

The following advertisement of an estate of less than five acres for sale will serve as an illustration of the number of parcels which may constitute one owner's property in Vaud, and of the system of identification of the different plots. The first column gives the communal number from the *Registre Foncier*; the second indicates the sheet of the communal map; the third, the map number of each parcel; the last column gives the area of the parcels, one *are* being equal to four perches English, and one *centiare* being equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$ square yards.

“LA VALLEE. VENTE D'IMMEUBLES.

“Le jeudi 24 juillet 1884, dès 8 heures du soir, à la Croix-Fédérale, à l'Orient-de-l'Orbe, le liquidateur de la discussion des biens de défunt Louis Auguste GOLAY, Sur le Crêt, exposera définitivement en vente, aux enchères publiques, les immeubles que la masse possède au territoire du Chenit, savoir :

| Art. | Fol. | Nos. | | | | Ares. | Centi- ares. |
|------|------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----------------|
| 1939 | 53 | 39. | Les Grands-Prés du Lac, pré | ... | ... | 30 | 06 |
| 1940 | 59 | 52. | A la Tâche, pré | ... | ... | 17 | 82 |
| 1491 | 59 | 56. | Idem, pré | ... | ... | 20 | 34 |
| 1492 | 61 | 12. | Sur le Crêt, pré | ... | ... | 9 | 45 |
| 1943 | 61 | 16. | Idem, pré | ... | ... | 17 | 64 |
| 1944 | 61 | 28. | Idem, pré | ... | ... | 13 | 32 |
| 1945 | 61 | 29 ¹ . | Idem, place | ... | ... | 1 | 31 |
| 1946 | 61 | 29 ² . | Idem, couvert de fontaine | ... | ... | 0 | 10 |
| 1947 | 61 | 29 ² . | Idem, logement, grange, écurie et four | .. | .. | 2 | 06 |
| 1948 | 61 | 31. | Idem, jardin | ... | ... | 1 | 02 |
| 1949 | 61 | 32. | Idem, pré | ... | ... | 26 | 01 |
| 1950 | 62 | 10. | Idem, pré | ... | ... | 13 | 14 |
| 1951 | 62 | 28. | Idem, pré | ... | ... | 16 | 47 |
| 1952 | 62 | 29. | Idem, pré | ... | ... | 19 | 26” |

III.—*On the Cultivation of Tobacco in Ireland.* By J. A. Walker, Esq.

[Read, Tuesday, 20th January, 1885.]

SOME years ago the cultivation of tobacco in Ireland was advocated in the press and in parliament, and the question What was the hindrance to the cultivation of the plant in this country? was put to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who at the time replied, I believe, that the main objection arose from the difficulty of collecting the tax upon it. Were this the only obstacle in the way, it could be overcome as in France, Germany, and elsewhere has been the case; but it is thought there are other grounds of objection—partly fiscal and partly climatic—which appear to stand in the way of the *profitable* cultivation of tobacco in these kingdoms.

The creation of a new industry in Ireland, by which remunerative employment would be given to the people in the agricultural districts, and the land increased in value, is deserving of the most thoughtful consideration of all who are interested in the prosperity and well-being of the nation. The difficulties which have beset those who have endeavoured to establish the manufacture of textile fabrics have been so great, arising from causes beyond the skill so far of human ingenuity, that we look to the general development of these industries with feelings of despondency. The main sources

of England's and Scotland's wealth are their abundant coal-fields. Ireland possesses coal-fields, but so far as is known they are not of much value. From one cause or another they are undeveloped. Had they been in England or Scotland we should have known all about them a quarter of a century ago; but they are in Ireland, and that is a sufficient explanation, it would seem, for their backward state. As a compensation for the apparent absence of coal, we can boast of a water-power far surpassing that of our otherwise more favoured sisters, and which, with the aid of suitable mechanical appliances, might be utilized to good practical purposes; but from the lack of enterprise on the part of capitalists, combined with the want of confidence in the present order of things, and the absence of technical education on the part of the people, this great motive power runs to waste, and save for its sanitary uses and climatic influences might as well be elsewhere.

Ireland is an agricultural country—essentially an agricultural country—nor is it likely to be anything else for a long time to come; therefore our attention should be directed to increase the wealth-producing power of the land, and at the same time afford more general employment to our labouring population. In my humble judgment, the cultivation of tobacco would to a considerable extent secure this result. The climate is by no means unsuited to it, and the land in many parts is quite rich enough to admit of its pretty general cultivation. In the north-western territory of British Columbia, which lies between 50° and 60° N., the plant is cultivated all over the state; so that, so far as our geographical position is concerned, we are much more favourably situated than the district named.

