

## INTRODUCTION.

### The Problem.

Perhaps the most difficult feature of this subject is that it presents no problem. There is no evidence that the maize grown on the College Farm is not entirely satisfactory, and the peasant - at any rate in Trinidad - does not appear to be up against any serious difficulty. A certain amount, of wanton criticism seems to have been levelled against the Farm Director to the effect that the maize on the farm is overcrowded in the row; the vindication of the Director's position on this score then is one object of the present experiment.

Secondly some persons doubt whether the supplying of a stand which has germinated poorly is an economic proposition. Or further, since the extra cost of supplying at singling time is very small, whether the actual yield is increased by supplying above what it would have been had the stand not been supplied. An investigation of this matter is the second object of the present experiment.

Third and last, the College wished to know whether the irregularity of sowing as performed by the mechanical planter was a factor affecting yield. This line of investigation was doubtless suggested by the work of Engledow and Martin Leake at Cambridge with the tillering cereals. Although certain varieties of maize in some countries of the world do tiller appreciably, maize is hardly a tillering crop in the same category with wheat and barley. This aspect of the subject was tried out, as will be described later, but it may be said at the outset that no tillering was observed in any degree which could affect the final yield.