#### THE GREATEST TAX PAYER

Tobacco Holds the Record in Uncle Sam's Cash Account.

CULTIVATING THE SO-CALLED WEED

Where and Under What Conditions the Plant is Most Successfully Produced Secret of the Pactory and Tricks of the Trade.

(Copyright, 1886, by the S. S. McClure Co.) Notwithstanding it is an American of the truest, it pays heavier tribute to foreign lands than to its ewn. Yet Uncle Sam derives from it a very pretty penny-something like a billion dollars in the last twentyseven years. Later on you shall find how it helps to maintain half the royal powers

Jean Nicot had no thought of all this when he sent into France seeds of a curious American herb. They fell into good hands—and the big, greeny-yellow plants, with huge leaves and heads of pinky blossom which sprang from them, were duly christtended Nicotiana Tabacum. For this was the a givernment incorpily—that is to say, the When the barn ta full logs herb the red men smoked in what they called government is the sole importer and fixes trenches, are set on fire and tended Nicotlana Tabacum. For this was alled government is the sole impurier and the first the red men smoked in what they called the price to communers at its own pleasure tabago. Indigenous to the western hemistor necessity. Thus it behoves the nations is a dry yellow-brown rattling mass. To days and nights should suffer for this communication of the red men smoked in what they called a government is the sole impurier and the day and night until the tobacco above the tabago. Indigenous to the western hemistory and the sole impurier and the sole impurity and the sole impurier and the sole impurity and the so

grown a smaller sort with leaves that cure

Sir Walter Raleigh was the first English

tobacco planter. He took seed of tobacco and potatoes to his Irish estate, and found

both well able to thrive there. But when Virginia was settled and began to send

home ship leads of the weed, those is authority thought it wise to favor the colonial industry. So by statute to this day, it is forbidden to plant tobacco other-

wise than as a specimen or a curiosity any-where within the British isles.

Tobacco and skins were in large part the accepted Virginia currency. Thrifty bachelors there, lacking wives, secured them by

sending abroad enough tobacco to pay for

passage and outfit-and those who con-

tributed most liberaly took choice when the

rates were paid in tobacco-and glebe lands

weight of it, or rented outright for similar

made possible the openhanded hospitality of Virginia and Maryland, and, through their

influence the whole later south. Tobacco likewise bred a class of great men, able as

they were willing, to greatly serve their country without thought of private gain. Washington was the type of them. Thus

the small seed may be called, after a sort, a cradle of liberty no less than a bulwark of

FOUR CLASSES OF TOBACCO.

Tobacco is now grown in a dozen states and parts of states. The yearly crop is about 500,000,000 pounds. It may be roughly divided into four classes: Seed leaf, grown

in Connecticut valley, Pennsylvania and Ohio; bright leaf, peculiar to Virginia and the Carolinas; White Burley, a special type

from Missouri and nortern Kentucky; and shipping leaf, the product of a wide scope

in Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, lying either side of the historic parallel 36 de-

Besides all this we import largely of both

Havana and Samatra tobacco. The best Sumatra, classed as "wrappers," pays a duty of \$2 the pound. This is to protect the home crop of seed leaf, put largely to the same uses. Very big and beautiful is that same seed leaf, with a fine, silky that same seed leaf, with a fine, silky that same seed leaf.

elastic surface, and very small fibers. It certainly tempts the eye-but when it turns

to a shes on the lip, it lacks flavor and quality. It is grown upon land very heav-

sheds or barns with movable sides.

