

# The Hindu Organ.

"Arise! Awake! and stop not till the goal is reached."

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HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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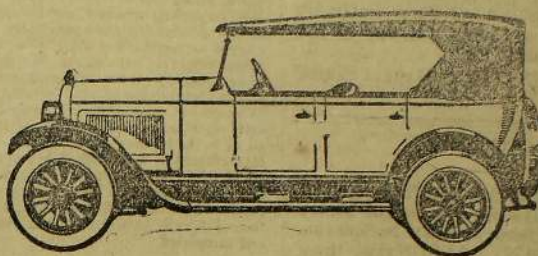
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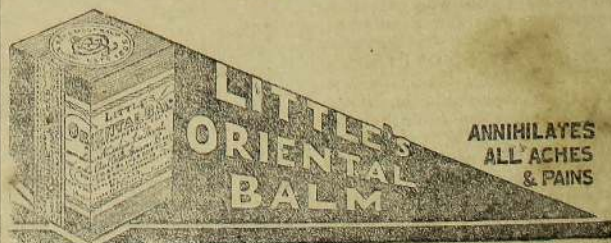
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LEGISLATIVE COUNSELLORS ARE SERVANTS OF THE PUBLIC.—At the meeting of the Kendaungpani Mahajana Sabha, Mr. George E. de Siles, President of Kandy, who presided, said that a network of vigilant Mahajana Sabhas in the Island would teach the representatives of the people in the Legislative Council that they were the servants of the public and were there to work for the welfare. The Mahajana Sabhas should from time to time invite the elected members of Council to be present at their meetings so that they might come in touch not only with the people, but with their immediate needs. This would also give the people's representatives an opportunity of giving an account of their stewardship. A great Statesman said that as long as the Hindu-Muslim differences prevailed it would be suicidal to give the Indians a greater share of responsible Government. Ceylon should take to heart this warning.



## UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' JOINT APOLOGY.

It is said that on a recent visit to the University College, H. E. the Governor had occasion to be displeased with the manner in which he was received by many of the students and His Excellency has drawn attention to the fact in a communication to the Principals of the College. It is stated that when the Governor paid an informal visit to the College, several of the students did not salute him and observe the ordinary respect due to him.

Professor R. Maris is stated to have read His Excellency's letter to all the students and expressed disapproval of their conduct. A movement is on foot to forward a joint apology to His Excellency. —"Times."

## A Menace to Food Production.

## ALLEGED PUNNALAI TANK DISPOSAL.

## VILLAGERS' GRIEVANCES.

The following is the text of the petition forwarded to the Government Agent, N. P. Jaffa, under date March 17, 1927, by the residents of Tholpuram and Molai:

"With reference to our interview today at Tholpuram on the occasion of your visit to the Punnaia Tank, we on behalf of the other farmers of Tholpuram and Molai, beg to inform you the points we submitted to you at the said interview.

If a portion of the tank is disposed of there will be proportionate reduction of water in the tank which will deprive the farmers of their water supply for their crops, both paddy and dry grain.

(1) If, as is argued by some, the tank is deepened so that there may be no shortage of water, easy irrigation as at present will be an impossible thing.

(2) There are several channels running throughout the fields to distances of half a mile and over and it is next to impossibility for water to flow along these channels from this deepened tank.

That if the tank is deepened by removing silt or otherwise the water will turn out brackish, as borne out by the fact that all wells on the north and west side of the tank are dry for six months of the year. This was experienced some years back and found true.

If the tank is deepened the fields adjoining the tank would be on a very high level and all the manure and fertility from these fields will be drawn into the tank, consequently the field will be barren.

There is suitable land at Punnaia called "Pinnappattakal" between the 20th and 21st mile posts on the Point Pedro-Punnaia road, about half a mile to the west of this tank.

N. B. This twenty five acres which the Government now proposes to sell is also filled with water when irrigation commences."

