

INTRODUCTION.

1. Investigation by Survey.

Public attention has recently been stimulated by the published recommendations of the Moyne Commission (1)[#], emphasising the desirability of Economic Surveys in the West Indies. This is a vague term and it is to be noted that there is no 'magic principle' in the Economic Survey as a method of agricultural investigation. It is pertinent to ask what shall be the object of such surveys? Surveys in themselves are unlikely to produce results unless they have stated objects to the attainment of which, all efforts are directed. If an economic survey of peasant agricultural enterprise is visualised, the present report may indicate the scope and possibility of such a line of investigation. If constructive work is to be undertaken by a Department of Agriculture, and if a long-term policy not totally divorced from reality is to be embarked upon or certain reforms introduced for the development of peasant enterprise, then one of the pre-requisites is a knowledge of the status quo and the underlying reasons for existing conditions. One of the means of arriving at such a knowledge is by the survey method.