The extreme range of price for seed leaf is from \$8 to \$60 the 100 pounds. Even

the pound. But as the yield per acre is only 200 to 400 pounds against 1.500 to 1.800

the favorite leaf.

manured, and cured either in open

probity in public service.

region. However that may be, it is certainly a mighty uncommon-locking plant. The stalk is bigger than your wrist—one leaf of it would have served Mother Eve in the garden. It delights in a rich soil—especially one fed with ritten limestone—but is capricious as to the root-hold whereupon it will be truly its burlesque self. Even in the plant bed, it shows a light greenish yel-low hue, which graws with its growth and strongthens with its strength, until at full ripness, the field of it seems

Floored with patines of bright gold, Like the seed leaf it must be air-cured, and unlike it, it is packed in hogsheads, not ases. The annual yield of it has rizen ill it runs between thirty and fifty thousand Some years prices are the cream of the crop may fetch \$50 a hundred-in others the bulk of sales are

THE SHIPPING LEAF

its eggs all over the leaves. When first hatched the worm is but a wriggly white hair—but give him a little time, and he will eat himself to greater things. He must will eat himself to greater things. He must be destroyed before he does it, or the crop will come to nothing. A can't name for him is "green hail," signifying that he has left more holes than would a hall storm in the tobacco of some unthrifty soul. For hy the time he is in his heydey—"the light of the moon in August—tobacco leaves

are big and broad, and glistening yellow green. The plants stand breast high. Ye upper leaves reach the ground. The ar of sap brings out auckers from the axils. They must be broken away or the big rich legfage of it at morning looked angle that shall make the dewfall trickle

enough to hold five tiers of tobacco sticks well above the fire.

FIRING, SHIPPING, PRIZING THE LEAF,

hands attend to the firing-but such very little things-a spark, a flaw of wind, may

send a whole year's income up in smoke. Small wonder there is joy and long relieved

burnt ones, then flings them to another man who breaks off the good leaves and ties then



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A life insurance policy will do it, and the cost to you is only the annual premium paid to the company. It is like paying a little extra interest on lease if you die.

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IN TWO GENERATIONS—1843-1896—

The Mutual Life Insurance Co., of New York, your mortgage to insure its re- has paid \$246,000,000 to its living members.

> Has been the benefactor of women and children yearly during life. to the extent of \$165,000,000.

Has paid its members in all over \$411,000,000

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FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, OMAHA.

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How much will your admin istrator have to sacrifice your estate to force quick assets?

An Installment Policy for \$100,000 will leave your family \$5,000 yearly income for 20 years, in any event, and if your stated beneficiary is then living he or she will be paid \$5,000

A 5 per cent Debenture for \$100,000 will leave your wife \$5,000 yearly income either for 20 years or until her death if prior thereto; then \$100,000 will be paid in one sum. A possible return of \$200,000.

What is \$1.500, \$2.500,

The true business man acts

ter street, and I saw his wind was failing him, I slowed up and allowed him to fasten

his paws on my collar. He brought me down

at least the growers of it confidently say so—is due largely to the fact of monopoly. Foreign purchases, save for England and Germany, are made through the government agents, who hold what are known technically as "regle contracts." These call for the care was a set of iron, running in a nut, which and running in the contracts of the care was a set of iron, running in a nut, which are the contracts of the care was a public functionary. He sets his breaking the contracts of the care was a public functionary. He sets his breaking the care was the care was a public functionary. He sets his breaking the care was the care was a public functionary. He sets his breaking the care was a public functionary. such and such quantities of tobacco of a has been fitted into a frame of massy tim- iron against the brown impacted mass, three

barter from those who had a static habita- | by taking up moisture, yet still remain | the plantation. The most trusted of the

Hence the special type, "shipping leaf,"

as thick almost as leather, oily and viscid

to the touch, full-flavored, dark of color richly substantial, and, best of all, to be

ecounts for the fact that the value of leaf obacco exported in the last fiscal year was

the growers

marketable.

richly substantial, and, best of all, to be bought at a very moderate price. Properly prepared, too, as "strips" for instance, it will take 18 per cent of water without bewill be water without bewill take 18 per cent of water without bewill be w

less than the amount of tax collected from its manufacture in these United States. Disregarding fractions \$25,000,000 of our \$800,-900 of exports must be set to the credit of the untouched weed. For the same period there were internal revenue receipts of nearly \$30,000,000. And the low price—at least the growers of it confidently say prizes and prize-serews. In the tobacco

confidently say prizes and prize-screws.

