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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

[1919]

Dear Dad:

Yours of the 15th, with enclosures from Shedden, just read, and thanks.

DF says the avocado bulletin is so long he is almost certain it cannot be used here in the near future. In this case, Kellerman will probably say to send it to Calif, and I think I ought to be able to get it out there by the latter part of Feb. As I previously wrote you, it makes 125 pp of text, with the complete descriptions of the 23 varieties, and I have 23 full page plates to go with it. If the Assn can get it out, it will be doing a piece of work wh I consider well worth while. It will make about 75 pp in their proceedings, I think. If I send it out, I will emphasize the fact that I want all the plates used, and the whole thing published.

Of my 100 lantern slides, 40 are avocados and other plants, and 60 general. I figure this will give me enough to draw on for any occasion; talking to horticulturists, I can run in thr 40 avocado and horticultural ones and enough general stuff to fill out an hour.

WP

[1919?]
Dear Dad:

Dr Fairchild and I have been talking about LOQUATS. We both think there is a future for them here in So Fla. We have here at the Garden Champagne, Advance, Victor, Premier, and Early Red. Some time we ought to obtain to add to our collection Thales and Tanaka. I dont want you to bother about it now, as you have your hands too full, but later on, or perhaps when I come out there, we must see that Simmonds receives a little budwood of these two varieties, which he can put on one of the old trees here in the Garden.

I have also been thinking about the hybrids at Vista. As I understand it, that orchard is budded to quite a number of the Olivier-Tanaka hybrids which we fruited first at Altadena. I suppose some of these hybrids are better than others, and some time you will probably want to bud over the poorest of the trees at Vista to the best varieties. I am wondering if you have made any observations to determine which of these hybrid varieties are the best. If not, you ought to have the folks who are doing the picking and packing there this season keep their eyes open and pick out the trees which produce the largest and best fruits. An especially important feature is the relative abundance of seeds, for as I remember it the greatest defect of these hybrids was the large number of seeds which most of them contained. If you could, by careful observation, pick out the best varieties in the lot, we would be able later on to bud over the rest of the trees to them, and the varieties could be named and introduced into horticulture if they are worthy of it. I am wonder-

ing if any of them are better than Tanaka? Do you know
Tanaka well? I have no recollection of having seen it in
fruit out there, but I have an idea it is a large orange
fleshed variety on the order of the Thales. When you are
down at Vista again look the ground over and see if you
dont believe there is enough difference in the varieties
to warrant our picking out the best ones and budding over
some of the trees which are inferior.

W
later on, or perhaps when I come out there, we must see that
Gimonia receives a little bud of these two varieties
which he can put on one of the old trees here in the garden.
I have also been thinking about the hybrids at Vista.
As I understand it, that orchard is budded to quite a number
of the Olivier-Tanaka hybrids which we tried first at
Alabama. I suppose some of these hybrids are better than
others, and some time you will probably want to bud over the
best of the trees at Vista to the best varieties. I am
wondering if you have made any observations to determine which
of these hybrid varieties are the best. If not, you ought to
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the lot, we would be able later on to bud over the rest of
the trees to them, and the varieties could be named and intro-

[1919?]

FOP:

Returned Preface recd OK, and thanks. I will probably make a number of changes when I get Chase's copy, as I asked him to work it over carefully.

Thanks also for the Manning note on grafting avocados. I cant use the fotos as I have my make-up finished, and dont feel anyway that I can afford to waste any more plates on propagation, but I think we might well work the note into good shape and publish it somewhere over Mannings name. I have an account in my book of a very similar method of grafting practiced in Fla, and will add a note regarding Manning's method.

[1919-1920?]

Father: If you have not yet mailed a copy of Applied Eugenics To Arthur Stockdale, Mexico City, please do not do so, but advise me so I can send him one from here; he asked that it be autographed.

I find that H took along only four boxes of ammunition with my 45 Colt. In sending back the gun you better not send all the ammuni^{sh}, as it is very heavy; hold it all out there, just sending me the gun, as the latter only belongs to U S.

Paul says Express is very slow these days, and he thinks parcel post is better in general. You can judge best about this. I would like might well to have that dress suit if you want to send it back.

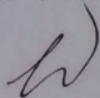
I will reimburse you for the expense of forwarding any of the stuff I have asked for.

[1919-1922]

Father:

The enclosed letters are largely self-explanatory. Mrs Scales is an American lady that I met thru Mellen. She owns a large dairy near the City, and Cyril Cooper has been working with her some time, but is troubled with catarrh, which has made him slightly deaf, and is planning to go to California to stay for a year or so to see if the climate will benefit his health. He is a young chap of 20 I should imagine, son of a Scotsman well known in Mexico City, and of a very good family. I am told by Mrs Scales that he is an excellent worker and a fine fellow in every way. I told her in case he went to California he had better call on you before he went anywhere else. He will feel pretty strange there, probably, and will be glad to have someone to whom he can go. If you know any place he might get out door work you can tell him about it. The chief thing, however, is for him to have a friend to look forward to in California; he has never left home before and otherwise would probably feel pretty discouraged when he landed in a strange country. I think he would do well at any sort of farming or horticultural work, if his slight deafness did not interfere. As I understand it, he is about as deaf as Herb was at his worst period.