It is well known that the cultivation of tobacco was carried on in different parts of England up to the year 1782. In Scotland it was cultivated successfully about Jedburgh during the American War, and in Ireland up to the year 1828 it was permitted to be grown for home consumption free of duty, by an Act passed 19 George III. In the year named, however, that is in 1828, its cultivation was entirely prohibited, and has not since been attempted. It is to be regretted I think that this prohibition took place. I can understand that when America was an appendage of the crown, and we were anxious to protect the young colonies against home competition, it might be necessary to pass protective laws in their favor—however unjust to ourselves; but that condition of things having long passed away, I cannot see why a wholesome competition might not be established by our own people, if it were proved that the plant could be profitably cultivated and the revenue sustain no damage thereby.

History of Tobacco.

It may be instructive to give a brief historical sketch of this interesting plant, before proceeding to deal with its cultivation and its commercial value.

It has been stated that tobacco was known to the Greeks and to the Chinese at a very early period; but there is no reliable data for such a hypothesis. It is presumed that because people were known

to burn and inhale the fumes of plants for medicinal purposes in these countries that the plants so consumed were tobacco, but this is mere supposition, and is apparently devoid of any more substantial foundation.

The plant is indigenous to America. When the soldiers of Columbus visited that country in 1492, they found the natives indulging in the practice of smoking the herb, rolled up in the dried leaves of maize or Indian corn, and the great navigator brought samples of it over to the court of Ferdinand and Isabella. Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake, nearly a century later, wrote an account of it. The former says the natives looked upon the plant (which they called "*uppowoe*," but the Mexicans called it "*tobah*," and the Spaniards "*tobacco*") as the gift of the gods, and had their legends of its divine birth: he adds:—

"The leaves thereof being dried and brought into powder, they use to take the fumes or smoke thereof by sucking it through pipes made of clay into their stomach and head, from whence it purgeth superfluous flume and other gross humours, openeth all the pores and passages of the body; by which means the use thereof not only preserveth the body from obstructions, but also, if any be so that they have not been of too long continuance, in short time breaketh them, whereby their bodies are notably preserved in health, and know not many grievous diseases where-withal we in England are oftentimes affected."—From *A Brief and True Report of the Newfoundland of Virginia*, 1588.

Sir Francis Drake, in his book *The World Encompassed*, published in 1628, states that "the natives used to offer the leaf to them in sacrifice, believing them to be gods." It made its way rapidly in Spain, and soon became a source of very substantial revenue. From Spain it was carried to France, Holland, Germany, and the East, and was largely imported into England. But in every country it at first met with strong opposition. This was particularly the case in England. King James wrote his *Counterblast* against it, and imposed heavy fines upon the dealers. Licences were granted for its sale; but the taxes were so heavy that smuggling became the order of the day. His son Charles I. derived a considerable revenue from it, and much of the disaffection which his rule provoked arose from his grasping propensity in respect of this article of commerce. He made the sale a royal monopoly, charged heavy sums for the privilege of selling, seized the profits of the planters, and ruined their industries. Cromwell, like James, was also opposed to the cultivation of tobacco in England. He said it "misused and misemployed the soil of the kingdom;" but although when Charles II. ascended the throne the popularity of tobacco smoking was almost universal, yet for some reason or another (probably to prevent smuggling) he confirmed the old laws against its culture, and extended the restriction to Ireland, under a penalty of confiscation, and fine of forty shillings for every rood so planted, except "in any physic garden of either university, or in any other private garden for physic or chirurgery." But although the penalties were heavy, he did not succeed in completely destroying the cultivation, and, as before stated, George III. permitted by royal statute its growth in Ireland till the year 1828, when it was entirely prohibited.

It is remarkable that a plant which was introduced into Europe not quite 400 years ago, should have made the progress it has amongst all nations—considering how strongly it was opposed by kings, nobles, and priests, to say nothing of the opposition which has not ceased even at this day of the fairer portion of the human family.

It must have been found to possess, as Aubrey tells us, “a rare and singular virtue.” It is at the present time the most universally cultivated plant of any we know of, and into whatsoever part of the world we go, we find it is considered almost a necessity of life; or, as Dr. Everard in his treatise on tobacco, published in 1659, says somewhat poetically:—

“It is like Elias’s cloud, which was no bigger than a man’s hand, that hath suddenly covered the face of the earth, the Low Countries, Germany, Poland, Arabia, Persia, Turkey—almost all countries—drive a trade of it, and there is no commodity that hath advanced so many from small fortunes to gain great estates in the world. Scholars use it much, and many grave and great men take tobacco to make them more serviceable in their callings; tobacco has grown to be not only the physic, but even the meat and drink of many men. In a word it hath prevailed so far, that there is no living without it.”

