



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

APRIL 1953. Most of our time this month has been devoted to receiving and "breaking in" new students. After taking the "examen de capacidad", sometimes given in their home countries, sometimes after arrival here, they go to work in the Horticultural Department, mornings and afternoons until classes begin on the first of June, after which they work outside only in the mornings.

In giving scholarships, we try to favor those countries where help is most needed. This year we have taken a larger number of boys from Ecuador than ever before, due mainly to the interest shown by ex-president Galo Plaza; who has convinced us that we can be of material assistance to his country by preparing young Ecuadorans to serve as extension workers, teachers, or just simply better farmers. Nicaragua, also, is keenly interested in having more well-trained agriculturists and we have taken a good-sized group from that republic. Probably due to the fact that many of our Honduran graduates are well placed in extension work, in the Banco de Fomento, and in the new agricultural school at Catacamas, local demand for scholarships this year has been strong, hence we have accepted about 15 Hondurans.

The dry season has been unusually severe, with the highest temperatures - 97 F. -- which we have experienced. There is practically nothing for cattle to eat in our pastures, and our ensilage will be consumed by the middle of May. Milk production, never-the-less, has not dropped much below 20 lbs per cow per day. The Honduran Minister of Agriculture, Ing. Benjamin Membreno, has asked us to supply 3/4 Jersey and Guernsey bull calves for use of the government in breeding programs, which we are undertaking to do as rapidly as possible.

There is not much work in the Agronomy Department at this season of the year. Fields have been prepared for planting, however; yuca and sweet potatoes have been harvested in abundance; and the Honduran government has been supplied with large quantities of Magnolia rice seed for distribution to farmers.

In the Horticultural Department, a collection of new tomatoes sent by Prof. A. F. Yeager, of the University of New Hampshire, has proved extremely interesting; small plants but tremendous producers. Mangos are coming into season; a good crop of Hadens, not many Mulgobas this year, and the usual good crop of Julies. Amini is bearing well, but the varieties from Java are carrying little fruit.

Not many visitors came during April - our big seasons are July and August, and again in the winter months. Dr John Anderson, Provincial Director, National Agricultural Advisory Service, Cambridge, England, made us a visit, accompanied by Maurice Amiot and Gildo Infrans-Guerrero of the FAO, stationed at Tegucigalpa. Dr John J. McKelvey Jr. of the Rockefeller Foundation and Dr. Harold E. Moore Jr. of the Bailey Hortorium at Ithaca, N. Y. also came. The outstanding event of the month, was the day spent here by the Hon. John Moors Cabot, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs at Washington. At the suggestion of the American Ambassador in Tegucigalpa, this "dia de campo" included the President and Vice-President of Honduras, cabinet, and the diplomatic corps - just about the most distinguished group which has even been present on our campus.