

## VIRGINIA TOBACCO ARRIVES IN ENGLAND

This week a shipment of tobacco arrived in London from the colony in Virginia. It is not the weak, bitter tobacco grown by the Indians there, but a new sort. It was developed by John Rolfe, one of the settlers, from fine Trinidad tobacco seeds that he got from an unnamed source. By all reports it is strong, pleasant and sweet and every bit as good as the tobacco imported into this country from Spain.

It was the Spanish who first brought tobacco to Europe from their colonies in the Caribbean in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. Its use spread quickly throughout the continent; for besides being an herb that brings pleasure when smoked, it is also valued for its medicinal qualities and is thought to cure most of life's ailments. It was Sir Walter Raleigh that first introduced pipe smoking in the English court and it has become all the rage among the young men.

At present all the tobacco used in this country is imported from Spain. If Virginia tobacco proves to be as good as the first trial indicates, it will reduce our dependence on Spain as a supplier of tobacco. What an economic advantage that would be!