

INTRODUCTION

Trinidad has long been known throughout the world as the producer of cacao of a high quality, and for many years (1870 - 1920) the prosperity of this Colony rose and fell in accordance with the price of cacao. During this "Golden Age" of the Cacao Industry securities on cacao properties were regarded as "gilt edged" securities.

Following the culmination of her career in 1920, the Trinidad Cacao Industry fell prey to the lean and hungry years of world depression, aggravated by the results of her own follies. During the 1930's and through into the 1940's her greatness dwindled to a mere fragment of its once pretentious position. Decay and ruin have accompanied this decline; cacao properties have been abandoned or neglected; disease has run rampant; cacao properties once the pride of the Colony have been left to lie forgotten in unproductivity.

Government, visioning the total collapse of the industry, took steps to check its fall and to tide it through this difficult period. But the era of decline has been long. Government has turned to subsidy schemes as an aid in rejuvenating the industry, or in converting a part of its lands to other purposes. Cacao Research has come to the fore in its assistance to the industry. The shortcomings of the 1936 - 39 subsidy scheme and advances in cacao research have led to the formation of the present subsidy scheme for the rehabilitation of cacao in the island.

It is the purpose of this report to review the progress of the industry's rehabilitation up to the present. This has included a brief account of the history of the industry; a review of the efforts of Government to aid the industry and a review of the progress of research pertaining to the industry's rehabilitation; an account of the organization and operation of, and the progress made by the present subsidy

scheme for the rehabilitation of cacao; a survey of plantings made under this scheme as an aid in assessing its progress; and finally a general summary of the position of the cacao rehabilitation up to date.