

# Tobacco Culture on Coast.

## Promising Experimental Area at Smithton.

**T**OBACCO culture is showing promise in Tasmania, and the Government is anxious to develop the growth of the plant for its labor-saving, as it is an industry that calls for many workers. Mr. D. H. Malcolm, of the Agricultural Department, has been on a visit to Circular Head this week. There tobacco growing is being tried out with encouraging results on the farm of Mr. S. Sutchkoff at Edith Creek.

The Federal Government has done much to assist tobacco growing, and in addition to a high duty on foreign leaf, special grants have been made to the States for encouraging culture.

The conditions on Mr. Sutchkoff's farm are instructive. The land is of a very light sand on country useless for anything else. Half an acre has been experimented with, and the manurial dressing was heavy last season. Dried blood was applied at the rate of 200 lbs. per acre, with 80 lbs. sulphate ammonia, 6 cwt. super, and 1 cwt. sulphate of potash. The growth last season was good, though the leaves were lacking in aroma and were somewhat narrow, due to the adverse season. Nevertheless the product sold at 2/0½d per lb., and the gross return was at the rate of 615 lbs. per acre, giving a cash return of just over £60 per acre.

The result, in Mr. Malcolm's opinion, is definitely encouraging. The work

successful plot is at Quamby Brook, Westbury, where Messrs. M'Gee Bros. are doing very promising work on a nine-acre area. The paddock shows an even growth, with a big yield in prospect. The soil is light loam on the flat, and well protected, and the fine stand of plants are well grown, with an almost entire absence of disease.

Apart from a third area at Scottsdale on an experimental scale, tobacco growing in Tasmania is confined to the Derwent Valley, where 100 acres are under plants. The industry has developed to a commercial scale, with much promise for the future. Last year tobacco from the Derwent Valley averaged 2/3 per lb.

It is stated that some Australian tobacco enters into most of the mixtures on the market to-day to a greater or lesser extent.

has been continued this season on a half acre experimental area with the object of improving, if possible, the smoking quality and the leaf yield. If this season's crop gives an improved return, both in yield and quality, the experiment will be well justified, as showing the possibility of profitable extension.

In the next issue of the "Journal of Agriculture" a detailed report will be published.

Mr. Malcolm states that another successful plot is at Quamby Brook, West