Ever thine



Wednesday

[1919?]

Dear Folks:

Paul and I last night went out to the Brownes for a brief call, and had a very pleasant one as usual. We are invited for dinner Saturday evening, and tomorrow night I shall probably escort Mrs B and Kitty to a lecture by W H Taft on the League of Nations, Pa Browne being out in Chicago for a few days. Paul evidences considerable alarm because he thinks Mrs B has designs on me, and insists that I do not go out there too often. He says Mrs explained to him that she did not view with approval the dog faced 2nd Lt of engineers whose picture Paul saw on the mental when he was out there a while ago. But we have decided that I cant marry Kitty, so we dont want to raise any false hopes. She is rather attractive but hasnt enough steam to suit me. She might be suitable for Ritc Stockdale, and we are going to hold her in reserve to show to Ritc when he comes up.

Had a letter from Lil Archie Shamel this morning, expressing great pleasure at my return. I talked with PHD yesterday about the possibility of my going to the Mediterranean with Shamel some time to investigate oranges and he said he thot it would be worth while, but I dont believe DF will be strongly in favor of it, at least not until I have made the next trip to Central America. + dont see any let up in sight, in this exploration biz. As for the book, I guess the only thing is to work it up on the side, and not try to lay off for a few months and do it. DF, you say, tabue^d the latter idea.

Tonight Paul and I are going to a dance given by the Chic Society at Rauscher's, Ramon Fuller haven scared up some girls. Hope they pan out satisfactorily.

I was interviewed this morning by a writer for the Sunday magazine of the N Y herald, and a story will probably appear in two or three weeks. I am not strong on this Sunday magazine stuff tho; the writers always ball things up pretty badly.

I am beginning to voice the old complaint; cant get any work done in the Ofc here. I have decided to spend the first few hrs of the day in our room, writing, as soon as I can settle down to writing the Atliscc paper. Dorsett thinks I will be here 3 weeks yet.

The Browne family is going down to Panama for a month in March.

Recd card from MBP yesterday. Hope you are all progressing rapidly. The flu is a mean thing and no mistake.

I still think it feels mighty good to be here in Washn with old Paul.

Lots of love



Jan 2, 1919.

Dear Talks:

I have made two resolutions for the new year, (1) not to eat any tortillas or frijoles, and (2) not to travel on the Gulf in boats of less than 1000 tons net.

I continue to have a big time here I don't know why it is, but I am having more invitations to dine out than I have ever had before in all my travels. Yesterday I spent half the day with Mrs Nuttall, and had not only a fine dinner and 5 o'clock tea but got a lot of accurate information. Day after tomorrow she is going to take me out to Xochimilco for an all day picnic to show me the so called floating gardens.

This evening I am invited to dine at the Hotchkiss residence. Another big feed.

Rito is urging me to go to Oaxaca with him for a couple of weeks, but I have made my plans to come home and not want to

I could not bring much clothing with me
when I came up here, and am having to
do a good deal of mending to make things hold
together. My Carlos Mirkin (Guatemalan)
suit is still holding up well. That's one of
the best wearing suits I ever had.

I expect to be here just about a week yet,
but have not yet rec'd instructions to come home.

Rec'd letter from Herb + FOP's note re the
advocate's proofs. Ok. Also letter re mangoes.
Will answer latter when I can get hold of
a typewriter again.

Ever
Walt
D

Mexico DF, January 8 1919

Dear Folks:

Carbon to PP.

Once more again I find myself chez Rito, borrowing his Monarch Visible. And it looks like it might be the last time; hoy is Wednesday, and Saturday night I plan to climb into a Pullman berth on the Mexicano, to leave early Sunday morning for Veracruz and way stations. The Ward liner ought to sail sometime along toward the middle of the month; probably not earlier than the 16th, but I want to be on hand in time, and if I have a few days to spare in Veracruz I will put them in to good advantage writing up my paper on Atlixco, having practically all of the material in hand for it.

I have recd five copies of the Jany Citrograph, for which thanks. They only made ten tyographical errors in my article. I dont think said article is quite important enough to warrant the wide distribution which FOP made of it; possibly FOP thinks these articles are just a little more interesting than any one else does. However, he is at liberty to send them to as many people as he wants, naturally.

I have recd your letters dated Christmas, and was glad to know my cable arrived so opportunely. After all, we arent so far out of the world down here as I used to think,--before coming down.

Father, pls send a copy of the Citrograph, Jany, to Graham M Ker, care La Zacualpa-Hidalgo Rubber Co., Sheldon Bldg, San Francisco? I will write him that you are going to send it, and ask him to read the article?

I have been living with Rito about half the time and eating Sanborn's two peso lunches at his expense, demmanera that I would like to show my appreciation by sending him a copy of Applied Eugenics; if you will send him one I will cover the cost when I get home. It should be addressed to Arthur Stockdale, Cante num/ 1, Mexico DF, and you better register it.

