INTRODUCTION.

The investigation under consideration in this thesis is the direct outcome of previous work undertaken by the Department of Economics in connection with the survey of the cacao industry in Trinidad. In 1929, a programme of research was formulated in which the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Economics respectively were to act in collaboration. The Economics Department directed its attention upon an enquiry into the economic status of the industry and in the initial year collected and analysed some 216 estate records. The cost of production of cacao expressed as dollars per acre, per 1,000 pickets (the common mode of quoting cocoa statistics in Trinidad) and per bag respectively was ascertained. The estates were classified into "worst", "best" and "all estates" classes, the "worst" and "best" groups containing that quarter of the total number of properties surveyed having the highest and lowest cost of production respectively. The production costs were found to vary considerably as may be observed concisely in Table I.

Table I. Showing Cost of Production of Cacao on "Best" "Worst" and "All Estates". 1923-4 - 1929-30.

Per Acre			Per 1,000 Pickets.			Per Bag (165 lbs).		
Best.	Worst.	All.	Best.	Worst.	All.	Best.	Worst.	All
$ 18.85	$ 20.79	$ 20.22	$ 65.97	$ 72.84	$ 75.83	$ 8.95	$ 20.51	$ 12.81

(The figures quoted relate to the cost delivered at the store for a seven year average (1923-4 - 1929-30) on 126 estates in various districts of Trinidad).