the larger half of export tobacco would have

FROM SEED TIME TO HARVEST. A tobacco seed is a very little thing to ccasion so great a matter as the tobacco raffic. What will lie in your scooped palm

at the highest figure though it cannot claim distinction as the costliest variety of the weed. Far down in Virginia and the Carolinas there are lucky planters who sell their crops sometimes at \$1 to \$4 will produce plants enough to set ten acres. And no other crop is at once so picturesque, so troublesome and so entirely beyond the in the Cornecticut valley the balance to not, after all, so very much against the more northerly region. Notwithstanding, the bright tobacco is a mighty interesting product; plants set out in thin, sandy soil. The best ground help of machinery. Thrifty planters say, indeed, that to raise it in perfection "a man needs thirteen menths to the year—and no Sunday into the bargain."

To make that comprehensible let us begin at the beginning—otherwise the plant bed. It is a bit of virgin soil faintly sloping, with

for it, indeed, is an old field—one ex-hausted of virgin freshness by growth of heavy export leaf years ago, then thrown heavy export leaf years ago, then thrown out and allowed to cover itself with seconagrowth pires. When they are cleared away and burned, the earth about them has just the right proportion of potash, and with the help of a tablespoonful of phosphate or bone meal, in the hill directly under the plant, gives a leaf as fine as silk, as free of gum as white paper, and as fragrant as a May morning. a southerly or easterly exposure. In January it is thickly covered with brush and small logs, which are then burned to ushes, thus not merely killing out vagrant seeds of grass and weed, but occultly fructifying the earth itself. When the burning is over the tobacco seeds, mixed with ashes, are sown evenly over the surface, which has THE ART OF CURING.

Properly cured, the color is the palest straw gold. Curing is an art and mystery requiring inficite pales. It must be done with five—either in flues or open been dug and harrowed to the finest tilth They are tramped lightly in—then the bee is rimmed about with plank, and covered with a sheet of sleazy cauvass. Once upon a time covering of brush sufficed, but for enches. The flue has preference in that saves from the smell of fire, or rather noke. But before firing, the tobacco twenty odd years past a small bug has de-veloped a cheerful habit of devouring the saves from the smell of three, or rather smoke. But before firing, the tobacco must have hung until it has reached a proper stage of yellowness.

This fine and costly bright tobacco is largely consumed in America. It is used for plug and twist making as well as the finer brands of chewing tebacco. Of course the bulk of it sells very much below \$1.

the bulk of it sells very much below \$1 This is a distinct gain. Tobacco will not ripen in less than four months from setting-Though eigarettes and such small deer and throughout the region of greatest growth have the world for a parish, they are manufactured largely from tobacco grown upon the sandy lands of the seaboard states. Richmond, Va., and Durham, N. C., have thus a geographical reason for being cenfrost may be reckoned on in the early half of October. Plants set after mid-June may make a fine crop, but those put in the hill in mid-May are certain to do it-soil and ters of the industry. But for making "fine out," "straight out," "grains"—indeed, all the myrlad forms of comminuted tobacco season permitting. The setting is done in we either chewing or smoking. Burley's This partly because of its mild flavor, but

much more because, like the bright leaf, it is almost wholly free of gum. The knives in the half hundred serts of cutting machines employed in the factories, though ground to the keenest possible edge, must be changed every minute, even when working upon Burley or bright leaf. If they had instead tried conclusions with the heavy sorts, they would be stopped in less than ten seconds—in fact, no part of the machine would behave properly.

The "White Burley" tobacco has been known and grown less than forty years, and in that brief space has conquered a commanding place in the American market.

In the check.

Weeding, plowing, scraping, yet more plowing scraping, yet more plowing, fill in the first six weeks after the plants are in the hill. But tilth is no burden at all compared with worms and suckers—which come later, and are in a sort nature's protective tariff against overproduction.

A man and mule can tend fully twelve acres of tobacco, but the best hand that ever stepped can do no more than take five through a period of worms. Such worms!

