orden repetida en mayo de 1570 (63).

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(63) D. I. U. XXI, 185, num 91. Una variación en la política restrictiva se halla al parecer en enero de 1570, con motivo de concederse al licenciado Antonio Serrano licencia para comprar indios del Brasil que los indios tuvieran por esclavos, siéndolo verdaderamente, y pasados á las Indias. Ibid, p. 184, num. 90. Pero téngase en cuenta que en ese caso varía la fuente de la esclavitud, porque se trata de indios considerados esclavos entre ellos mismos y obtenidos por compra. —

Pi666/SBH/27:25 P33

Borah, Woodrow and Sherburne Cook, Price trends of some Commodities in Central Mexico, 1531-1570, University of California Press. Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1958

p. 10 - "The weights and measures used in sixteenth-century Mexico were not merely the customary variety of the Peninsula, but represented an adjustment of Andalusian and ~~local conditions~~ ~~in Mexico~~ Castilian units to local

conditions in Mexico, and were the adoption of certain Indian units which proved especially convenient in dealing with a tributary population. For example, cakao, a native crop, continued to be measured in native units, and the carga or load, as a measure of number continued to mean twenty, as it had in the native's visesimal system. Thus a carga of shirts meant twenty shirts regardless of weight. The term carga further had a special and distinctively American meaning because of the reliance on transportation by human porter during most of the sixteenth century. In Spain, a carga as dry measure meant four fanegas, or Spanish ~~bushels~~ bushels, the quantity a beast of burden could carry. In Mexico, a carga meant a half fanega, the amount that an Indian tameme could carry. In terms of weight, the load that a tameme might be required to carry was set at ~~100~~ 50 Castilian pounds, approximately 23 kilos, or 50.7 US pounds (the weight

of the container, generally a basket, was additional). The equation one carga of 50 pounds = 1/2 fanga became so standard in Mexico that two cargas of lime, for instance, were considered equal to one fanga even though by volume they must have measured considerably less than a Spanish bushel. For the convenience of the reader, we submit a brief summary of the most important measures and weights for this study.

In dry measures the anarchic variety of Spain was reduced to

12 almudes, or celemines = 1 fanega
2 cargas = 1 fanega

The fanega was probably the measure which is still current in Mexico, rated at 54,52 liters, or 1,55 US bushels. It was closer to the fanega of Seville, 54,7 liters, than to that of Avila, 55,5 liters, which was standard in Castille.

Liquid measures were ~~based~~ based upon the Castillian arroba, probably rated at 16,13 liters, or 4,26 gallons. One arroba liquid measure and

the pottery container usually constituted a carga for the tamame, especially for a relatively heavy liquid like honey.

4 cuartillo = 1 azumbre
8 azumbre = 1 arroba, or cántaro.

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p. 15 Diagrama de Borah e Cook p/ o preço do milho e suas flutuações no século XVI.

