

I. OBJECT OF THE SURVEY.

1. The object of the survey is to obtain information on the methods of growing sugar cane as practised by cane farmers. It is hoped that such a survey as this would point out the defects and merits in their methods so that it would be possible to know which of their methods are already efficient and satisfactory, and which are inefficient and require improvement. Then, when that is known, that field investigations could be carried out to discover the means of improvement which would raise the efficiency of cane farming.

2. Attempt has been made to include as much of the information obtained by direct observation rather than that obtained indirectly from the descriptions given by farmers. Nevertheless, the farmers' ideas and theories behind their practice have been included as they may have been based on sound practical experience and so, may prove useful. At least, their views would indicate the extent of their interest in, and their knowledge of, their own work. That in turn would reflect the extent to which they would be receptive to new ideas, which is an important point in the formulation and implementation of an agricultural policy for their benefit.

3. The scope of this survey has been entirely limited to the agricultural practices of the farmers in growing cane and no attempt has been made to describe the sociological conditions under which they work. The object has been purposely limited in scope in order that more attention could be given to details and so, a more specialised type of information could be obtained, which would indicate the lines of field investigations required in the future. At present, there is no such investigation being carried out for the farmers on their soils. It is hoped however, that in the near future this will be a task of the special Cane Farmers' Service, the establishment of which was recommended by the Benham Committee in 1943 and was reiterated by the Soulbury Commission in 1948. The last named Commission has also fully dealt with the organisation and administration of the sugar cane industry which is of great importance but which unfortunately cannot be included through limitation of space, which in turn has further limited the field covered by the Report.