



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

FEBRUARY 1951. It may not be a very appropriate metaphor to use in the tropics, but we are literally snowed under with requests for scholarships as though the new school year does not commence until the first Monday in June. During the month several boys from Salvador and Honduras came in personally with the intention of staying here until they were accepted.

Final examinations were held during the latter part of the month. All of the third year boys got by satisfactorily and will be graduated on 3 March. There were a few failures among the second year boys and more among the first, as would be expected. Government officials from Salvador and Honduras have been canvassing the third year boys of these two nationalities, practically all of whom will have good jobs upon graduation if they so desire.

Five sows farrowed during the month, with a total of 45 pigs. One sow produced 11 fine little pigs all of whom were alive and flourishing at the end of the month. Since the first of January, 2700 pounds of pork have been furnished the mess hall and staff.

The trench silo constructed in Monte Redondo last autumn to provide feed for our steers during the dry season was opened and the ensilage found to be in excellent condition. It was composed of Jaraguá grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*) and sugar cane tops, with the addition of a small quantity of our crude sugar. This is the first time we have used Jaraguá as ensilage and we think the result is interesting.

Hegari was planted under irrigation among our African oil palms, which latter, incidentally, have produced very little fruit during the past three years. We finished taking off a fine crop of sweet potatoes which have been very useful in the mess hall and for hog feed. The cane mill was put in condition for use as soon as the school year ends on 3 March. Our plantings of Guatemala grass (*Tripsacum latifolium*) under irrigation are in beautiful condition.

Mr. C. S. Simmonds, a British forestry officer with long experience in India, and now a member of the FAO Forestry Mission to Honduras, spent several days with us, conferring with Paul Shank and visiting our forest reserve. Nixon Smiley, agricultural editor of the Miami (Florida) Herald, spent a week here, during which time he made copious notes on a variety of subjects. The result is an interesting series of articles now appearing in the Herald, one of the most important dailies in the southeastern United States. Dr Elmer D. Merrill, dean of North American botanists, and a member of our Board of Directors, came for a stay of several weeks. He was accompanied by Mrs. Merrill.

The United Fruit Company has published a handsome brochure of 36 pages entitled "The Story of the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana". This is illustrated with 35 reproductions of photographs showing the school and its activities. It answers in some detail the ten most important questions commonly asked by visitors, and has been sent to recipients of this News Letter. Additional copies may be obtained from the school or from Mr. E.S. Whitman, United Fruit Company, Pier 3, North River, New York City. The English-language edition will shortly be followed by one in Spanish, utilising the same material. Our Annual Report (1950) was issued in multigraphed form during the month, and can be obtained by addressing the school, though only a limited number of copies is available.