

turn out a decent leaf, then will be the time to be particular about prime qualities; at present, the biggest is the best (1).

The seed must be sown very thinly in a hot-bed about the first week in April, and covered very shallow—in fact, only sprinkled with earth. If you really aim at a crop, the moment you can handle the plants soak the seed-bed well, and transplant them into a cold frame, three inches apart every way. This is to make the roots grow—there will be rare bunches of them when you put them out in the open air in June, and they will thrive at once, instead of drooping their languid heads like a parcel of sick turkeys.

My crop of 1870 brought people miles to see it, and was grown exactly in the fashion I am describing. It is troublesome, but it makes one planting finish the job, instead of having to keep on replacing perished plants. They will want no shading or watering, and if the land is well pressed about the roots the grub will not stand much chance of damaging them.

As to the transplanting, it may be done with a trowel or a dibble—I prefer my fore-finger; the trowel disturbs the ground too much—pulverised as much as possible it should be, but well pressed down and firm. Don't let the hole be deep enough to reach the dung. If your drills are 3 feet apart the plants may be 2 feet apart in the rows. Keep the horse-hoe going as long as you can without hurting the crop. Never earth up, the rootlets, as fine as hairs, can be traced, in July, interlacing across the rows in every direction, and though if they are broken, Nature will produce more in their place, it cannot be a wise plan to restrict their range by enclosing them in a narrow drill by means of the plough or hoe, instead of giving them free scope to wander at their own will over the whole distance between each other. If the plants are strong, the land well manured, and properly pulverised, no wind that ever blew can lay them down.

THE TIME OF PLANTING.—No rule can be established; "when the warm weather has fairly set in" is a phrase commonly used; but I should prefer, myself, to plant on the 10th of June, say from the 5th to the 15th, having always abundance of plants in case some should be frozen. The situation, however, must determine the point, and a showery time should be chosen. If the land, however, should become wet, leave off work—the stirring it in that state will cause it to become *steelly* round the roots.

WHEN TO TOP.—As soon as there are 14 leaves formed on a plant it is time to top it. The climate will not ripen more than, at most, 10 leaves; there should be at least three of the lowest leaves next the ground taken away, as they are generally thin, broken, and splashed with mud from the rain driving up the soil: thus, eleven will remain, one of which will most likely be torn off or broken in some way or other. If these ten leaves really ripen they ought to give half a pound of tobacco fit for sale; i. e., at 3 feet apart each way, 2420 lbs. an acre.

DISBUDDING.—When topped, the buds will resent the injury on behalf of the plant, and strive continually to poke up their heads from the *axils*—that is, at the junction of each leaf with the stem. They want, you see, to bear seed, now their leader is gone. You must not let them, for the strength of every plant goes into the seed, and both plant and land are impoverished in consequence. As for the common tobacco, it wants disbudding twice a day—that of course is an exaggeration, but you must be always at it, whilst the noble Connecticut never requires it more than four times.

(1) The small Canadian, with its queer-looking, narrow, pointed leaf, is far superior in flavour to any I have tried. It may be set at 24 inches by 15—perhaps the number of plants may make up for their small size—a dozen leaves may be left, as it ripens early.

HARVESTING.—In a favourable season, tobacco well managed, i. e., planted about the 10th of June, and kept stirred, should be topped in the first week in August, and begin to change colour about the 12th. Cutting may begin about the first of September—when fit, the leaves assume a marbled appearance, they thicken amazingly, and the green shows a distinct tinge of *straw-colour*. I should not wait for the whole crop to ripen, as some plants mature more rapidly than others: take them as they come.

The Connecticut having stems, frequently, two inches in diameter, an axe, or tomahawk, is the best tool for cutting it down. As, according to my plan, its three lower inches will be bare of leaves, the stem may be split some way up, which will hasten the drying. Let the plants have just sun enough to wilt them so that the leaves will not break off, and not a moment more. Then, take them to the shed, and hang them at once; not one plant should be left on another during the night, for it is the foolish plan of *sweating* at this stage that gives the nauseous smell (so easily distinguished by any one who has smelt the *unsweated* sort), to the majority of Canadian tobaccos. All tobacco should sweat after it is dried, and never in the green state.

HANGING.—If there is room enough, the plants should be hung by twisting their two top leaves over a pole; the other leaves will, then, fall outwards, be fully exposed to the air, and the buds, if any shoot, will be easily seen and removed. Open the doors of the shed during fine, still weather, but do not allow the sun to strike immediately on the tobacco: in other words, let it have plenty of ventilation, but avoid drying it too rapidly.

PACKING.—When all the ribs of the leaves are dry it is time to pack the tobacco for sale or storage. For this purpose, choose a damp day, to prevent breaking the leaves. Take half a dozen of them stripped from the stem, twisting the worst of the lot round the stems of the others to hold them fast. Place them, row upon row, in a barrel or cask, tread them down firmly, layer after layer, and send them to the factory as soon as possible. All other manipulation is the business of the manufacturer.

I append a calculation of the cost and profits: a difficult thing to do, as ideas differ so much as to expense of horse labour, &c.

Three ploughings.....	\$ 6.00
Grubbing and harrowing.....	1.50
(1) Seed, hotbed, planting.....	4.00
10 loads of dung.....	2.50
8 bushels of bone-dust at \$25 a ton.....	5.00
Horse- and hand-hoeing.....	3.00
Topping and disbudding.....	3.00
Harvesting.....	2.00
Hanging.....	4.00
Packing and casks.....	5.00
Marketing.....	2.50
Brokerage, @ 5 % on 2420 lbs.....	21.00
Duty @ 4 cts. a pound.....	80.00

139.50

If good, the tobacco should fetch, wholesale, 18 cts. a pound duty paid—2420 lbs. = \$435.60 leaving a clear profit of \$294.00.

A couple of acres in hops, two in sugar beets, and two in tobacco, on each farm, where the soil is suited to the growth of these crops, would soon change the face of the country; the labourer would find more constant employment, the farmer would have some important sum of money to handle, and the country would benefit as a whole, to say nothing of

(1) I have planted out with my own hands a quarter of an acre in an evening.