

To supple the leaves, the shed is left open at night, the leaves then become easy to handle, and the curing shed can be emptied if it is required for another curing. One night is enough for the tobacco to become supple. When the weather is damp, it is better to close the shed as the colour would become too dark.

If the curing shed is not required for another operation, the tobacco may be left there for a few days, no particular endeavour being made to supple the leaves. On fine, calm days, the doors are opened, and the colour gradually improves, until it becomes a fairly uniform light yellow.

When the curing shed is required at once, the cured products are taken to a special shed, used as a storehouse, and equipped in about the same manner as the curing shed. They are sometimes piled in heaps upon the floor until the yellow colour has developed, after which they are hung up, the laths, this time, being put as close as possible to each other. In this way, one storehouse, not larger than one curing shed, will hold the contents of 4 or 5 sheds. While the plants are in this condition, the colour still improves slightly. Tobacco stored in this fashion should not be too damp, otherwise the colour would become darker, or again heating might occur.

The best growers dig a cellar in the ground, under the storehouse, which they utilize for suppling the tobacco when the time has come to assort the leaves prior to sending them to the market.

A rough sorting of the tobacco is done by the growers themselves. The leaves are divided into various grades known as 'lugs,' 'fillers,' and 'wrappers.' This sorting is generally done over and completed by dealers and packers, but such as it is, it greatly facilitates the sale of tobacco in the warehouses.

Marketing.—The lugs, and sometimes the primings, are sold in a loose condition, unsorted and not tied into hands, but the best quality of tobacco is always sorted and put into hands. In both cases, an auction sale is made in the warehouses, which are put at the disposal of the growers, and the latter are at liberty to fix a minimum price below which no sale can be effected.

Individual lots offered for sale are sometimes very small, especially at the beginning of the season. The lugs and primings are sold first, and then good tobacco is offered. Judging from the size of the lots offered, either the crops are very small, or else the tobacco is marketed by wagon loads, and small loads at that. However, it should be stated here that some of the roads which lead to Danville are sufficiently accidented to make somewhat heavy loads an impossibility.

Prices.—Prices vary considerably according to the quality of the products and the requirements of the market. The average price for the last few years was 10 cents to 11 cents. The lugs are sold sometimes 2 to 3 cents per pound, while some 'fancy' tobacco will fetch prices sometimes as high as 35 or 45 cents.

Yield in weight per acre.—The yield is very small on account of the long distances at which the plants are set, and the small size of the products; the average yield is below 700 lbs.; 800 lbs. is a very good crop.

Money returns and net profits.—Judging from the figures quoted above, the average money return of an acre of tobacco would be about from \$70 to \$75. This is