

GO LOOK FOR TOBACCO MEN

Never Better Prospect for Profitable Year, Tariff or No Tariff—How Good Weed Is Grown and How Cured—Brands Considered

"Wealth in weeds" is Mr. Haskin's strange topic for tomorrow. What he says is enough to make one weep for the gold he passed up when he tolled to raise corn, unwitting that the cacklers he cursed contained rare and valuable oil, and when he perished in August as he slaughtered "jimsen" weeds in weal ignorance that their broad leaves were worth 2 to 3 cents a pound dried, or possibly six times as much as the timothy that might have been grown on the like area. Mr. Haskin calls a long roll of ancient and pestiferous weeds whose names are as accursed as they are familiar, and tells what each is good for and what it is worth in the drug or other market.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

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Washington, May 1.—The tobacco growers of the United States are entering upon their crop season with every prospect that the production of the weed this year will be more profitable than ever before. Competing among themselves, in the light of the best scientific knowledge, and with federal and state government aid, there is every reason why the American tobacco producers should feel satisfied with their lot, even though the tariff bill may not altogether suit them.

As is usually the case, the growers of cigar wrapper tobacco can look forward to a larger return from their labor, albeit their initial investment and subsequent expenses may be greater. The production of wrapper tobacco has been most successful in the Connecticut river valley and in Florida. The product of those districts has been the standard of quality. It seems strange that two climates so different as are those of New England and the "Land of Flowers" should foster similar crops as well as the tropical islands of Cuba and Sumatra do, but such is the case.

Connecticut's Remarkable Record.
To accomplish so much the Connecticut and Florida growers have had to pass through a struggle that was the heartiest at times. Through steadfast perseverance the Connecticut growers the almost feared the point where Connecticut tobacco is as well known as her mythical wooden nutmegs or her clocks, which tick around the world. The production of wrapper tobacco in Connecticut is interested financially in her tobacco crop. Although the acreage of the crop in the United States is only a total acreage of the American tobacco crop. It yields one fifth of the gross returns from the total tobacco production of the United States. A few thousand acres in the little district in Connecticut and Massachusetts have been producing more than half the value of the crop in the country. Last year the production was over 31,000,000 pounds, valued at more than \$5,000,000 on the farm, which value was increased greatly through the various processes of curing, marketing and manufacturing. This value was greater than that of the entire cotton crop in some southern states.

Growing Under Shade.
To produce wrapper tobacco successfully in the Connecticut valley requires constant care from start to finish. First seed beds are prepared and sterilized with steam or are burned over, to kill fungi which attack the roots of the young plants. The field is heavily fertilized, sometimes at a cost of \$200 per acre. The seedlings are transplanted and cultivated with great care. Probably the best results are obtained in producing wrapper tobacco by the use of Havana seed which has been acclimated in New England and is grown under shade. This shade is usually a tent field, in Florida growing under shade is also practiced, but Sumatra seed is said to do best. The shade in Florida may be obtained from lattice work over fields. The latter plan is not satisfactory in Connecticut because the structure is broken down by the winter snow. The damage to the crop from hailstones is sometimes great.

The Process of "Curing."
When ready for harvest Connecticut wrapper leaves are stripped from the stalks, hung on strings and hung up in barns to dry. The drying and curing process are most delicate, and many a fine crop has been ruined because climatic conditions have been unfavorable, or the grower was inexperienced. During those processes an even temperature, good ventilation and a certain degree of moisture are necessary. After the leaf is dried it cannot be packed until damp weather comes, so that it will not break when handled. Then the

leaves are tied into "hands" and ready for curing.
This latter process is said to be a sort of fermentation. The tobacco is arranged in large piles in a warm, humid atmosphere. It soon begins to heat and at times reaches a temperature of 140 degrees. This is ascertained by clever arrangement whereby a thermometer is lowered into the center of the pile. When a high temperature is reached the pile is taken down and the tobacco carefully rearranged, with the outside "hands" on the inside of the new pile and vice versa. This process may be repeated several times before the tobacco is ready for the market.

