times as high as 180 degrees, until the stalk is completely dry. This operation requires from 12 to 24 hours, according to the size of the stalk.

When the curing is done the fires are slowly extinguished, and the tobacco is cooled down to the outside temperature, the doors being opened if required.

During the various stages of the curing process the temperature is ascertained by consulting a thermometer hung up in the centre of the shed, at the level of the lower tier of leaves. At no time during the curing operations which we watched did we observe an abundant transpiration; the curing shed was frequently opened for the examination of the thermometer. It may be that the partial ventilation obtained by this opening of the doors is favourable to the successful carrying on of the operation.

The heat given off by the fireplaces is regulated by increasing or decreasing the number of sticks of wood, and by pushing them more or less inside the furnace. A slow fire is started, kept going with a stick placed at the front part of each fireplace; towards the end of the curing, a clear wood fire is made and the sticks are pushed in 5 or 6 feet inside.

The wood used for fuel is hard, very dry. It is prepared a long time beforehand.

Experts are of opinion that curing sheds, made of boards and heated by coal fires or by steam, will give just as good results as the shed above described. The price of the fuel has to be taken into account, and in parts of Canada where the growing of Virginia tobacco is possible, heating with steam on a fairly large plantation may be found more profitable than heating with wood, on account of the cost of the latter.

We have only briefly mentioned the extremes of temperatures at which the tobacco is submitted during the various phases of the curing. However, specialists will note that the temperatures given are the same as those employed in the various processes in use for the fire curing of bright tobacco. In fact the methods differ little. They are all based upon the same principle: Colour the leaf yellow by artificial wilting at a low temperature (90 Fahr.), then dry it so as to fix the colour, while taking care to avoid the oxydizations, to which damp tobacco is liable in the course of the slow curing which is obtained by hanging in the open air. The chief difficulty is to obtain favourable conditions of temperature and humidity in the second phase of the process, these conditions varying with the season, the nature and the degree of ripeness of the products. In some cases the curing may be effected in three days, while in other cases it may require 4 to 5 days. To determine the best method of curing among the various processes in use, a special study of the tobacco of the district is necessary.

As a matter of fact, each grower utilizes a special process, and this process undergoes a multitude of modifications according to the nature and the quality of the crop and the atmospheric conditions prevailing.

Preparation for the market.—As soon as the curing is completed, the fires are stopped, and if the weather is fine the doors are opened.

Sometimes the colour of the tobacco is still slightly on the green side; or, again, the leaves break on being handled. The bright yellow colour develops quickly enough, especially if the weather is warm and not too damp. When the nights are fine and warm, the sheds may be left open, which hastens the growth of the colour.