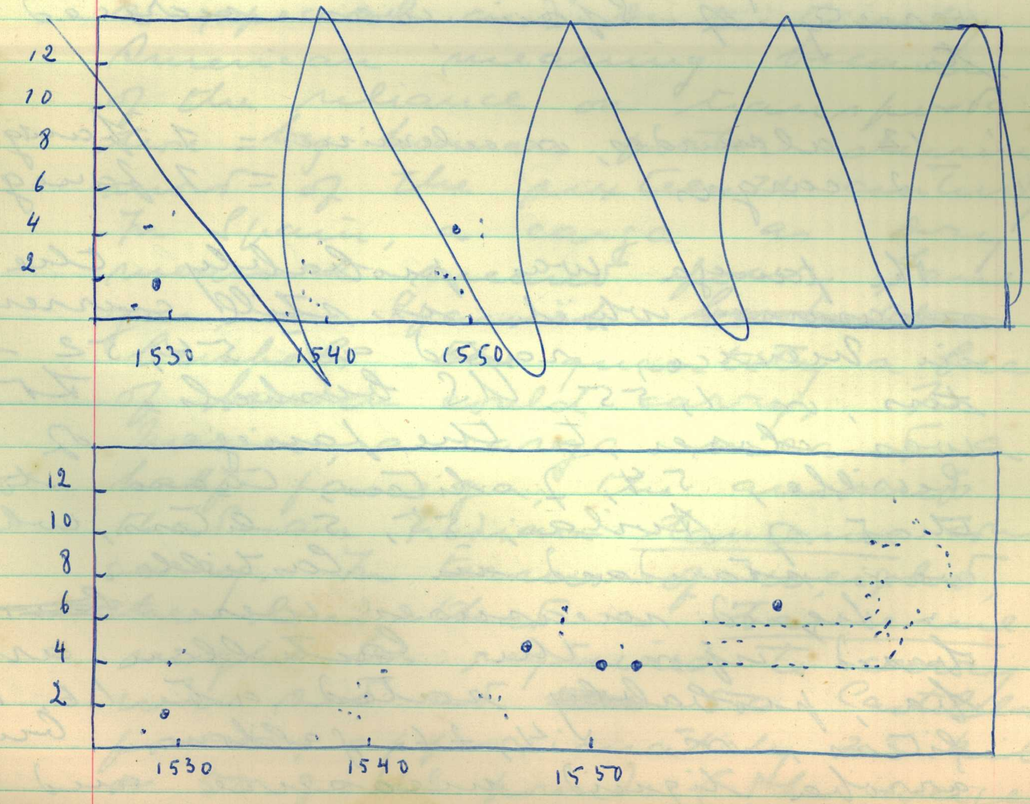

Fig 1 - Price of maize in reales per fanega 1524-1574. The ordinate is price, the abscissa is calendar year. Each point represents a single sale except for the retail data which represents ordinance table (see table 1). Dot, wholesale transactions; circled dot, retail price.

"In order to evaluate the rate of upward trend we have to recast the data in a form which would minimize their discontinuous nature. A somewhat empirical procedure was adopted, therefore, which provides a simplified and roughly comparable series of price averages. Since the number of the datas, as well as the values, varied widely and in a completely uncontrollable manner from year to year, we increased the unit interval of time from one to several years. Too many years to an interval would have obscured all but the grossest changes in a total time span of forty-four years, just as too few would have failed to provide a series of comparable averages. Hence we selected four years as the unit period. The four year periods are those who center around

1528, 1532, and so on to 1572. Each period extend for two years on each side of January 1 of the central year. Thus the quadriennium centered on 1528 runs from January 1, 1526, to December 21, 1573. The recorded prices for each four year period have been averaged, the standard deviation calculated, and the results used as the basis for the graph in figure 2, which indicates the mean and the standard deviation by a point and two bars at the appropriate year

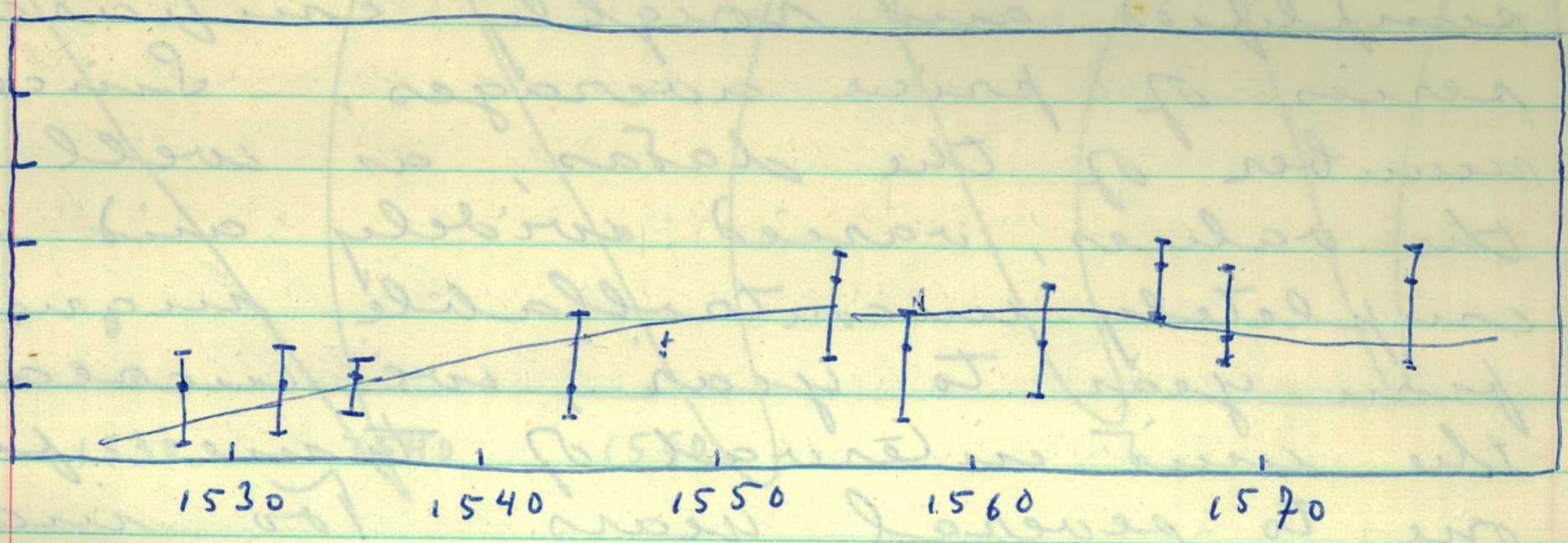

Fig 2. Price of maize. The data are the same as in figure 1, but are calculated as four-year means. The vertical lines indicate the standard variation from each mean. The trend lines is calculated by the methods of least squares.