Good wrapper tobacco is being grown in Hawaii, without shade, the heavy top blanket hanging over certain portions of those islands serving as a substitute for shade. Tobacco is grown under shade in Porto Rico and Cuba. Of course, the cost of this system of cultivation is very heavy, but the financial returns are commensurate. Some of the first shade grown tobacco in Connecticut was sold for \$1.45 a pound, being a net profit of \$1.00 an acre.

Government Experts Assist.
The benefits conferred upon the tobacco industry by the department of agriculture are almost incalculable. The department carries on cooperative work with the state agricultural colleges and experiment stations in Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Florida, Alabama, Texas, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and South Carolina.

This work is most varied in character. Government experts have made soil surveys of the several tobacco districts and determined what kinds of soil will produce certain varieties of tobacco. Good tobacco land must be rich in lime and potash. Cigar wrapper tobacco requires a light alluvial soil, such as is found along the banks of the Connecticut and the Susquehanna rivers, in Pennsylvania, and in the Florida peninsula. Cigar binder and filler tobacco grows best in silty and loamy soils in the Miami valley, Ohio, and in certain parts of Wisconsin and western Florida. Sandy soil is ideal for the famous bright leaf, such as thrives in Virginia and the Carolinas and which is used in cigarettes and to wrap plug tobacco.

The limestone soil of the Blue Grass region is best for Kentucky white burley, used in the manufacture of smoking and chewing mixtures, while the heavy, dark varieties of tobacco, for export purposes, thrive only in the silty soils of the western Kentucky and Tennessee. Perique, a particularly strong tobacco, is said to grow only in Louisiana. Maryland tobacco is mostly made into snuff.

The government experts say the American tobacco crop can be increased wonderfully in acreage, yield per acre, quality and value. By the judicious use of fertilizers bad soils can be made rich. Crop rotation helps greatly in this connection. Seed selection offers a wide field for improvement. Under the department's advice the best tobacco plants in a field have paper bags tied over their flowers. The self-fertilized seed thus obtained is put through a machine invented by a government expert, which fans out the lighter seed, leaving only the heaviest, which is best for planting.

Cuban seed has been acclimated in Texas and is yielding 800 pounds to the acre, good Havana wrapper and filler. The government is encouraging the growing of tobacco from Cuban seed in Alabama and is meeting with success. Virginia tobacco can be doubled by intensive cultivation. In Ohio the agricultural department has been carrying on tobacco investigations for a number of years, and good fillers and wrappers from Havana seed are being grown. The department has been testing a batch of 1000 cigars made from its Ohio-grown tobacco. One cigar, which was a "mild" one, was given a grade of "A" and the others were given a grade of "B" or "C". The department has passed judgment upon the flavor and aroma. The burning qualities are tested in a smoking machine. The cigars averaging the best are traced back to the plants that bore them, the seed of which are to be planted next year. Thus the strain is improved.

Tobacco Plant Pests.
Some of the worst enemies the tobacco grower has to combat are destructive insects. These include the flea-beetle, which attacks the lower leaves of the plant; the horn worm or "hornborer," with which the farmer's children become familiar in the "worming" process; the bud worm, the name of which describes it; the suck fly, which draws the juice from the leaf; the split worm, which burrows inside the leaf; the cut worm, which attacks the roots; tobacco root ticks; the plant lice, slugs, and others. The weed is liable to insect attack after being dried. Some growers prefer cigarettes that are infested with the cigarette beetle, because that little beast imparts a distinctive flavor to the cigarette. This is admitted to be an acquired taste. With the help of the government experts these insect pests are being overcome with poisons and other agencies. The department has invented a system of regulating moisture in tobacco establishments. By means of certain solutions the atmospheric condition is controlled automatically.