## Revised Land Sale Regulations.

## SMALL HOLDINGS FOR MEMBERS.

The Registrar, Co-operative Societies has issued the following circular for the information of Co-operative Societies in the Island. This circular is a sequel to the resolution passed at the District Co-operative Conference held at Kalutara in August, 1925, requesting the Government to sell small blocks of land to the poorer members of Co-operative Societies at the upset price.

36. In the case of applications to purchase lands which are suitable for paddy cultivation or for residing gardens, etc., for the building of a house and cultivation of the surrounding area with coconuts, plantains, or similar village produce, the Government Agent may sell such lands by public auction, in the manner herebefore provided and may by the conditions of sale prescribe that the purchase money shall be payable by annual instalments, extending over a period of not exceeding ten years. The instalments shall be paid annually in advance, the first payment being made on the day of sale, and default in any of the payments shall render the sale liable to be declared void. The Government Agent may at his discretion restrict the bidding to persons already resident in the village or hamlet in which the land is situated.

37. The Government Agent may also sell, under the same conditions but without competition, any such land to selected applicants, who permanently reside in the village where the land is situated, and who do not own an extent of land sufficient to provide for the support of themselves and their families. In such case the purchase money of the land shall be fixed by the Government Agent, subject to any general or special instructions issued by the Governor in that behalf.

38. In either of the above cases a grant shall be issued to the purchaser as soon as he completes the payment of his instalments of purchase money.

Note.—If there is any risk that the villagers, who apply for preferential purchase of Crown lands, will mortgage such lands for the payment of their debts or borrowed capital, or that they will sell them to others at an enhanced price, Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents should grant preferential leases of them with strict conditions as to cultivation or occupation and with options of purchase only after a sufficient term of years rather than sell them outright without competition. Or, as an alternative, Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents may dispose of such lands in accordance with general or special instructions laid down by Government for the encouragement of food production locally and with a view to increasing the food supply of the Island.

## RESTORATION OF ANCIENT ROME.—A vast project to restore Ancient Rome, involving an expenditure of £500,000, is to be started shortly.

INDIAN GARDEN CITY.—It is said that at the Model Town, 6 miles south of Lahore, India's largest garden city is being built on an operative line.

COLONIAL SECRETARY ON TOUR.—The Dominions' Secretary, Colonel Amery, will make an extensive tour of the Dominions in the coming autumn.

EXPULSION OF JESUITS IN SAN SALVADOR.—In San Salvador there is a petition a foot for the expulsion of the Jesuits, and a persecution Bill was introduced not long ago in the Congress of the State of Panama.

PRISONERS' DIET AND CONVICTING JUDGE.—The Government have passed an order that the class of diet whether rice, ragi, cholam or umbu which the newly sentenced prisoners are to receive in jail should be noted by the convicting Judge and the jail authorities cannot alter the class of diet without the consent of the convicting Judge.

COMPOSITION OF THE EARTH.—Mr. Thomas Crowder Chamberlin, emeritus Professor of Geology at the University of Chicago who is 84 years of age, has just announced as the result of his study that the earth, while it came from the sun 'in vagrant pieces', was never in a molten condition, but grew up slowly in a solid state with a core composed of metallic and stony material.

ACCIDENT TO SARAJEVO DAVE.—While driving at Lahore on March 30 in a car Mrs. Sarojini Naidu received slight injuries near her nose which has compelled her to cancel all engagements in Lahore for a few days.

NEW PRAYER BOOK BATTLE.—It is reported that letters revealing acute differences have passed between the Home Secretary and the Archbishop of Canterbury in regard to the position of Obergmen who continue to use services or ceremonies which are not legislated by the new Prayer Book.

MR. S. O. BOSE IN RANGOON JAIL.—It is said that Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose of Calcutta is being subjected to discourteous treatment in the Rangoon Jail. The root of the trouble as far as information goes lies in the alleged brusqueness and indifference of the Jail authorities. Representations are more to the Governor.