Big fat, green fellows three inches long at maturity, with round heads and sharp reddish borns at the other end. They are larve of a night-flying miller, which lays substance crept in around the end plus—bemuch more because, like the bright leaf, it

guaranteed quality, at a fixed price. Usually all the contracts are captured by one, or at most, two big firms, who agree not to rival each other in the interior markets. Orders are given to local brokers for so many thousand hogsheads at prices which allow the contractors a handsome margin of profit. And the prices are accepted—for the full, when it is headed, thrown out and very good reason that, failing a regie buyer, the larger half of export tobacco would have

Richmond, Cincinnati, St. Louis Henderson, Clarksville—has from a dozen to fifty of them. They are big buildings, full broad, long spaces, into and out of which eight months of the year. The men con-trolling them must have behind them capital running up into the millions. They make advances to dealers, who in turn help the planters—dealer and factor allke depending in the crop for reimbursement. Looking at and into the present complex commercial machinery one harks back with satisfaction the earlier day, when Richmond and teraburg were setting the standard for all things tobacco-y, warehousing included. In the good earlier time buyers gathered

and cries each in turn, knocking it out to the highest bid when it has made the round If a cask of tobacco proves not to be up to the sample drawn the seller of it—the ware house firm—is responsible to the purchaser There are tricks in tobacco packing as in all other trades. That is partly why, in each of the tobacco states, there are stringent laws against a warchouse man being also a dealer in or buyer of tobacco. They have small need to be either, since, out of legitimate fees and charges, they see much more of the money the weed brings in than do the landward folk who hear the burden and heat

in the colony.

of the day.

case is one in which a man was attacked the confederate army-this well established on shipboard or anywhere else. So, as wagons multiplied, relling went out of favor. But old teamsters who have tried it over 100-mile stretches sigh for it yet as the folliest mode of transit ever known.

Return we to our warehouses. See the In the tobacco rows and rows of hogsheads there, stripped man. As against the dog, man has the right of way.

> "I went into a country district in Mary land a few days ago, to try a case," said a Washington attorney to a Washington Star

I appeared for the plaintiff and it must be confessed that the evidence failed to establish his claim. I presented the matter before the justice of the peace in the best light I knew how, but had very little hope of securing a verdict. My client, when I finished, whispered to me that he would say a few words if I was willing, and con-sidering the case lost, I consented. It was

'Squire, I brought this suit and the evidence, except my own, is against me, don't accuse any one of lying, 'squire, ' the witnesses are the most mistaken lot of fellows I ever saw. You know me, 'squire. Two years ago you sold me a horse for sound that was blind as a bat. I made the trade and stuck to it, and this is the first time I have mentioned it. When you used to buy grain, you stood on the scales when the empty wagon was weighed, but I never said a word. Now, do you think I am the kind of a man to kick up a rumpus and suc a fellow unless he has done me wrong? It took just five minutes for the justice to decide for the plaintiff."

onville-the broker, the dentist, the under taker and the capitalist, states the Florida Citizen. Where you see one of them you will find the rest-taking a drink. The unlertaker and the capitalist admire the dent ist and the broker because they can tell such wonderfully clever stories. The broker and the dentist revere and love the undertaker and the capitalist because they are such wonderfully good listeners.

This happy, admiring quartet form an ideal round table, and around this round table the two listeners often hear good stories by the dentist and the broker. The dentist is an imaginative sort of a story-teller, who manufactures finales to fit incidents. broker is a great reader, a realist and s

One night the broker told of a lawsuit in Alabama. A cracker from the mountains was on trial for shooting and wounding a "nigger." He was arrested, and, having no money, the judge appointed the broker to defend him. The broker was not a lawye every worker who has arrived at the age in the legal sense of the word, but the judge of 65 if he has worked twenty-one years who was an old collegemate of his, said he

That, gentlemen, is enough. in your hands.'

Each juror changed his quid, looked a his neighbor, nodded, and, without leav-ing their seats rendered a loud and emphatic verdict of "Not guilty," and then joined in three cheers for the defendant and his lawyer. The undertaker found fault with the story because nobody in it had been killed. The dentist remarked that if anybody de served killing it was the broker.