Cultivation of Tobacco.

Having said so much about the plant, I may now be permitted to direct your attention to its cultivation, and with respect to this, I have taken the trouble to communicate with gentlemen both here and in America, who are intimately acquainted with the conditions necessary to the successful planting, growth, and curing of the plant. One of these gentlemen has been connected with the trade all his life, and for many years resided in this country; he at present resides in New York. This gentleman in a letter to me states as follows:—

“The best class of tobacco to grow is Virginian curly leaf and Havana leaf; the former grows to the height of from 5 feet to 5 feet 6 inches, and the out-turn of a plant is from 2lbs. to 2½lbs, after the drying process has been gone through. The plants are set in ridges of about 3 feet apart, and about 3 feet between each plant. An English statute acre contains 4,840 square yards. The calculation of the quantity contained in a statute acre is — plants, $4,840 \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. = 10,890 lbs. of cured tobacco to the statute acre (*approximate*). Tobacco is raised in nearly all the states of America. There is a considerable quantity of tobacco grown here, and of very good quality. At Downsville, about fourteen miles from this, a firm have a plantation of from twenty five to thirty acres of tobacco, which they use in making their own cigars. I smoked one of their best quality cigars, and I liked it as well as any Havana cigar. In raising tobacco, the heat is not very material. If the thermometer registers 70° to 80° it is sufficiently hot to grow any class of tobacco. A person who has had considerable experience in tobacco plantations, tells me the richer the soil the more luxuriant the growth, and better the quality. On the soil as described in your letter [I described a certain soil which I was acquainted with, and asked his opinion about it] the returns would be very large, and a very superior class of tobacco. In the very hot climates where tobacco is grown it is laid out in about squares of ten yards, and the man in charge of a square or two has to water each plant every night after sunset. That is not necessary in a moderate climate. The seeds would have to be grown in hotbeds, and transplanted. Ireland lies between 51° and 56° N. Lands End, the most southern point of England,

and the Orkney Islands, the most northern point of Scotland, lie between 50° and 60° N. New York is 41° N., and all the states west, about the same latitude, raise tobacco in large quantities—Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Oregon, etc. Then it is grown more North 44° to 46° —Wisconsin, Dakota, Montana, Washington. In *British Columbia, North Western Territory, which lies between 50° and 60° N., tobacco is grown all over the state, and in Canada 52° N., and I am told very good tobacco is grown near the Hudson River, as far north as the Great Slave Lake, which is 54° N. I could not find out if it was grown more north than 54° . I made inquiries of men of great experience in the tobacco trade, who had travelled north and south, to gain information on the subject. They had never made any inquiries how far north tobacco was grown. It is grown everywhere about New York, and it is thought no more of than the growing of other vegetables or cereals. It is almost less trouble to grow than cabbage, the only care required is to keep the land well weeded, and here they have to manure the land very highly. The seeds should be put in boxes in hot-houses about March and April, and transplanted in May. The average weight of a plant on a large plantation would not be more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to 2 lbs. when dried. I have made inquiries from several men, about the weight of tobacco after it is dried; but they all only spoke from idea, as they never thought of weighing the quantity on a stalk after it was dried. A grower of tobacco tells me there is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 tons of dried tobacco to the acre, at least, that was the nearest approximate he could get at."*

The result shows that if this gentleman's information be correct, namely, that a statute acre will produce two and a half tons of dried tobacco, then, supposing that the farmer, after paying all expenses, will realize a profit of even 2d. per lb., it will amount to the handsome sum of £46 13s. 4d. per statute acre. (Canon Bagot, in a letter to *The Freeman's Journal* of 2nd January, estimates the value of a crop at from £50 to £100.)

Another correspondent, however, does not give me an equally glowing account of the profit derived from it. After favouring me with very clear and explicit information as to the preparation of the soil for planting, and the supervision necessary in the after stages of cultivation, he states he does not think an acre will produce more than 1,000 to 1,500 lbs. of dried tobacco, the value of which he estimates in the latter case would amount to about £25 per acre.

It will be seen, however, that a substantial profit will result to the grower, and that all things considered there is every reason why the cultivation of tobacco should be allowed in this country. It would be a new industry. It would give remunerative employment to a large number of young people as well as adults during the summer months, and the drying or curing process would afford very considerable employment during the winter months, when field operations could not be carried on.

Of course there would be some difficulty in collecting the duty which the government would of necessity impose; but this is a matter which would have to be overcome. I understand it is carried out on the continent by the government officials counting the plants, and probably also the leaves, so soon as the plants have developed. This however is only a question of detail with which we need not particularly trouble ourselves. The government will find a way out of the difficulty if they once sanction the experiment.