OUTRAGE IN DUBLIN.—A party of eleven Free State soldiers were proceeding on guard duty when they were ambushed in a lonely part of Dublin by twenty five armed and masked persons. Four soldiers who were in advance were pushed off their bicycles and disarmed. The soldiers in the rear returned fire and the attackers then fled pursued by the soldiers. One soldier and one of the assailants were wounded. The attackers made off in waiting motor cars.

REMEDY FOR ILLNESS AT SEA.—Wireless medical consultations at sea between doctorless ships and those that carry doctors are discussed from a new angle in the current issue of the "British Medical Journal." It is suggested that the difficulties of language differences might be removed by the adoption of an international medical code, by which remedies for diseases would be transmitted by standardized code signals.

ROMANIAN PREMIER'S APPREHENSION.—It is reported that the grave illness of King Ferdinand has led to a troubled situation. The Premier, General Averescu, has taken various measures with a view to assuring his retention of power in the event of the King dying. The Regency Council already has lost all its authority. There is a movement in Romania in favour of recalling Prince Carol.

DUKE AND DUCHESS LEAVE FOR QUEENSLAND.—In spite of dreaching rain, crowds in the streets warmly cheered the Duke and Duchess of York as they drove to the Sydney station, where they took train for Queensland.

COST OF IRELAND'S CIVIL WAR.—Speaking at an election meeting in Donaghmoyny, County Monaghan, Ireland, the Free State Minister for Finance, Mr. Ernest Blythe, estimated that the civil war cost Ireland £30,000,000.

ROYAL ADVICE TO SCIENTISTS.—The King received at Buckingham Palace one hundred world delegates to the Lister Centenary Celebrations. Replying to an address, His Majesty expressed the hope that this gathering of scientists to honour the memory of one of the greatest benefactors of mankind would strengthen the co-operation of all nations in accumulating scientific knowledge for the common benefit of the human race.

INDIAN CONVENTION ADVOCATED.—Mr. S. Srinivas Iyengar, M. L. A., President of the Indian National Congress, on his return from Delhi, was interviewed by the Associated Press. He pleaded for a fusion of the Congress, Nationalist and Independent Parties for achieving their goal. He concluded with a strong appeal to the country to support his proposal for a National Convention of Parliament, consisting of the elected members of the Central and Provincial Legislatures, to decide upon a Constitution for India, and questions of franchise and electorates.

## INTERESTING LECTURE AT GALLE.

The following is a summary as appearing in the Ceylon Daily News of the lecture delivered by the Hon. Mr. D. B. Jayatilaka at a meeting of the Literary Branch of the Galle Y. M. B. A. on April 1st on "The Present Position of Buddhism in Ceylon and its Future Prospects", under the chairmanship of Mr. G. W. Goonewardene, President.

Mr. Jayatilaka said he wished to refer to the past and the recent history of Buddhism in this country before he proceeded to speak of the present position of Buddhism, because past and recent history have played a large part in bringing Buddhism to the position which it occupied in the country to day.

ALTHOUGH Buddhism came to Ceylon some two thousand years ago, and was part and parcel of the life of the country then and for some years after, he traced its decline about the XVIIth century to the state of warfare and strife that had been prevailing in the country internally and to the advent of the Portuguese who came here first with the object of advancing their trade but later on diverted it into religious zeal, as a result of which intolerance of the religions of others was the by-product of their rule. In fact to give the audience an idea of the enormous religious propaganda of the Portuguese, the lecturer quoted a passage from a communication addressed by the then King of Portugal to his Commander here, in which he suggested that the best way of enticing people to embrace their religion was to offer them wealth, honour and rank. Furthermore, during the rule of the Portuguese many of the Buddhist Temples and Viharas were destroyed by them.

