

II. INTRODUCTION.

1. PREVIOUS LOCAL EXPERIENCE.

There is a certain amount of local experience, although cotton can by no means be considered at the moment one of the economic crops of Trinidad.

Such local opinion as was obtainable was very contradictory. It was thought by some that a sowing early in July would prove to be the best; others favoured a sowing three or more months later. It is interesting to note that last year the cotton experimental plots were sown on 31st October. From this sowing yields of well over 1000 lbs. of seed cotton per acre were obtained. This is an extremely satisfactory figure, when it is considered that the average yield of Sea Island Cotton in St. Vincent is about 600 lbs. At the outset, therefore, it would appear that very satisfactory yields can be obtained from cotton planted late in the year.

Cotton has been grown during the last few years at the St. Augustine Experiment Station in order to determine the economic possibilities of the crop. Their experience has been that cotton planted in September is not a success. In 1925, with cotton planted in August, almost total loss occurred from an attack of *Alternaria* leaf spot. In the current year sowings were made in July and August. Visits were made at intervals by the writers. Growth appeared to be far from satisfactory in all sowings. All plants were poorly developed vegetatively, flowering was limited, and again leaf spot, accompanied by leaf shedding, was much in evidence. This would seem to point to definitely unfavourable conditions of growth. It does not seem permissible to compare in any way these results with those obtained on the College plots.