

INTRODUCTION

Over a century ago, Count Lopinot, a Frenchman, settled in Arouca. The settled area was in the Northern Range, about eight miles from the present Eastern Main Road.

On his estate, Count Lopinot had a large number of slaves who planted many of the cocoa and coffee trees which exist today.

Remnants of the Count's old estate are still present. One can still see the large mansion house, and not too far from it are the graves of the Count's dog, his wife, and himself. According to local folklore, the Count had no children, and the dog was very close to his wife and himself.

In an open savannah near the Count's mansion, there is a large tree which, according to the local saying, was used for hanging disobedient and disloyal slaves.

After the Count died, the estate was apparently divided into several smaller estates. In 1944 the Government of Trinidad and Tobago bought one of these estates for land re-settlement purposes. Today, this area is known as Lopinot.

About two miles from Lopinot is La Pastora which is comprised primarily of freeholders who own either estates of a hundred or more acres or small holdings of a few acres.

Apart from the fact of both these areas being relatively isolated, differences between them are evident, especially in that Lopinot is a Government Land Settlement area which is supposed to have a greater intensification of advice from the Extension Services of the Ministry of Agriculture.

While, La Pastora, being mostly privately owned, does not have a high degree of Government supervision.

As a result of the existing situation in both areas, this report would like to show the effects of these differences by focussing

attention on improved farming practices, the use of different communication media, and classify and compare both areas.