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COFFEE INDUSTRY BOARD

•• ANNUAL REPORT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st JULY 1961*

**REPORT
FOR
THE YEAR ENDED
31st July, 1961**

COFFEE INDUSTRY BOARD,
Central Grading and Finishing Works,
Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.

To the Honourable K. A. Munn, Minister of Agriculture and Lands.

The Coffee Industry Board has the honour to submit its report
for the year ended on the 31st July, 1961.

W. N. HENRY — Chairman.

F. A. BRISCOE — Secretary.

30th January, 1962.

INTRODUCTION

Coffee was introduced into Jamaica in 1728 by the then Governor, Sir Nicholas Lawes, and in 1737 Jamaica became a Coffee exporting Country when 83,400 lb. valued at £6,300 was exported. Production gradually increased and during the period between 1799 and the abolition of slavery in 1838, Jamaica never exported less than 10,000,000 lb. of Coffee in any year. Indeed in 1814, exports amounted to 34,000,000 lb. Between 1839 and 1939, exports varied between 5,000,000 lb. and 12,000,000 lb. per annum, but since 1939 there has been a steady decline and during the past five years, exports have not even reached the 4 million lb. mark.

There are many reasons for this unfortunate situation, the most important being the high cost of agricultural labour, and the virtual impossibility of mechanizing field practices, since the crop is grown almost entirely on steep mountain slopes.

The Industry in Jamaica is passing through very difficult times and some of the problems are not of our making; in fact we have no control over them — world overproduction — mounting surpluses — depressed markets — low prices — increasing production costs. All these factors contribute to reduced returns to growers.

With the growth of the Coffee Co-operative Societies and the better education of growers to understand the vagaries of World Market conditions, suspicion and misunderstanding in the Industry have almost disappeared. We have not lost hope nor confidence, as we believe that the great coffee-producing countries together with the consuming countries will come together and solve the problem of surpluses and overproduction and so remove the depressing atmosphere that has been hanging over the Coffee World during the past few years.

BOARD

The Coffee Industry Board was established in 1950. It is a Statutory Body with wide powers under the Law — Chap. 64 of the Revised Laws of Jamaica — to regulate the growing, processing, purchase, sale and export of coffee, and to encourage the development of the industry.

The Board consists of seven (7) members — three growers representatives, two dealers representatives, one nominated member and one Government Official. The members are appointed for such time as may be determined by the Governor in Council.

Members of the Board at the 31st July, 1961, were:—

W. N. Henry, C.B.E. — Chairman
A. S. Wilmot
A. E. Christie
H. A. Waite
Victor Newman
L. E. Ashenheim
The Marketing Administrator

Their term of office commenced on the 2nd of February, 1961, and will expire on the 31st December, 1962.

Mr. W. N. Henry was elected Chairman. The law requires that a Chairman be elected at the first meeting of the Board in each calendar year.

There were ten (10) regular meetings of the Board during the year.

The Board records with great pleasure the honour conferred on the Chairman by Her Majesty the Queen on the 10th of June, 1961, when he was made a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. This honour was bestowed for Public Services, especially in the field of Agriculture.

COFFEE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Membership in the Coffee Co-operative Societies at the 31st July, 1961, was 39,780. There are 649 District Branches and Groups affiliated to 19 Registered Coffee Co-operative Societies and 3 Coffee Area Councils. Delivery of cherry coffee by the members to the different factories amounted to 193,879 boxes.

