

## INTRODUCTION

### SECTION A.

This year the area devoted to tobacco on the College Farm has increased to approximately seven acres. The acreage in the Island also is increasing slightly, because, without an excise, and with an import duty of \$1.14 per lb. of imported manufactured leaf, there is no doubt that it is a profitable crop, as is shown by the following figures from the College Farm records during the past four years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Acreage</u>	<u>Average profit per acre</u>
1928-29	2.4	\$511.50
1929-30	5.3	6.70
1930-31	5.3	239.70
1931-32	3.8	136.00

Altogether there are in the neighbourhood of fifteen growers in Trinidad, but because of the unsuitable conditions, care and attention required by the crop, and low prices paid for small consignments, it would seem that the industry will not pass into peasant hands. Of the total amount of cured leaf consumed in the Colony per annum (700,000 lbs.) only 4,000 lbs. or 0.57% is produced locally. (Tobago imports = 40,000 lbs.).

Another reason for this low figure is that, being a comparatively new crop to be studied scientifically here, very little is known of its requirements.

With experience and experimental data, valuable information is now accumulating, so that at some future date the crop may become more popular. This knowledge is essential for most crops, but in especial for tobacco, a plant which is extremely fickle in its demands. What is beneficial in one country, or even in one part of a country, need not necessarily be so in another.

This year two experiments have been designed with a view of finding out more about the crop under conditions in Trinidad.

(1) A Potash Manurial Experiment.

That this question is of paramount importance is evident by the enormous amount of literature on the subject.