Cigar Production.
It is a far cry from the first cigars produced by Mrs. Proctor of New England, more than a century ago, to the enormous tobacco manufacturing industry of today, which embraces 25,000 cigar factories. Pennsylvania leads in the production of cigars. The United States consumes almost 5,000,000 pounds of tobacco, in all forms, annually, or more than Germany, France and Great Britain combined. Tax is paid on 7,000,000 cigars here every year, compared to which the 150,000,000 cigars which it is proposed to admit to the United States from the Philippines without paying a duty, seems scarcely a drop in the bucket. It is not known whether the proposed importation will include some of the "long" cigars known as "tabaco grandes," three feet in length, which are the favorites of the dusky Filipino maidens.

Paper is being made of tobacco stems. The French government has succeeded in producing a so-called nicotineless tobacco. The poisoning element of the weed is partly washed out with water. The ideal tobacco plant, it is said, would be one that would combine the excellent qualities of Sumatra and Havana leaf. Fashions in tobacco change and the grower and manufacturer must keep up with the style.

Fred Miller's Remains Interred.
La Grange, Or., May 1.—The remains of Fred Miller, who was killed at Hillgard a week ago, were buried this afternoon at the expense of the county, nothing having been heard from friends or relatives.

"STABAT MATER" AND "THE HOLY CITY" WILL BE SUNG TODAY



Harriet Frahm, Contralto With the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Armory This Afternoon and Night.

Undoubtedly the greatest feast of melody and song ever heard on the Pacific coast is being enjoyed in this city at the Armory this week. The second annual musical festival, which comprises the Chicago symphony orchestra of 60 musicians and the Portland festival chorus of 300 voices, is giving this magnificent treat. The orchestra is directed by the favorite conductor, Adolph Rosenbecker and the chorus, which has been rehearsing since last November under W. H. Boyer's direction, is being conducted by him. The orchestra has brought from the

THREE VICTIMS OF ACCIDENTS

Two Fall and Are Injured and One Is Run Down by Buggy.

Three were victims of accidents in Portland yesterday.
Dennis Callahan, 70 years of age, was severely injured while standing in Erickson's saloon yesterday. He was leaning against a stove when he suddenly tottered and fell, his head crashing against the iron guard rail. A deep gash was cut in his forehead, about two inches in length and of considerable depth. He was attended by City Physician Zeigler and lodged in the city jail.
D. W. Tillotson was picked up on the street yesterday afternoon by the policeman and taken to the station. It was found that he had fallen and struck his head on the curbing and been injured severely. He was attended by Dr. Fred Zeigler, city physician, and removed to his home.
Suffering a bad shakeup and several bad bruises, J. W. Copeland is lying at his home as the result of having been run down at Second and Burnside streets yesterday afternoon by a buggy driven by Mrs. E. B. Fogg of Cherry and East Burnside streets. Mr. Copeland is in the grocery business, and has a store at 1603 Corbett street.

terpiece "The Holy City" this afternoon at 2 1/2 o'clock with a pipe organ accompaniment by Mrs. W. E. Thomas. Tonight will be known as Italian night, when Rossini's "Stabat Mater" will be given by the combined chorus and orchestra. Following is the program for both concerts:
Sunday Matinee.
Portland Chorus.
William H. Boyer, Conductor.
Chicago Symphony Orchestra.
A. Rosenbecker, Conductor.
Soloists:
Aida Hemmi, Soprano.
Harriet Frahm, Contralto.
David B. Dugan, Tenor.
Frank A. Preisch, Bass.
Vorapell, Meistersinger, Wagner.
Aria, Evening Star, Wagner.
Tonblider, from Walkure, Wagner.
Dich Theur Holle, Wagner.
Miss Hemmi.
PART II.
Holy City, Gault.
Combined chorus and orchestra, with pipe organ.
Sunday Night, (Gault's Night).
Portland Chorus.
William H. Boyer, Conductor.
Chicago Symphony Orchestra.
A. Rosenbecker, Conductor.
Soloists:
Aida Hemmi, Soprano.
Harriet Frahm, Contralto.
David B. Dugan, Tenor.
Frank A. Preisch, Bass.
Overture to Merry Wives of Windsor, Nipper.
Prologue to Pagliacci, Leoncavallo.
Ballet music from Giselle, Pencilini.
Aria Celeste Aida, Verdi.
Hymn and march from Aida, Verdi.
PART II.
Stabat Mater, Rossini.
Combined chorus and orchestra.