BRITISH PROPAGANDA.—The Dutch followed the Portuguese, and spread Protestantism in the country. In this connection the lecturer made the observation that the Dutch had set themselves up against the Roman Catholics, and it was the Sinhalese King ruling at the time who offered them help and assistance to practice their religious faith, when the Dutch started to persecute the Catholics. During Dutch rule, too, religion came to be associated with every office and rank in the country under them, and the people embraced Christianity without any conviction, but merely for the sake of occupying rank and office. When the country was first ceded to the English, the people of the country had been so led by this association of religion with every office, that they were for embracing the religion which the English professed. The lecturer stated that although one day came to look at the early rule of the English here, as one of tolerance and freedom where religion was concerned, yet the English had helped the missionaries to further Christianity in the country by offering them every facility and even paying them their salaries out of the Exchequer. He mentioned a significant quotation from Emerson's "Tent on Christianity in Ceylon," where Tassent refers to the propositions that were appointed by Mr. North and Mr. Maitland to go about the villages in the country and baptize the children that were brought to them in large numbers. The children were made to file in rows and the proposition went about sprinkling drops of water on them. Parents who feared that the boys which they enjoyed as Christians would pass away from them if their children were not baptised, brought their children to these ceremonies and the children grew up without any conviction or any real understanding of the fundamentals of the religion in which they were baptised. The lecturer proceeded to state that during this period of different rules in the country, there were warm hearted and devout Buddhist missionaries, who from time to time proceeded to establish their doctrines on firm grounds and to dispel the erroneous notions which prevailed in the country concerning Buddhism.

MISSIONARY SCHOOLS.—Coming to the conditions which prevailed in the eighties, the lecturer stated that one of the causes which stood in the way of the propagation of Buddhism was that they had no schools of their own, and Christian missionaries established schools in different parts of the country whither Buddhist parents were compelled to send their children who became converted to Christianity. The lecturer synchronized the arrival of Col. Olcott and Madame Blavatsky in Ceylon in 1880 as an occurrence which was largely responsible in changing the outlook of the people in this country on Buddhism. Col. Olcott was one who had done a great deal for Buddhist education in the country and he was of the opinion that his name as well the names of those pioneers in the country who helped Col. Olcott in his good work, should be inscribed in letters of gold in every household in the country.

Their efforts were productive of this result that Buddhists who were ashamed to profess Buddhism as their religion in the open, began to have a national consciousness and pride in the fact that Buddhism was their great heritage.

A ROSE FOR A ROSE.—The lecturer did not have much misgiving or fear as to the future of Buddhism in the country. Buddhism had been established on firm ground in the country now, but they should not rest satisfied there, but ask of themselves the question whether their task was completed. Although evangelists had been sent out to China and Japan in the past, the same had not been done in recent times. But before they did so and made attempts to offer Buddhism to all countries, they had need to set their own house in order. In this connection he mentioned the fact that many remote parts in the country, which were Buddhist, were in a state of darkness and ignorance at the present time. He believed that the younger generation could do much to educate those parts, and he hoped for the day when the Young Men's Buddhist Associations should form an unbreakable chain all over the country and do useful work to have the people accept Buddhism as their only religion.

THE NATIONAL FAITH.—Furthermore, he was of the opinion that we needed Buddhism as a national religion, and it should be associated in every day life and in the environment of the country. He conceded that an attempt was being made in schools to disseminate Buddhism, but his honest belief was that they did not teach Buddhism in the right and proper way.

## CLERICAL SERVICE PROMOTIONS.

The following Ceylonese clerks in Class I of the F. M. Clerical Service were recommended for promotion to the Special Class, by the Promotions Board held on the 1st, 3rd and 8th March last. About fifty-five clerks appeared before the Board:—

Messrs. K. Arunachalam, Legal Adviser's Office; V. Coomarasamy, Treasury, Talpott; V. Kumara thipallai, Agricultural Department; V. Ranganath, Treasury, F. M. S.; S. Kandiah, Marine Dept.; T. Ansoor; K. Kandiah, District Office, Koda Lipi; M. V. Kandiah, District Office, Kandy; A. Mahalingam, Trade and Customs, Koda Lipi; M. Sivakolanthu, Customs Dept., Talpott; V. Nallathambi, P. W. D., Koda Lipi; V. Ranganatham, District Office, Koda Lipi; C. Narsingham, Police Dept., Koda Lipi; S. Sankaragum, P. W. D., Koda Lipi; and Ponnampalam, District Office, Bentong. —"Ceylon."

