



## MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER 1950. Applications for scholarships were received throughout the month at the rate of about three per day. As usual, more have come from Salvador than from any other country.

Several days were devoted to filling an experimental silo which we have constructed at the lower end of the Monte Redondo pastures. This is an unlined trench silo with a capacity of about 150 tons. It has been loaded with about 100 tons of Jaraguá grass, 50 tons of sugar cane, and a small proportion of pigeon pea tops. If this material turns out satisfactorily it will be used to feed steers next spring when the pastures become very dry.

Third year students harvested the crop from 16 acres of rice, obtaining 195 cwt, or 12 cwt per acre. The variety is one which has been cultivated in this region for many years - we do not know its origin. In the hope of securing better yields, we plan next year to switch (in part at least) to Fortuna which is reported to have done remarkably well in near-by Salvador.

Professor Morcillo of our staff brought from Mexico last spring planting material of ten of the corn varieties developed in that country by the Rockefeller Foundation's agricultural group. These varieties were harvested here during the month. It was impossible to obtain quantitative figures on yield because blackbirds got so much of the seed, but it may be reported that Rocamex V 520 and Veracruz 39 Tuxpeño appear promising for this region and will be given further trial.

Ten of the thirteen avocado varieties introduced from Atlixco, Mexico, in October 1947 produced fruit this year. For several of them this was the second crop. One of them, No. 13520, which has been described pomologically under the name Aztec, produced an excellent crop in 1949 and again this year. Aztec is a ten-ounce pear-shaped bright green fruit, probably a hybrid between the Mexican and Guatemalan races but leaning strongly toward the Mexican. This year No. 13522 produced its first crop, a large one. This variety is similar to Aztec in character of fruit, but smaller, and with a large seed. It is noteworthy for its excellent flavor. It has a thin skin which is against it commercially, but it may prove to be valuable for the home garden. No. 13527 also looks promising for regions where its color, dark purple, is no commercial handicap.

An excellent crop of Isabella and Niagara grapes is now maturing. Out of 45 vinifer varieties which have been tested here for more than five years, Carignane and Valdepeña are the only two which have given even a fair account of themselves.

Dr Paul B. Sears of Yale University spent several days with us early in the month. On the 5th we were visited by Dr Marion Walker of the U S Dept of Agriculture and Mr. William Mackinnon of Kendal, Florida. Dr Salvador Pizzati and Dr. Audrey Johnson of the Instituto de Nutrición de Centro America y Panama came on the 10th for a discussion of their problems with our Dr. Louis O. Williams. Dr Jorge de Alba of the Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas came on the 15th and the following day gave our student an interesting talk on livestock problems. Dr William H. Cowgill of the Instituto Agropecuario Nacional de Guatemala came on the same day. He also talked to our students, his subject being the important one of coffee improvement. On the 28th we were visited by Miss Mary E. Thille and Mrs. Veda P. Gooch of Santa Paula, California.