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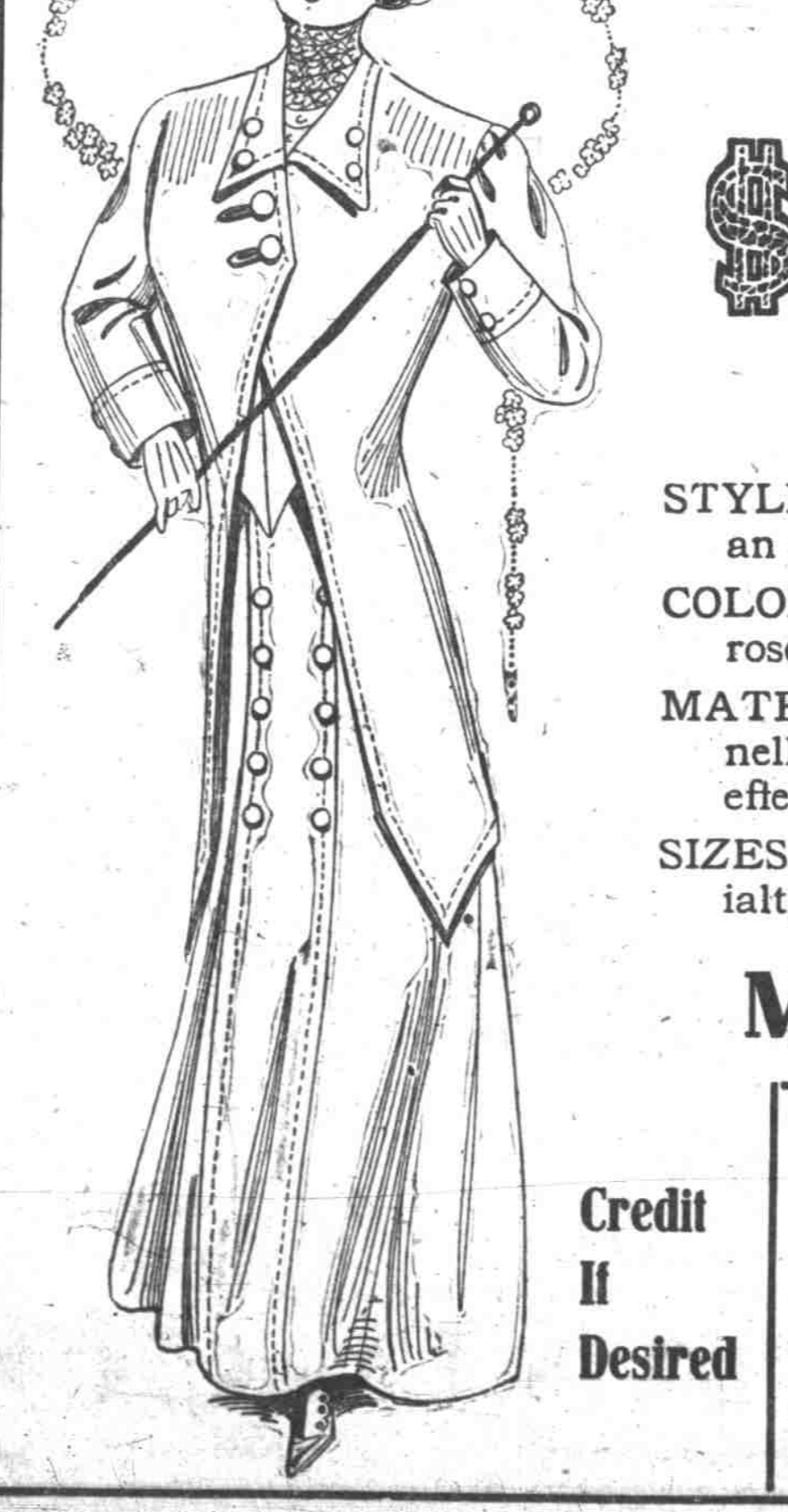
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