Early in September 1924 a call came to Washington for two men to do soil survey work in the Republic of Haiti. In answer to this A. E. Hooten and I accepted a temporary appointment from the Service Technique of the Haitian Government and sailed from New York November 1.

For the soil surveyor who visits the West Indies for the first time Haiti has many surprises. Situated 1300 miles south of New York, 1200 southeast from New Orleans and but 600 from the Florida coast it differs so widely in climate, vegetation and people from any part of the United States that it seems a part of another world.

Sailing time from New York to Port-Au-Prince is six days. We took a freighter and after stopping for the discharge of cargo at Cap. Haitien, Port de Paix, Gonaives and St. Marc arrived in ten.

Reaching Port-Au-Prince we learned that we were to make a detailed soil survey of the Lower Artibonite Valley, the work to be done from camp. The purpose of the work was to determine how much of the valley is suitable for irrigation.

Our outfit which had not been assembled was to be elaborate. It provided for two assistants and interpreters, a cook, camp attendants, saddle horses and men armed with murderous looking machetes for cutting out lines of traverse. The thing most needed, however, a dependable Ford, was supplied under protest.

After numerous delays we succeeded in getting into the field early in December. During this time we had been frequently reminded that in the Tropics things are not done as they are in the States. We soon learned however that if a soil survey was to be made it must be largely thru our own efforts. We therefore proceeded to construct our own base map, made foot traverses, bored holes, repaired bridges and drove Henry hundreds of miles over roads that had never before been traveled by an automobile. We undoubtedly lost caste with the natives who regard all work as degrading but in return gave them many lessons in industry.

Topographers had been at work for some time before our arrival and received us courteously. When after working for a few weeks we one day drove into their camp and showed them a well constructed base