

I. INTRODUCTION.

During the years 1923 and 1924, Venkatraman the Government Sugar Cane expert at the Plant Breeding Station, Coimbatore, India, undertook a series of experiments with a view to ascertaining the effects of the sowing of various types of planting material on the germination and subsequent early growth of the Cane plants. That these early processes in the growth of the plant exert a strong influence on the subsequent growth and harvest of the crop is well known, it having been often demonstrated that plants which are poorly in the early stages or germinate later than others are often not able to catch the rest of the field in growth, sometimes even in spite of special treatment.

In November 1926, investigations were undertaken with a view to checking Venkatraman's work and to determining its applicability to Trinidad conditions. Unfortunately, neither of the varieties of Cane (B.3412 and Co.213) used in the Coimbatore experiments was available although the local variety, Sealy's Seedling is very closely related to B.3412 and, as such, was selected as one of the varieties, the others being two well known local types, B.H.10 (12) and Ba.11.569.

The main aims of this series of experiments may be briefly summarised as follows:-

1. To determine the role of the internode in Germination, early growth, and Tillering power of the Cane plant.
2. To determine the minimum of the Cane that has to be planted with the bud to ensure germination.