INTRODUCTION.

Maize is not one of the economic crops of Trinidad. Very few attempts have been made to grow it on a commercial scale, and it is only found in small patches on peasant holdings, or roadside gardens. The reason for this is that most of the suitable areas are used for the more remunerative crops such as sugar-cane, coconuts, cacao, etc; that root crops are more adapted to the insular climate; and that the peasant population either prefers rice, or has not been sufficiently educated to appreciate the advantages of maize as a useful grain food and cash crop.

Maize however, has always played an important role in the general system of farming at the Imperial College. But as the environmental conditions represented by Trinidad differ considerably from those met with throughout the important maize growing areas of the world, it became necessary to undertake a series of investigations on the adaptation of maize to such conditions.

Factors such at the optimum date of planting, and spacing are known for conditions in many of the semi-arid and sub-humid areas. But these have yet to be investigated for the insular tropical conditions represented by Trinidad.

The present experiments are part of this general series of investigations on the practice of maize growing in Trinidad. The experiments on spacing are an extension of the work commenced by Jameson last year, and were undertaken with the object of giving greater significance to the results already obtained, and of extending the investigation to include a study of the optimum spacing for the wet-season maize crop.

An investigation on the optimum depth of sowing was also commenced, partly as a guide to farm practice, and partly as a demonstration of the unimportance of deep planting under humid conditions.

The various experiments will be presented under three

headings:

1. Investigations on the optimum depth of planting maize.
2. Report on the spacing of maize (wet season) experiment.
3. Investigation on the optimum spacing of maize (Dry season).