "Tobacco Seed Beds" which has been prepared by the Chief of the Tobacco Division, Mr. E. Charlan.

The ever-increasing demand for information in connection with tobacco growing and handling is a fair indication of the development of this business in Canada in recent years.

While it would hardly be wise to expect any very great increase in the quantity of tobacco produced by our farmers in the near future, there is no reason why we should not make decided progress in the way of reducing cost of production and improving the quality of the leaf as it goes to the packer and manufacturer. In this way we might hope eventually to produce not merely, as at present, about two-fifths of all the tobacco we use but quite possibly three-fifths or even a greater proportion of the total amount consumed in this country.

With this end in mind, much experimental work with a view to the improvement of the leaf produced and to the lowering of the cost of production is under way.

The accompanying bulletin deals quite fully, as indicated by the title, with the question of starting off the crop in the spring. The young tobacco plant is subject to many diseases and is difficult to get well under way. It is hoped, therefore, that the information contained herein may help our tobacco growers to solve some, at least, of the many problems which confront them at seed time each year.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. GRIDDALE.

*Director, Dominion Experimental Farms*