

OBJECTIVE

In making this survey, the writer hopes not only to familiarise himself with the technique of agricultural surveying, but to provide some more information about the area, and to offer a few suggestions as to how experimentation and development should proceed, with a view to evolving a permanent system of agriculture for the steeply sloping lands of the Northern Range.

METHODS

Three hill areas were surveyed during the session 1951-1952.

- (1) Floradale hill area - peasant agriculture.
- (2) Mt. St. Benedict hill area - peasant and small estate agriculture.
- (3) Maracas and Tierra Nueva estates - estate agriculture.

Previous reports on surveys of peasant agriculture, especially on hill areas, were studied.

The three surveyors covered all three areas during the first term to gain background information, then each surveyor concentrated on one area to acquire more detailed information by observation and conversation with the cultivators and owners of the lands.

and their continued use of the land, it has been feared, has led to a serious deterioration due to soil erosion which naturally follows as their shifting cultivations.

The Floradale hill area, which is the subject of this survey, is a good example of the problem which peasant cultivators are creating on the hills. The remains of the old estate plantation can still be seen in the valley bottom, but above this and right up to the summit of the hill at 1000 feet there is intense peasant cultivation. The survey area is typical of the problem in many areas of the Northern Range, especially at the western end, though it is possibly extreme in its slopes and its intensity of cultivation.

The fact that peasants are willing to climb up over a thousand feet daily to earn such a meagre return for their labour, as is