



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

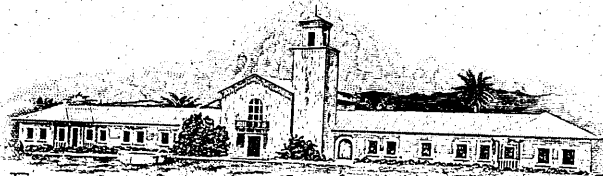
MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

FEBRUARY 1953. Our eighth graduation took place on the 28th of this month. Forty-five students representing ten countries received their diplomas after the customary ceremonies in Zemurray Hall. Present on the platform for the occasion were the President of Honduras, Dr. Juan Manuel Galvez; the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Education and War; the diplomatic representatives of all but one of the countries represented in the graduating class; and various officers of the school. The principal speech of the day was delivered by Dr. Geronimo Ramirez Brown of Managua, Nicaragua, who was followed by Ing. Benjamin Membreño, Honduran Minister of Agriculture and Mrs Doris Zemurray Stone, speaking for our Board of Regents. Valedictorian for the class of 1953 was Ligio Tavarez of the Dominican Republic.

What is the immediate future of this year's graduates? Not all of them have definite plans, perhaps, but it may be interesting to mention a few of the probabilities. One of the Colombians, after going home to see his family, will return to Honduras to join the agricultural extension service of STICA; the other Colombians will probably remain on the farms of their families. At least 3 of the Costa Ricans will return to work here with STICA; one, Rafael Calvo, has been contracted by the government of Ecuador to teach in the agricultural school at Daule, near Guayaquil. One of the Ecuadoran members of this class, Jorge Escudero, also goes to Daule; the other, Federico Malo, will go to the College of Agriculture, University of Florida, on a scholarship. It is planned also to send one of the Guatemalans, Roberto Jarquin, to the same place. Another of the Guatemalans, Guillermo Padilla, goes to join previous graduates of MAP as a teacher at the new agricultural school in Catacamas, Olancho, Honduras. Another Guatemalan has applied for extension work in Nicaragua. At least half of the eight Hondurans will probably join STICA for extension work in this country. One of the Nicaraguans expects to go abroad for further study; the other two will quite likely enter extension work under their own government. One of the Dominican students, Ovidio Duarte, goes to Turrialba for training in cacao culture before returning home; another hopes for a scholarship to go to the United States. Several members of the group from El Salvador will take up extension work under the Centro Nacional de Agronomía after spending a few weeks at home.

This year's class brings the total number of our graduates up to 359, of whom 104 have been Hondurans. Costa Rica comes next in line with 53, followed by Guatemala with 44. More than 95% of the 359 are known to be in agricultural work of one sort or another. One of the reasons for this is the following: Central America presents many excellent opportunities in this field, as can be gathered from the above mention of this year's graduates who are going into extension and educational work.

On Monday morning following graduation about 15 boys from Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, were on our doorstep asking to be awarded scholarships for the new school year. It is a difficult job to select the best from more than 600 applications now in hand. In addition to individual qualifications, we have to take into account an equitable geographical distribution as well as other factors.



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