

**WHY SELL AT A LOW PRICE?**

"There is always something the matter with my tobacco crop. I never have good luck with it and have to sell it for one-third to one-half less than growers get in some other sections."

This remark was made to us by a very intelligent farmer the other day. We went to his tobacco barn and found a crop of very fair growth, developing mold simply because it was hung too close and the barn was kept tight even in bright, dry weather, when the air should have been allowed the fullest circulation, at least until the cure was nearly completed.

"Have you read the recent articles in our tobacco department on harvesting, curing and handling of tobacco?" we asked. "No," our farmer friend replies, "I haven't had time." "Have you a copy of Myrick's book 'Tobacco Leaf, Its Culture and Cure, Market and Manufacture,' and have you studied carefully the exhaustive chapter on curing?" "Yes, I have the book, but I must admit that I have not read the whole of it or even looked at the part on curing. I doubt if we can learn anything about curing tobacco from books or papers."

Now, my man, if you mean to say that you cannot learn anything from a carefully studied experience of the very best growers and scientists in handling tobacco, you had better quit the business. I reckon from what you frankly admit that your failure to read up even a little on the curing of tobacco every time it is harvested until delivered to the buyer has cost you from \$100 to 300, and perhaps more. You say you have had luck on your crop. That is not the trouble at all. You have not even tried to master the art of curing and handling cigar leaf tobacco, yet you know it is one of the most delicate and risky of all crops. The men who get a fancy price, which you complain you cannot get, are men who have thoroughly mastered every possible detail of the subject. And yet these men will be the first to admit how little they know about the

crop in spite of all their practical experience and scientific study. We regard the tobacco specialists of the Connecticut valley, for instance, as representative of the very highest type of agriculture as yet produced. We know numbers of these men whose knowledge of fertilization exceeds that of most professors of agriculture or fertilizer manufacturers, while their mastery and judgment upon the manifold phases of tobacco culture and curing always command our admiration.

"N.-Eng. Homestead."

**SEASONABLE NOTES.***Seed per acre.*

I was glad to read the able letters which appeared in these columns last week upon this important subject. Especially was I pleased to have the opinion of Mr. Fidler, of Reading, who has given so much attention to seed corn. As to his suggestion to drill and then cross drill half quantities, the only objection would be time and cost. The idea is that the seed being drilled across, it comes up in squares, and is better able to stand against wind. This would certainly be the case if the squares came up solid like cells of cardboard, mutually supporting each other, and thus making a strong structure. This would not, however, be the case, as the straws would grow up independently, and would not, I think, give any more support to each other than if they were drilled in line. A heavy crop is more liable to go down than a light one in bad weather, although I admit that when the straws stand thick upon the land they mutually support each other.

The question would resolve itself into this: If a crop is drilled from east to west, would a north wind or an east wind, a south wind or a west wind be most likely to throw it down? According to this view the straws would support each other against an east or west wind, because they would be in close contact; and they would be easier blown down by