## Farewell to Two Doctors.

## INDO CEYLONESE IN JOHORE.

The Muar Club, Johore, was the venue of quite a neat little function on the 19th ultimo when the local Indo Ceylonese community entertained D. A. C. Osheliah and N. K. Serna to a Malay Dinner on the eve of the former's departure on transfer to Tanjakah and the latter's on two months' leave to India. In spite of the fasting (Nopu) month and the very short notice, the response to the invitations was exceptionally good and representative of the local Asiatic communities, and some were laid for 65. Mr. M. V. Pillai, Bar at Law, proposed the loyal toast of His Highness the Sultan of Johore, and Mr. A. Sinnathamby, Shoo master, that of the guests of the evening, to which the two Doctors responded suitably. Then Mr. J. Christian, Senior Britany Inspector, proposed the toast of the other guests and the latter then responded to the invitations. Some of those present spoke in eulogising the services of the two Doctors and of the esteem in which they were held by all who came in contact with them. After the Chairman's speech the function came to a close at a very late hour. —"Ceylon."

## THE MAILS.

## (G. P. O. Colombo.)

## DESPATCHES

London Mails per the R. L. "Slamat" will close to-day (Thursday) and per the P & O "Macedonia" on Thursday, April 17th.

Straits & China Mails per the S. M. N. "Pieter Ozn Hooft" will close on Saturday, April 9th.

## RECEIPTS.

London Mails per the P & O "Rajaputana" will arrive on Monday, April 11th; per the P & O "Morea" on Saturday, April 16th and per the O. L. "Orsoya" on Saturday, April 23rd.

Straits & China Mails per the R. L. "Slamat" will arrive to-day (Thursday).

## TO LET.

A newly built house with small compound, partly furnished, at Urumpal Junction.

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## Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6395.  
In the matter of the estate of the late Kanthar Kallathar of Ponnayal in Poonerya Deceased.  
Kasinath Somasundaram of do. Petitioner.  
Vs.  
Thillalar Kumarasamy of do. Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna, on March 7, 1927, in the presence of Mr. R. V. Ganapathipillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated March 8, 1927, having been read,

It is ordered that the above-named Petitioner is the son and the heir of the above-named deceased is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased issued to him unless the above-named Respondent or any other show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary on or before April 12, 1927.

March 12, 1927. G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge, O. 1238.



## The Cultivation of Tobacco

The following is an extract of an article contributed by Mr. T. A. Archer, District Agricultural Instructor, to "The Journal of the Board of Agriculture", British Guiana, as appearing in the February Number of "The Tropical Agriculturist", published by the Department of Agriculture, Raderiya:—

Tobacco plants grow from seeds which are very much smaller in size than mustard seeds.

The seeds are often sown on nursery beds, when the cultivation is to be somewhat extensive, and in well prepared boxes, if only a small plot is to be attempted. They take from five to seven days to germinate under good conditions, but many more days when conditions are unsuitable.

The plantlets are to be carried to the field when they are seven and eight weeks old, by which time they will be about three or four inches in height. After the ninth week the remaining plants will be too old and will not do well if planted.

While the tobacco plants, when once they are well established on good soil and under favourable atmospheric conditions, are fairly hardy, they are not so in their earlier stages. At this period the young, tender plants need the most careful attention. Even then, from ten to thirty per cent. of the number planted often die, or are destroyed by worms or crickets. To meet this contingency, 50 per cent more plants should always be estimated for than would be actually needed to plant a given area. Failure to provide for this eventually would be disastrous.

The nursery beds are to be kept scrupulously free of weeds or grass, and must be constantly watched and examined for the enemies of the plants. No known plants have more enemies than the tobacco plant, especially at the earlier stages. These enemies do not come as spies, but in battalions. They must be pursued, captured and destroyed summarily. Every reinforcement of them should be similarly dealt with.

