

SURVEY OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY
IN TRINIDAD.

(1) The title of this paper may be rather misleading as it is not a survey in the strict sense of the word, rather, the writer by inspecting as many dairies and questioning as many people as possible hopes to present to the reader an accurate description of Trinidad's dairy industry. During the investigation the writer visited most of the medium and large sized dairies in Trinidad. Several dairies were also visited in Tobago. As many peasant dairy cow owners as possible were visited. Most of these visits were to peasants in the vicinity of the College, the writer being handicapped by the lack of transport. It is from these visits that most of the information in this paper was obtained.

(2) Today the population of the world cries out for milk, rich, clean, healthy milk. The West Indies are not behind in their demand for this nourishing food. From work carried out at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, the staple diet of the West Indies was stated to be:⁽¹⁾

- (1) Rice (brown rice parboiled, milled but not polished)
- (2) White flour
- (3) Irish potatoes and local root crops
- (4) Salt fish
- (5) Sugar
- (6) Pulses (peas and beans).

The supplementary diet included:

- (1) Meat
- (2) Milk
- (3) Fruit
- (4) Eggs.

(3) The deficiency of protein and fats is a salient feature in the diet of the West Indies. The milk which is consumed is mostly tinned milk and can be counted as a partially defective food. In 1927 imports of condensed milk were to the value of £100,500,

which equalled three quarters the value of copra exported that year.⁽²⁾ The imports of tinned milk are still going up showing the big demand for this commodity and at the same time showing the lack of available fresh milk produced under sanitary conditions. The increase in imports from 1948-9 was \$545,476. A table showing butter, cheese and milk imports can be seen in Appendix I.

(4) Hammond writes: "A supply of dairy produce would probably result in better health and more efficient labour, as well as the lowering of infantile mortality."⁽²⁾ The writer feels that a thriving dairy industry is part answer towards alleviating deficiencies in the diet of Trinidadian people and also would help the island's economy by lowering the imports of condensed milk.

(5) As will be seen from the following report on the dairy industry there is still no policy or method in Trinidad dairying and that much improvement is needed before the industry can take its place in the Agriculture of the island.

(6) The report has been divided into sections to facilitate its writing and the sections respectively are:

- (1) Breeding policy, past and present.
- (2) Type of dairying.
- (3) Housing.
- (4) Feeding.
- (5) Standards of sanitation.
- (6) Disease.
- (7) Summary and recommendations.