A very funny story is told by the Chi cago Times-Herald on James Epler and Oscar Delew, both of whom enjoyed a reputhe most unique speech ' ever heard and tation for wit and humor during their life it won the case. He said:

tation for wit and humor during their life it won the case. He said: time. In one of the townshhips adjacent to Cook county the people elected a new for his strict application of parliamentary

> sides announced they were ready for trial. Just as the court was about to proceed Mr. Epler arose and said: "If your honor please, I move that this case be dismissed! "I second the motion," quickly put in Mr.

'It is moved and seconded that the case be dismissed," was put by the court.
"But, your honor," quickly interrupted Mr. Smith, with great surprise at such pro-

"Mr. Smith, this court has presided ove meetings before, and is thoroughly familiar with parliamentary procedure—it needs no

"But your honor-"
"I shall fine you for contempt, Mr. Smith, t you continue to disturb this court."
The court then put the question again. "All in favor of the motion will Epler and Delew and the prisoner Those opposed will rise." Smith and the prosecutor areae. motion is carried by a vote of 3 to

, and the case is dismissed," declared the

A BELATED STORY. The Depredations of a Group of Omaha Kids on Hallowe'en. "Say, do you see that jigger standing over there by the patrol box?" asked Clinton of

the druggist.

"Yes, what's the matter with him? Hasn't another victim, has he?" "He's the one that us kids had so much fun with halloween night. I met him today as I was coming home from school, and he said. 'Never mind, you young raseal, I'll get you yet, see if I don't.' I wasn't doing..."

get you yet, see if I don't. I washed doing—"
"What mischief have you been in now, may I ask?"
"Who, me? I haven't been doing nothing. A lot of us kids got together halloween and for about a couple of hours we just—"
"Was it you the police were chasing so that night?"
"Oh, he was after a lot of us kids that night. Me and Lou Walker and Art McKinley and a lot of other kids were out for a time and—say, but you should have been alorg! We just had dead loads of fun that night. I tell you. You know that old broken down wagon in the alley, back of Kramer's, don't you?"
"Do you mean that old rattle-trap that somebody left there last summer?"
"That's the one. It's been a good buggy some day, but it isn't worth 5 cents now. Us kids bought it for 20 cents, and on Hailoween we cencluded we'd take it to our

loween we concluded we'd take it to our house and see if we couldn't fix it up and go riding in it some day. We hadn't gone more'n half a block with it when this fly cop cames a sneaking along, and before we could say 'beans,' there were half a dozen the money question?

I dunno what ha meant, but he said the down at Lincoln. I dropped the shafts and down at Lincoln. I dropped the shafts and lieved in was sixteen words t' his one.

to the patrol box, where the coppers had the "No respectable white man can be guilty rest of the gang, and pretty soon along everything, and said as how he 'hadn't done nothin' to be 'rested for,' but they took him in just the same. When they got us in the cooler and commenced fishin' in our pockets, asked Captain Haze what we were in for, asked captain flaze what we were in for, and he says, 'for stealin' a wagon and raisin' Cain.' I told him the wagon belonged to us, and showed him the receipt for the 20 cents, so they talked the matter over and let us go, telling us they'd keep on eye on us, and the next time we'd get thirty days on bread and water. When we got to the barber shop near Sixteenth and Williams we went in and tried to make a dicker for the barber pole, out on the sidewalk. The bar-ber said he didn't want to sell, but I lold him pa needed one for a hitching post and wanted that one, 'cause it was painted and wouldn't rot. He hummed and hawed for a long time, but finally let us have it for for his strict application of parliamentary rules to everything possible, having acted as president of many small deliberative bodies in the township. In fact, he was regarded in his precinct as the prince of "pro tempores." His election was due to this fact, which had brought him popularity. He was what the craft called a judge of necessity, "for necessity knows no law."

