

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
Monthly News Letter - March 1947

The event of the month, naturally enough, was the graduation of forty students from 11 countries on Saturday 1 March. Commencement exercises were in line with those established when our first students were graduated last year. All members of the class of 1947 were supplied with printed invitations which they sent to relatives and friends. Invitations issued by the school were limited to the diplomatic representatives in Tegucigalpa of countries represented in the graduating class, and a few specially invited guests. Notices were published in the daily papers to the effect that the public in general was invited to take part. Some 400 people attended in all, as indicated by the fact that about 700 plates were served at the barbecue luncheon following the commencement exercises - we estimate that 300 were accounted for by students, members of the staff, and other employees.

Commencement exercises began with the reading of congratulations and good wishes to the members of the graduating class from the President of our Board of Directors, Mr. Samuel Zemurray. Next came the commencement address which was delivered this year by Ing. Pompilio Ortega, Director General of Agriculture of the Republic of Honduras. This was followed by a brief address delivered by the Hon. John D. Erwin, Ambassador of the United States of America to Honduras. This address was given in the English language, in accordance with our custom of emphasizing the bilingual nature of this institution; and was followed by an address in Spanish by Dr. Elmer D. Merrill, distinguished botanist and member of our Board of Directors. Next came the presentation of Certificates and diplomas by Mrs. Doris Zemurray Stone, representing the Board of Regents. After a brief address of congratulation, Mrs. Stone presented certificates to 16 post-graduate students who had completed a year of specialised training, and diplomas to members of the class of 1947. Gabriel Camacho of Colombia, member of this class, then spoke as valedictorian, after which don Luis Landa, consul of the Republic of Chile, read a brief address prepared by the Encargado de Negocios of that country (who was unable to be present) in which the annual prize awarded by the Corporation de Ventas de Salitre y Yodo de Chile - a trip to Chile and a month's tour of that country, with all expenses paid - was awarded to Gabriel Camacho.

After the barbecue luncheon, the students entertained visitors at a dance in the Assembly Hall. A full account of the exercises, including the text of all the speeches, was published in "Diario Comercial" of San Pedro Sula, edition of Monday, 3 March.

Most of the graduates left immediately for their respective countries, as also a good many undergraduates who were going on vacation. During the month of March, new students began to arrive, some 20 having come in before the end of the month. Applications for admission are heavier this year than ever before; the total number received will be reported later.

Several members of the staff left on vacation: Professor Jaime Villegas for California, where he hoped to visit vocational schools of this type; Prof. Allen B. Arnold and wife for Guatemala, whence Mr. Arnold proceeded to Mérida, Yucatán, to take part in an experiment in teaching Basic English which is being carried out by Harvard University; Dr. Archie F Carr and family for the United States, where Dr. Carr will spend some weeks going over zoological collections in the American Museum of Natural History at New York and the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard; and

Montgomery, Vice-President of the United Fruit Company, Mrs. Montgomery, and Mr. Walter E. Turnbull, Assistant Vice-President. Another interesting visitor at this time was Mr. Robert P. Russell, formerly with the Standard Oil Co., now taking up new duties as field director of Nelson Rockefeller Inter-American Development Corporation. Mr. Russell was on his way to Venezuela, where he will make his headquarters.

... the possibility of developing such projects in other countries. On the 18th we had an overnight visit from Prof. Robert W. Bess, of the Yale School of Forestry, who discussed mutual interests with our Forester Paul Shank. On the 20th we were visited by a group of North American ladies who had been attending summer session at the University of Guatemala. At this same time we were visited by two Venezuelan agricultural scientists, Ing. Rubén Ortega and Ing. Gustavo Jaen, who were returning from the United States and spent the night with us. On the 20th Mr. Honiball brought for an overnight stay a highly interesting and enjoyable group, including Senator Thomas of Utah and wife, and Dr. H. L. Marshall and wife. On the 22nd we had an overnight visit from a group of Texans, including Mrs. Henrietta Kleberg Larkin, sister of the Klebergs who own the famous King ranch, Mrs. Sarita Kenedy East, owner of the Kenedy Ranch, and Mr. Thomas R. Armstrong.

W. Popenoe
 Wilson Popenoe
 Director