

The Crop. Cacao is the most important crop of the Island of Trinidad. In spite of adverse factors affecting the industry, both acreage and production have remained fairly constant, and have even increased slightly within recent years. The following figures show the area occupied by the Cacao crop in Trinidad in comparison with the other crops of the Island. Figures for 1931.

(1)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. CULTIVATED CROPS.

	Acres	Per Cent.
Cacao	209,000	66.3
Sugar-cane	44,000	13.9
Coconuts-	50,000	15.9
Coffee (Mostly grown in cacao)	800	.2
Rice	9,300	2.9
Rubber	850	.3
Grapefruit	535	.2
Oranges (Grown in mixed cultivations)		
TOTAL	315.485	100.00

Trinidad as a Producer of Fine Cacao. The best qualities of Trinidad Estate Cacao occupy a high rank in the world's markets. The Island ranks in the fore-front as a producer of fine cacao next to producers of fine Criollo types. The high quality of Trinidad cacao is due to two main factors:-

1. That the general type of the cacao grown is of good quality. Thus, there are small percentages of varieties approximating closely to the Criollo types, and also a high percentage of good Forastero (Trinitario) types on most Trinidad cultivations.

2. The methods of preparations of the cacao are, for the most part, good. Fermentation and drying and general preparation for the market have reached a high state of efficiency in the industry.