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M.P. GROWS HIS BEST VIRGINIA

Virginian tobacco has been grown in the garden of Mr. N. A. Beechman, Liberal-National M.P. for St. Ives, Cornwall, who intends to prove that cultivation can be a success in the district.

Back in 1929 a good type of tobacco was grown at Gulval research station, near Penzance, and experiments are now being made with Cuban tobacco.

FAG-END: Until the "best Cuban" is available, the old folk of Cornwall continue to smoke Mugwort and Coltsfoot (herbs, to you).

HOME-GROWN TOBACCO

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—My recent letter to you has provoked a cascade of correspondence, both public and private, always interesting, and sometimes amusing. I have also had a present of some Virginian tobacco seed for private experiment. Some interesting facts emerge from the correspondence:—

(1) That tobacco ^{is} and can be grown in this country without any difficulty. I learn that it is produced in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Devon, East Anglia, and in parts of Scotland. (2) That the leaf can be dried either artificially, or, if naturally, in a loft or a shed exposed to the wind. (3) That seed can be obtained from growers in this country, whose names I will send to anyone who asks for them enclosing a stamped envelope. (4) That the dried leaf can either be "consumed on the premises" or sent to a tobacco factory. (5) That the grower must pay 5s. for an Excise licence, and duty as on imported tobacco.

It is evident that many private persons, who, to quote Ben Jonson, "lust after that tawney weed tobacco," would welcome the opportunity of experimenting with the seed, finding therein a pleasant recreation in these drab and dolorous days, while knowing that they were patriotically bringing some relief to Mr. Dalton's acute attack of "dollaritis."

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

R. F. PECHEY.

Normandy Cottage, Alton, Hampshire.