

placing a sheet of newspaper between the two hive-bodies. In the course of a few days the bees in the weaker hive will eat their way through the paper and unite peaceably with the bees in the stronger colony.

—*E. A. Earp, Senior Apiary Instructor, Wellington.*

HORTICULTURE.

THE TOBACCO CROP.

BRIGHT tobacco as it comes from the flue barn requires careful and experienced handling, or it quickly depreciates in quality. The proper method after curing is to condition the leaf—that is, to bring it to a soft pliable state in which it may be handled without breaking, and to approximately grade the leaves for colour. On a platform a foot or so above the floor in the bulking or grading room the leaves are then carefully stacked (“bulked” is the usual term) with the butts outwards, any convenient length and width, and 5 ft. to 6 ft. high. The natural result is for the stack to heat, and during the process a careful watch is kept to make sure the temperature does not rise too high. Should it rise much above 80° F. the material is taken down and rebulked, the leaf from the inside being placed towards the outside of the new bulk. After the completion of this process the leaves are carefully graded into classes of bright, medium, and dark colour, tied into hands, and packed for the market.

This is a general outline of the processes often adopted in the handling of flue-cured leaf; but for commercial purposes the judgment necessary for determining the right condition of the leaf, proper grades, and suitable humidity and temperatures can only be acquired by practical experience under the personal tuition of an instructor with a properly equipped plant.

In the case of air-cured tobacco the process is simpler. Instead of one week, some six weeks are necessary to complete the cure. As the cooler weather arrives, care is necessary to prevent the leaf being chilled by cold and damp, which are apt to set up mildew. For this reason harvesting should proceed with as little delay as possible.

TOMATOES.

The weather, so unpropitious for the outdoor tomato crop at the beginning of the season, has since been better for this crop, and those who nursed their plants successfully through the bleak conditions of early summer should now be receiving their well-earned reward.

Potting-soil for next season should now be stacked and matured. In some instances it will have been already twelve months in the stack. If it has not already been prepared, this should be done at once, or trouble in the seed-boxes is inevitable. Better still, increase the quantity and lay in a stock for 1929 also. Such methods are the easiest and cheapest way of overcoming most of the diseases to which young seedling plants are liable.

SMALL-FRUITS.

The demand for Cape gooseberries and passion-fruit is steadily increasing, and the crops now being gathered should find a ready