

health promoting foods, might now be revived with better hope of success. The great creditor nations would be the more willing to give their support, since they would see that their own economic interests would stand to gain by the operation of the proposed Bank.

Herein, in the view of Mr. McDougall, there may be found a solution of the hotly debated problem of agricultural protectionism. There can be no doubt that the solution of the questions discussed by the writer of this report might contribute in no small degree to a revival in world prosperity.

[*International Institute of Agriculture, Press Service.*]

ABSTRACT

Tobacco in South India. By W. R. C. Paul, M.A., M.Sc., D.I.S., F.L.S. (*Trcp. Agri. LXXXVII p. 3*). This crop was first introduced by the Portuguese in the 16th century. Its cultivation was restricted to dark, and strong flavoured types and as such there was no or very little export in the early period. In order to meet the demand of the mild flavoured light tobacco in the United Kingdom, efforts were made in the direction of introduction of new types, methods of growing and curing. Madras Presidency occupies second largest position in India with an area of 292,000 acres and outturn of 286,000,000 lb. of cured leaf out of the total area of 1,350,000 acres and production of 1,000,000,000 lb. leaf respectively. The different kinds of tobacco grown may be grouped under (a) smoking (b) chewing (c) snuff. Dark tobaccos are strong flavoured and are used in the manufacture of cigars, cheroots, chewing and snuffing. Light tobaccos are generally associated with mild flavour and comprise cigarettes, pipe mixtures and beedies. The light tobacco industry has developed during recent years due largely to the efforts of the Indian Leaf Tobacco company, and Guntur District forms the chief centre of its cultivation with about 40,000 acres under the virginian variety Harrison's special. The flue cured Virginia is used for manufacturing standard brand cigarette while the sun-cured stuff and the finer country types are mostly used in blending the innumerable other cheaper brands and pipe tobaccos, and are exported to United Kingdom and Japan.

Cigar filler tobacco is mostly drawn from certain areas in Dindigul and Trichinopoly while cheroot tobacco is extensively cultivated in the Districts of Madura, Coimbatore, Trichy, Salem, Kistna, Godavari and Vizagapatam to the extent of 105,000 acres. Soil and weather conditions determine the quality of the tobacco. Light soils are suited for mild bright tobaccos, and heavy soils for coarse dark types. Application of cattle manure produces excess of chlorides in the leaf and the burning quality is poor. On the other hand application of organic manures leads to a high nicotine content. Irrigation is found better for chewing and cheroot types, and brackish water produces a greater potash content.

Tobacco curing may be either by flue, sun or air. Most of the light virginians are flue-cured and usually contain about 13% moisture at the time of export.

There are about 30,000 barns in the Guntur area.

R. B.

Gleanings.

Vitamins and Plants. In general, vitamins are products of the vegetable kingdom. Their possible role in plants, however, has been almost totally unknown until quite recently.

Some years ago we followed the synthesis of carotene (the precursor of vitamin A) and vitamin C (ascorbic acid) in plants, and observed that the percentage content of these compounds in the plant is generally the higher the better