

Introduction:-

(1) The most noteworthy features of the poultry industry in Trinidad are its complete lack of organisation and the absence of statistics relating to its value and size. In addition there is very little in the way of published information to aid the poultry keeper, and particularly the peasant poultry keeper, who accounts for the great bulk of the industry.

(2) It is emphasised that the quantity of eggs imported in shell immediately before the war was around three thousand great hundreds (120 eggs) (See Appendix 1) which is taken as an indication that the local supply of eggs is insufficient and in addition there were large importations of frozen and live birds(2). The way is therefore clear for development of the industry unless certain factors make <sup>it</sup> unwise or impractical to encourage the keeping of larger numbers of poultry. It might be impossible, for instance, to increase poultry without increasing the importation of feeding stuffs which would mean that part of the profits would be going out of the colony. The problems of disease and predators, limiting the size of flocks, might be insurmountable without increased equipment and the peasant, with very limited means, could not respond easily to recommendations entailing much expenditure. A clearer understanding of the problems and difficulties of all types of poultry keeping is, undoubtedly, necessary before steps are taken to organise and assist the industry in any of its branches.

(3) Successful and permanent development of the poultry industry will depend, to a large extent, on giving assistance and encouragement in the right quarters. <sup>until</sup> but a broad picture of the existing industry is obtained and its problems investigated it would be difficult to decide on the best lines to follow. A study of the industry is really the study of many individual flocks and it is along this line that the greater part of the survey is made. One purpose of the survey was to make it possible to present the difficulties

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and problems of poultry keeping and to suggest measures of assistance

with due consideration of the factors limiting recommendations.