Its Commercial Value.

The value of tobacco depends altogether on the quality of the article produced. Notwithstanding the information received, I fear we in this country could never hope, except under the most favourable climatic conditions, to grow the finer and more delicate sorts—such as are produced in Syria and Turkey and in the Southern States of America, or indeed anywhere that the heat is great, and the atmosphere dry. We should have therefore to be satisfied with an article much less delicate in flavour, but equally valuable probably as an article of commerce, ranging from threepence to sixpence per pound when dried, and at these prices, with careful management, it would make a substantial and valuable return to the farmer, and well repay him for his labor.

The consumption of tobacco in the United Kingdom has been rapidly on the increase, as the following figures will show:—

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| In 1821— | 15,598,152 lbs. were consumed, | paying a duty of | 4s. per lb. |
| „ 1831— | 19,533,841 „ | „ | 3s. „ |
| „ 1841— | 22,309,360 „ | „ | 3s. „ |
| „ 1851— | 28,062,841 „ | „ | 3s. „ |
| „ 1861— | 50,743,963 „ | „ | 3s. „ |
| „ 1871— | 73,060,305 „ | „ | 3s. „ |
| „ 1881— | 48,195,897 „ | „ | 3s. 6d. „ |

And the revenue has increased of course in proportion. It amounts at present to about £9,000,000 per annum.

If the cultivation of tobacco were once successfully established in this country, there is no reason why we should not become exporters of the article to other countries, where the same qualities are not produced. Why should we not compete with America and Canada in the markets of the continent and elsewhere. The Indian Government are promoting its cultivation in India, and at the present time are seeking a market in this country for their tobacco. Why should Ireland not be allowed to grow the plant and seek for it a market in India? To make good yarn, wools grown in different parts of the world have to be brought together, mixed and blended; and to make an agreeable blend the same has to be done with tea and also with tobacco. And for this purpose alone the class of leaf which this climate would produce would find, I have no doubt, a ready market here and elsewhere. Our people are crying out for more industries, and the government I believe are really anxious to promote such, for the sake of affording remunerative employment to the labouring classes. Here then is an industry that would afford employment to both young and old, all seasons of the year; and yet it is prohibited by severe enactments, lest perchance the revenue might suffer from dishonesty on the part of the growers. I venture to say that if the land were by means of this industry increased in value, remunerative employment found for the people, and trade stimulated by it, it would be of far greater importance to the government than the saving of a few hundreds a year to the revenue. But I do not believe the revenue would suffer loss—on the contrary, I think it would be materially

increased. At all events I trust the government will give us an opportunity of trying the experiment.

In conclusion, I may add that I submitted, in July of last year, my views on the cultivation of tobacco in Ireland to Sir Robert Hamilton, the Under Secretary, with the object of enlisting his co-operation. He expressed great interest in the subject, and said he was of opinion the government would regard with favour the establishment of any new industry that would afford remunerative employment to the people. Since then he took the trouble to make enquiries in London as to what was done when the question was before parliament, but the result, he informed me, was not favourable to the scheme. However, I take a more hopeful and sanguine view of the case, more especially as tobacco is now cured by steam, and is not dependent on weather as formerly.

IV.—*Magisterial Reform: being some Considerations on the present Voluntary System, and Suggestions for the Substitution of an Independent Paid Magistracy.* By W. F. Bailey, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

[Read, Tuesday, 24th February, 1885.]

REFORMS affecting the long-established institutions of Great Britain and Ireland have seldom been introduced without much and long-continued discussion as to their desirability or necessity. Yet few of these institutions have escaped attack from one quarter or another, and, where they have continued to exist, we must perforce ascribe their continuance to the Darwinian principle of the survival of the fittest. In no portion of the Empire have the criticism and perseverance of reformers been more bitter or better exemplified than in Ireland. As we look over the newspapers and other memorials of twenty or thirty years ago, we find exactly the same questions debated, and similar methods adopted for their agitation, as we do at the present time. At various periods since the Union bitter controversies have arisen on the subject of magisterial reform, and the question of a paid *versus* an unpaid magistracy has frequently occupied the public attention. When we consider the vital importance of the subject and its real interest to the whole community, a discussion of the problem at the present time will not appear out of place.

In the considerations which I would submit in favour of a complete reform of the system by the substitution of a paid magistracy for the present voluntary one, though chiefly concerned with the Irish aspect of the question, I do not intend to confine myself exclusively to this country, but would also submit some general principles applicable to every popularly governed state.

The title "Justice of the Peace" was given to magistrates after the celebrated statute of 34 Edward III. c. i., which gave them the power of trying felonies, and which has given rise to so much legal discussion before the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of