Amount his first cases was one of trilling the provided that the provided having the provi Among his first cases was one of trifling importance—an assault. Epler and Delew we asked him to send an of-represented the defendant, and a man by the name of Smith the prosecution. Both it was all right, and the pole was our is. officer Kirk marched us up to the barber shop, where we proved we were giving him straight goods, so he let us go, telling us we'd better skip off to bed and cover up, or we'd soon be on the road to the reform we'd soon be on the road to the reform school. It was too early to go to hed, so we went up to Art McKinley's house and borrowed their donkey. I was a leading the canary down an alley, with the other boys sneaking along behind, when we consmore fell into the strong arm of the law. Pa had missed me, and was trailing me up with the cop. He said as how I was getting to be a 'holy terror' of a boy, and he couldn't do nothing with me no more so the cop said he'd take a hand in the game and see if he couldn't make a better boy out of me, glying us all another ride down town at the expense of the city. Captain Hize was kinder surprised to see me so soon, but he said he couldn't hold me for leading a donkey through the street, and so he marched us all to the front door and told us to 'git.' When we got back on our reservation again, we played so many pranks so he marched us all to the front door and told us to 'gll.' When we got back on our reservation again, we played so many pranks on that cop that he commenced to smell a rat about 10 o'clock, and no matter how much noise we made or what devilment we were up to, he never let on he heard us. When two colored men commenced fighting and one was trying to carve the other with a razor, we told the cop about it, and asked him to brace up and run 'em in, but he thought we were playing another joke on him, and he wouldn't do nothin', we telephoned for the hurry wagon and a couple blue coats, and when they came up and arrested the fellows, we told 'em about the other cop refusing to come when we told him about the fight, and now they're got Mr. Cop on the carpet, and twenty-six to two he lesses his star and gets discharged from the force. He says I'm responsible for—Ah, ha! There comes pa. He's got my Youth's Companion in his pocket, and I've got to read that continued story. Last week they had a pirate down in a well, and I'm just dying to find out if they pulled him up with a rope or piled rocks on him. If that cop comes in here any time and asks about me.

a rope or piled rocks on him. If that cop-comes in here any time and asks about me, just tell him you know me and that I'm the only model boy in the whole of Douglas county. Reservoir!" CHEYENNE BOB.

Little Plato Smith's Wisdom Puck: Ma says life is short as pa always

Pa says he's for sound money, an' ma says that th' kind sh' gets from hun is nothing I heard ps say once he wisht ma 'd a newspaper t' d'clare her views on th' money question in. Our house is on th' outskirts of th' town.

I s'pose it's th' skirts that kick up so much Wonder why 't is th' men that are poon

went a flying up the atreet, with Mr. Cop Once when I ast pa, what game he and chasing me like a cold wave going through some company was playin he said poker. I North Dakota. I knew he darsen't shoot to ast where th' poker was, an' he said it has tlemen, was one of the bravest generals in | kill, so I just kept far enough ahead to make entered his soul. What did he mean?



weather—during a light warm rain, or just after a heavy one. Before it the land which is the best the planter controls has been manured, made fine and light marked off in rows each way, and hills drawn up in the check.

TOLD OUT OF COURT.

The broker cross-questioned the witnesses which to make a sarcastic mand discomfiting trajectory. When he came to make a speech he said:

Words.

The broker cross-questioned the witnesses and discomfiting trajectory. When he came to make a speech he said:

"Gentlemen of the jury, I have taker great pains to show you then we great pa

knew that the caume character was bad. In an opinion which a correspondent calls a literary classic, reported in 71 N. Y. S. high in his community. R. 417, Russell, J., says that it was de-R. 417. Russell, J., says that it was decided as for back me 1856, in 22 Barb, 506, that if one dog kills another in a controversy, "the owner of the slain dog is enskin of the deceased." But as the present

a respectable citizen. Ten witnesses have asserted—on oath, mind you—that he stands defendant was 6 feet 3 inches tall and the jury smiled. "He stood high in his community, and that is sufficient. Now for the law. We find

versy. "the owner of the slain dog is en- in the thirteenth verse of the sixteenth titled only to the salvage, consisting of the chapter of Chitty on Picadings-Chitty, gen-