

# Monthly NEWS LETTER

AUGUST 1948. The property originally purchased for this school consisted of about 3500 acres, some 1200 of which are on the valley floor at an elevation of about 2500 feet, the remainder on the slopes of Uyuca, extending up to an elevation of about 5000 feet. Above the valley floor, however, we had no lands suitable for cultivation, and we have always wanted to obtain a small area at the highest elevation possible, so that we could conduct experiments with such temperate zone fruits as peaches and plums, and field crops such as wheat and potatoes. We have at last been able to do this. Two tracts have been purchased, 290 acres in all, which continue our holdings right up to the summit of Uyuca (6350 feet). While 217 acres are in pine, of which we already had a large area, 12 acres are in a small basin at 5900 feet, ideal for the experiments we have in mind. The soil is excellent. The purchase also included 60 acres of cloud forest which will be held as a biological preserve. Cloud forest is rare in Honduras, and if we had not secured this piece it would, in all probability, have been destroyed within the near future.

Arrangements have been made to send two of our graduates to the Florida State College of Agriculture for a year's specialised training. One of the boys, Francisco Sierra A. of Guatemala, will prepare himself in soil Chemistry and soil surveying; the other, Alvaro Mencia of Honduras, will be trained in horticulture. Full scholarships have been provided for both. They will return to Central America on completion of their studies.

There were many interesting visitors during the month. Mrs. Doris Stone, member of our Board of Regents, came on the 1st, and a few days later we were glad to welcome the Hon. Albert F. Nufer, Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of El Salvador, accompanied by Mrs. Nufer and by Mr. Isidoro González, Agent of the United Fruit Company at Habana, Cuba, who was accompanied by Mrs. González and their daughter Pepita.

On the 6th we had an overnight visit from the second group of Deans of North American agricultural colleges and other distinguished professionals in this field. This group was of particular interest to us because it included men from the agricultural colleges of the south and west-regions with which we have contact because climatic conditions are more similar to ours than those of the northern states. The group included Dr. C.E. Brehm, acting President of the University of Tennessee; Dr. H.F. Cooper, Dean and Director, the Clemson Agricultural College (South Carolina); Dr. R.S. Hawkins, Vice-Dean and Vice-Director, Arizona State College of Agriculture; Dr. Homer J. Henney, Director of the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. J.H. Hilton, Dean and Director of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering; Dr. C.B. Hutchison, Vice-President of the University of California and Dean of the College of Agriculture; Dr. Harold Mowry, Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Stations; Dr. C.N. Shepardson, Dean of Agriculture at the Texas A&M College; Dr. E.V. Smith, Assistant Dean and Director, School of Agriculture, Alabama Polytechnic Institute; Dr. R.H. Walker, Director of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. Frank J. Welch, Dean and Associate Director, and Dr. Ernest B. Colmer, Associate Dean, of the School of Agriculture, Mississippi State College. All of these gentlemen, who made the trip to Central America as guests of the United Fruit Company, expressed great interest in the type of agricultural education we are attempting to provide at this school, and gave us many useful comments and suggestions.

Visitors during the month were also: Mr. H. Harris Robson, Vice-President of United Fruit Co.; Mr. W.H. Claflin, Jr., new Director of UFCo., accompanied by his wife and daughter; Dean S.S. Steinberg of the University of Maryland; the Minister of Education of Honduras, who brought a group of ladies-schoolteachers visiting from various parts of the United States; and others.