Four post graduate students were asked by Professor Hardy to cooperate in investigating several aspects of agriculture in the Las Lomas area, in the county of Caroni. The soils, the agricultural practices, the social conditions and the economic organization of the area were to be the particular subjects of research for each student. Thus, an almost complete investigation of the main factors affecting agriculture, and their interaction would result.

Unfortunately, for various reasons, three of the students were unable to continue their researches and it was decided to proceed with the study of the economic aspects of peasant agriculture which was the writer's part of the problem. It was realised that such investigation would be one-sided but it is hoped that it will prove of some value to other students who might undertake the study of other agricultural problems in this area in the future.

**NATURE OF THE PROBLEM AND PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION.**

Very little was known about the agricultural problems of the area and much less about the economic aspects of these problems, so a specialised investigation of any single economic problem was out of the question. For this reason, a general economic survey of peasant agriculture was undertaken; the object of this was to give a true picture of the chief aspects of peasant agriculture in this area and finding out the problems which required special study. In carrying out this survey it was always kept in mind that the ultimate object, as Mr. R. Enfield (1) puts it, is "to create the highest possible economic yield for the human effort put into Agriculture".

The Agricultural Policy Committee, in their recent report (2), have recommended the development of land settlement and it is hoped that the information collected here will be of some assistance to officers.

* Numbers in brackets refer to References on page