

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Colonial Development and Welfare in Jamaica

This study is an account of the economic and social effects of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, 1940, 1945 and 1955, as they were applied in Jamaica. It starts with a brief comment on the distress in the West Indies culminating in the riots of 1938 which both produced a nationalist political party in Jamaica and the first effective trade union, and induced the British Government to appoint the West India Royal Commission, headed by Lord Moyne, to investigate the situation in the West Indies.

As a result of the C.D.W. Act and the Moyne Report, the Imperial Government set up a Development Organisation with headquarters in Barbados, headed by a series of Comptrollers, initially, Sir Frank Stockdale. It was the only regional development authority of its kind in the Colonial Empire and was in existence until the inception of the abortive West Indian Federation in 1957. Approximately nine million pounds were spent on a series of projects intended to promote economic and social development in Jamaica in the period between the Second World War and the coming of Independence in 1962. This Report attempts to assess the effects of the aid on the Jamaican economy and social structure. It examines a case history of international aid, in terms of the economic development of one country.