

INTRODUCTION.

It has been considered necessary to investigate whether it is economically feasible to produce flue-cured cigarette tobacco in Trinidad. This crop has never been produced on any scale in the colony before and consequently very little is known about its production under local conditions. A certain amount of research in this connection has been undertaken during recent years at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. Very little has been done with regard to the production of seedlings and the technique of transplanting. The experiments that have been carried out with this regard have been in the main of a fundamental character. However they have been useful as a guide to further experimental work. Generally speaking though we are still at the stage of having to base a great deal of our experimental work on practices employed in other countries in the hope of being able to modify these practices to suit our conditions. It is usually the case that these countries which we have to use as a guide in our experimental work have climates very different from the climate prevailing in Trinidad and therefore a lot of our work must still of necessity be in the nature of trial and error. Due to the difficulty of obtaining any absolute and accurate yardstick with which to measure the responses of the tobacco plant to certain types of treatment, most of the experiments have had to be of an observational nature. Because of this fact it has been thought advisable to keep the experiments as simple as possible.

For the purpose of these trials the variety Gold Dollar was used, as it had been found to be the most promising variety grown in Trinidad during the 1951/52 trial. (Campbell 1952).

