



### MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 1954. Now that we have closed the books for 1953 and have the figures, we think it may be of interest to show what it costs to operate this school. Total operating expense was \$275,000 (this and subsequent figures are U.S. dollars). In 1950 the cost was \$224,000; in 1951 it rose to \$264,000; and in 1952 it was \$267,000. Dividing the 1953 operating cost by the average number of students on the campus each month, 164, the expense per student was \$1675. "Too much," some will say, "you could send your students to schools in the United States and get off cheaper than that". But where in the States can boys get vocational training in tropical agriculture?

We supply our students with clothing. To do this the cost in 1953 was \$56 each - an increase of only \$4 since 1950. We feed them. This costs us 16 cents per meal - the same as in 1950, in spite of increased cost of such items as coffee, wheat flour, white sugar, cooking fats, and condiments (all of which we have to purchase). We produce on the school farm most of the food we eat - though it should be mentioned that we have to buy steers, of which we butchered 298 in 1953, plus 48 of our old cows, plus 108 hogs which we raised. Medical and dental attention cost \$44 per student - there were two appendectomies during the year, 15 cases of amebic dysentery, only 3 of malaria (brought in by new students), and so on. We produced 4784 pounds of butter, 8254 of cheese, 233,187 quarts of milk, 16,384 pounds of cream, and 66,000 eggs. Also our vegetables and such staples as crude sugar, rice, potatoes and yuca.

In another month fifty boys will be graduated. The demand for their services is keen. The Centro Nacional de Agronomía in El Salvador wants about ten in connection with their program of agricultural extension; the Servicio Técnico Interamericano de Cooperación Agrícola, here in Honduras, wants a similar number for similar work; the Servicio Técnico Agrícola in Nicaragua is much interested. Each of these countries, logically enough, prefers to take nationals, but will accept other Latin Americans if there are not enough nationals. We like this policy and hope it will continue.

Among interesting visitors of the month we desire especially to mention Dr. J. G. Harrar, Dr. E. C. Stakman, and Dr. Sterling Wortman of the Rockefeller Foundation, who came to Honduras to discuss a program of corn improvement with the Minister of Agriculture, Ing. Benjamín Membreño. They were followed by Dr. Harry M. Miller, Jr., of the same Foundation, to whom we had the pleasure of giving a list of 13 of our graduates who have been sent to the States for further training, with monetary grants made to this school in past years. Not one of this group who has finished his training is working outside the field of agriculture; not one, including those who are presently in the States, has failed to make satisfactory grades in every subject studied.

Last year's graduating class rented a black Tuxedo jacket in which each member was photographed, to appear in the composite picture which hangs in our Assembly Hall. This year's class, not to be outdone, has rented a white one. Things get better all the time.