



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 1953. As a result of final examinations for the First Semester, which were held at the middle of this month, twelve students were dropped from the rolls - eleven first year boys and one of the second year. We believe three factors were involved in these failures: (1) in a few instances, lack of inherent capacity, which was discussed at some length in our last News Letter, (2) lack of interest on the part of a few, and (3) some boys just simply never have learned how to study. We dislike to drop so many students, but the fact that so many of our graduates nowadays are going into extension service and other governmental activities of an agricultural nature, makes it incumbent upon us to turn out none but fully competent, well-trained young men.

The three silos at the dairy were filled during the month with 70% sweet sorghum and 30% sandul tops (Cajanus indicus), so far as our supply of these materials permitted. Due to the drought of July, August and September we had to substitute other materials to finish third silo. The dairy herd produced during the month an average of 26 lbs of milk per cow per day. Several recent visitors have commented upon the fine appearance of our herd.

The Director spent several days at San Salvador, attending the 1953 session of the Caribbean Group, American Society for Horticultural Science, which voted to hold its next meeting at Escuela Agrícola Panamericana in November 1954. During his stay, the Director was entertained at dinner by the graduates of EAP who are now in the service of the government of El Salvador. Not all of these graduates are salvadoreños; it is a source of satisfaction to us that several countries, including Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Ecuador are taking our boys in government service, without regard to their nationality. It was pleasant to see how well our boys are doing in Salvador: no less than fourteen of them are in extension service, one of them being Inspector. Another matter of interest in Salvador is the development of an agricultural school at San Andrés, 35 kms. from the capital. In a memorandum regarding this project, prepared by Dr. Jaime Guiscafré-Arrillaga, Director of the Centro Nacional de Agro-nomía for don Roberto Quiñónez, Minister of Agriculture, don Jaime speaks highly of EAP, saying that it is "without doubt the most efficient school of its kind in Spanish America".

Early in the month we were visited by Dr Felix A. Nylund and Sr. Ramiro Montes of the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura at Managua, Nicaragua. They studied in detail our classroom program as well as the prácticas. Dr. E. J. Wellhausen of the Rockefeller Foundation also came early in the month, to discuss the corn improvement program of the latter, among other matters.

On the 23rd we had the honor of entertaining a distinguished group. President Juan Manuel Gálvez of Honduras brought out the President-elect of Costa Rica, don José Figueres, together with some 25 other Honduran and Costa Rican officials. Sr. Figueres was much interested in talking with the members of our Costa Rican "colony" (16 students) and after going over our program in detail, expressed an interest in establishing a school of this nature in Costa Rica. We discussed with him suitable sites in that country, and offered our services in connection with the layout of the physical plant and the formulation of a program of studies and prácticas.