

INTRODUCTION.

The cacao industry of Grenada, though of small consequence if judged by the magnitude of its contribution to world trade in cacao, has always been looked upon with particular interest. It has been recognised as being an exceptionally successful industry, its average yield figure ranking amongst the highest achieved by any cacao industry, and - most important - it has been recognised that this success has been accomplished by methods of cultivation which are not practised elsewhere. These methods may be of particular interest to the Trinidad planter, who, in a similar climate and using more conventional methods of cultivation has been achieving yields of a very much lower order.

In this paper an investigation is made of the factors which are associated with profitable cacao estates in Grenada and a comparison is drawn with those factors which are associated with profitable cacao estates in Trinidad. It is hoped that the comparison will throw more light onto the question of whether it is desirable and possible for the Trinidad planter to adopt methods of cultivation employed by the Grenada planter. The comparison will at least serve to emphasise the differences that may occur between two adjacent branches of the same industry.

The data used in this investigation was collected as part of a preliminary investigation of the condition of the industries of the two islands. The object of these preliminary investigations has been to narrow the field of future study by suggesting factors worthy of more detailed investigations, and to provide interim information for the planters and governments of the two islands.