### Beware of Enemies.

With proper care, a crop can be reaped in the space of three months after the planting has been done. The second and third crops, or ratoons from the stools, will, with careful attention and proper cultivation, added by a liberal supply of good farmyard manure, be ready in 8 and 12 weeks respectively after the reaping of the first crop. After this a general stumping and replanting will be advisable. The plants, as a rule, respond admirably well to manurial influences, and the grower should be very liberal to them in this respect. To set the seeds, a bed, six inches higher than the general level of the land, running north and south, should be made. It should be three feet wide. Its length to depend upon the amount of seedlings required or the area to be put under cultivation. Select good seeds for sowing always beforehand and at the same time decide the area to be planted. The land for this purpose should be very well ploughed and pulverized removing all pebbles and hard lumps of earth. Now spread a good layer of dry twigs over the bed and permit it to remain for a week or ten days, and then burn off. This operation is for the purpose of ridding the prepared surface of any rank weed that will by this time be growing up. Now put on a good layer of well cured farmyard manure and mix well to a depth of three or four inches. Then mix one or two spoonfuls of selected seeds, according to the length of the bed to be sown, with sieved lime, or cornmeal in the proportion of one to six, and sprinkle evenly over the prepared surface, press down lightly with a flat smooth piece of board, water lightly and the sowing is done.

Now erect a suitable lean to over the bed with the higher side looking east, and cover with coco-nut leaves. Water daily with a watering can, the holes on the nozzle of which must be very small, so as not to uproot the plant. Continue this operation, except when it rains, until the plants are removed to the field. The covering over the bed should be removed for a few hours every day, a week or two before the time for planting, in order to harden the plants by exposing them to the sun.

### How the Planting is Done.

As the tobacco plants take the nature of garden plants, it is always advisable to make beds for them for the reason that they must be watered, when there is no rain, at least twice daily. The beds enable the watering to be done without rambling on the soil round and about the plants for the drains between them would be used as so many paths in which to walk while the watering is carried on. The beds, after a good, deep ploughing has been done, should be made four feet wide and at least 6 inches high, with a two-foot wide drain between every two of them. Any length of bed would do. Now make holes 12 inches in diameter, 8 feet apart on both sides of each bed six inches from the edges. Fill these holes, which should not be less than 5 inches deep, with well-cured farmyard manure. Mix well together the earth with the manure and form hillocks in the centre of the mixture. Now make holes in the middle of these tiny hills with a piece of stick or the forefinger and put in only the roots of the plants. Ram them very gently all round. Water them at once, and the planting is done.

It is better to plant in the evening time or during a cool, wet day. To insure success every plant put down should be sheltered for a few days. Keep the plants clean, and mould them in the shape of a wheel, when moulding is needed.

### How to Remove the Plants.

The nursery beds must be well watered about ten minutes or so before the planting commences, so as to soften the earth, thus permitting the removal of the plants with as little injury to their tiny roots as possible. Now take hold of the plants one by one with the thumb and index finger of one hand and pull gently by slight, jerking motions until the number of plants required are removed. Do not handle the tiny roots, but shake gently all the earth from them that you possibly can before planting them.

### NOTE.

A rich loam is best for the plants. Heavy clay is not good, nor are sandy and calcareous soils. A sandy loam rich in vegetable matter will also do.

### DRAINAGE AND TILLAGE.

These must be very good in order to secure the well-being of the plants. A good water supply is indispensable.

Continued on p.

## Order N si.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 6388.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Ponnappillai Arumugam of Tellipalai West District, Deceased.

Si bamparam widow of Ponnappillai Arumugam of Tellipalai West District, Petitioner.

V.

1. Kothidippillai Sithamparappillai and
2. wife Thairamappillai of do. Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Si bamparam widow of Ponnappillai Arumugam, the Petitioner, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Ponnappillai Arumugam, coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esq. J. J. J. Judge, on March 1, 1927, in the presence of Mr. V. Gnanasamy, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated February 28, 1927, having been read; It is declared that the Petitioner is the widow of the said late and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said late deceased, named to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before April 12, 1927, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

March 16, 1927.  
O. 1287.

G. W. Woodhouse,  
District Judge.

Continued.

### HARVESTING

As all the leaves of the tobacco cross do not mature together, reaping will perforce go on for some time before the final cutting down of the trees take place. The ripe leaves are gathered as they appear from time to time and taken to the drying-house. The ripe or matured leaves exhibit the following characteristics features:—They curl, are sticky to the touch; have yellowish spots on the surface of the leaf blades and when the tips of them are suddenly bent they break with a sharp cracking sound.

### TOPPING.

This is the term used for nipping off the tobacco blossoms as soon as they appear. The object of this operation is to arrest the fruit-bearing energy, and divert it towards the foliage.

### DISBUDDING.

After topping the plant, the dormant buds, at the axils of the leaves, which by the way, are alternate, sessile and hairy, will start to grow rapidly. These are to be removed constantly, or the energy arrested from the blossoms will go into the young shoots instead of the leaves for which it was intended and the crop would be spoiled to a great extent. Care should be taken to leave few robust trees untopped, so as to secure seeds for future planting.

When all the upper leaves of the plants are ripe all the plants are cut down with a sharp implement to within 4 inches of the bases of the trees. The ratoon, if any, should not be damaged. Three or two, according to the strength of the stool, of the most promising ones, should be left on each stool.

### HOW THE DRYING IS DONE.

The leaves are hung in pairs three or four inches apart when they reach the drying house.

When reaped in the field, both trees and leaves must be left to wither for some time before they are removed to the drying house. They will become somewhat tough, and will not so easily break when handled in transit. The trees should be suspended singly. The leaves should barely touch one another. The distance apart in this case depends on the size of the leaves on the trees. In 30 or 35 days the mid-ribs of the leaves will be quite dry. The leaves must now be put through the fermenting process, which is the most important of all, since, if it be not properly done, the whole crop will be good for nothing.

### HOW TO FERMENT THE LEAVES.

Strip the leaves off the stems and separate the filers from the wrappers. Open them evenly and place them one on the other on different piles, on a suitable platform, with their tails all in the same direction. Cover the piles with dry banana leaves thickly. Then cover these with clean sacks, and put on heavy weights over them. After 24 hours the heaps must be broken up properly to allow the leaves that were in the middle to get to the top and those that were on the top to get to the bottom and those from the bottom to get to the middle. Repeat this operation for three successive days and after, at intervals of two or three days for 20 days, when all the heat will have passed off and the necessary chemical changes taken place.

Select a cool moist day for this work.

### WORKING.

In the drying house great care must be taken with the leaves. The voracious sphinx moth caterpillars often play havoc with the leaves. By keeping the floor of the house clean always, and the droppings from them would be easily seen, and their exact position discovered. They must be hand picked and destroyed. They must be looked for at least twice a day.

### THE DRYING HOUSE.

This should be well constructed with doors and windows. The frames for the leaves and trees should run across the building in tiers one above the other, with a clear space of four feet between any two tiers in order to facilitate attention to the leaves. Accordingly the building must be of fair altitude, and good dimensions, which are factors productive of good ventilation. With bad ventilation the midribs of the leaves will sponge and finally the leaves. Mildew, too, grows rapidly in badly ventilated places especially in wet weather, so that all this should be borne in mind when constructing a drying house for tobacco.

Finally, after the fermenting process is over, the piles of tobacco must now be broken up and made into hands.

This is the term used for tying together, with an unsound leaf, the heads of from 12 to 30 leaves. The hands are then well packed into airtight chests or barrels, using much force in the operation in order to exclude all the air possible. Cover the vessels hermetically and the product is ready for the market, or it can be kept indefinitely.

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