Letme see; since writing you last I have spent another day with Mrs Nuttall, visiting a very interesting little village near Coyoacan, where the Indians all devote themselves to the culture of flowers and fruits. Yesterday I spent most of the morning getting off a shipment of 500 ahuacate seeds to DF, to complete his ~~order~~ ^{order} for the Citrus Department. I took Cousin Allan out to see the little village just mentioned, and he thought it very interesting. I have been sleeping in Allan's room but I havent seen an awful lot of him lately, as

I get up and go out in the morning before he is awake, many times, and dont show up again until evening.

Looks to me like H has a pretty good layout with Doc Williams, according to MBP's account.

I will wire you from Veracruz just before I sail, and tell you where I expect to land. It is barely possible that the boat may call at New Orleans, in which case I would disembark there of course. I will probably be able to give you a fairly accurate idea of where and when I will reach the States. If I land at New Orleans, you can catch me at the Hotel Grunwald, and if it is at New York, wh I believe will be the case, I shall put up at the Algonquin as usual.

Tell the Schmidts that Clarence Harvey has decided he cant afford to send Alfredo up to the States just yet, but hopes to do so before long. Clarence is pretty hard up allright, but I'll bet he never will make much of an effort to get the boy to the States. He is getting into the habit of letting things slide.

I am lunching with Rito this noon as usual, and then ~~xxxx~~ take the car for Coyoacan to spend the afternoon with Mrs Nuttall. Will have tea out there wh means I wont need to eat any supper tonight. We are going to visit another little village near Coyoacan where there are some interesting gardens. I have been very fortunate in having so many visits with Mrs N. She is about the only savant here, and I have learned a great deal from her.

I am also learning things from Rito. That boy has one of the most brilliant minds I have ever seen, and he and I have much in common. In fact, we are temperamentally very much the same. He is urging me to stay over for another boat and I would like to do it, but feel obliged to come home because I know you folks a re anxious for me to do so and are expecting it. I have made all my plans now and dont want to change them anyway.

Tomorrow I am going to~~x~~ take Miss Taylor out to Xochimilco for the day; we will get a boat and and a boy to pole it and spend the day on the canals. She is going to take along a poquito loonchy. It will be what we call a dia de campo. The weather is a trifle cool for itnow, but it is my only chance, and as I have dined three times at the Methodist school I want to do something to reciprocate, even tho it is nothing more than this.

Still lots of interesting things here which I havent seen yet. Oh, I forgot; I called on the Minister of Agriculture and Fomento last night, with a American names Benavides. Just a formal call, to pay my respects, but we had an agreeable half hour's chat.

Mexico D.F. Jan 12 1919

Dear Folks:

I expected to leave for Veracruz this morning, but did not get down to the station last night in time to get a Pullman ticket so decided to stay over one day. I will go on board the Pullman tonight, and sleep there, the train leaves at 5 a.m.

I find the Ward Line Monterey was greatly delayed for some reason, and only left Veracruz on the 9th. I could not have caught it, however, as I only got my instructions from Dr Webber to come home on the 9th. The Esperanza probably will not sail from Veracruz until about the 24th. The paper says the Estrada Palma sails for Habana on Thurs. the 16, and if they take passengers I think I will go over on her, stopping a couple of days in Habana, then home via Miami & the F.L.C. That would suit me to a T. I would like mighty well to spend a week in Veracruz to

our wishes to consult I would doubtless wait
for the next Ward Line, but out of deference to
your oft-expressed desire I will catch the first
boat which will land me in Cuba or the U. S.
Probably you will have had a wire from me on
the subject before this reaches you.

Yesterday I rec'd mother's letter dated 31st ult., wh
I presume may be the last I will get from
you down here. Paul seems already to have
decided I am on the way home, and has stopped
writing.

By George, but it has been cold here these
last two days. Official minimum is -8°C , wh
must be somewhere around 20°F , or lower. I'm
getting hardened up to go home.

I've been spending most of the time with Rats
these last two days. Yesterday I was with him all
day. In the pm we drove in Ford out to see
some land of his at Guadalupe and later called
on Mrs Nuttall. Today I am going to take

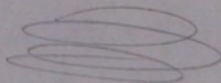
Allan up town to be ill after church and
then meet kids about 5 for supper and walk

stay with him until I go aboard the train.
 Did I tell you that he has given me a beautiful opal stick pin, which would cost 25 pesos here? We have had some jolly times together, and he has given me lots of good advice. He has one of the most remarkable minds with which I have ever come in contact.

I purchased an enormous Mexican hat to complete my mule-driver costume, and also have two zarape to take down to Veracruz with me, not to mention a considerable number of books which I have picked up here. I accumulate baggage just like a sponge soaks up water, but as I am abandoning most of my clothes here I will probably have room in my trunks for everything. At the first opportunity, after reaching the States, I will send you a box which will contain your 1918 Christmas presents. I have a nice little zarape (2 x 3 ft) for mother Brown, but as for the cat, that treacherous Rat - if she isn't in the way! What a plan, etc.

Pito and I went to the Theatre last night -
saw a wack comic opera. Paul - I learned
of a new name for second-story men - Inspector
de Agoteas (roofs). And Paul, Mrs Nuttall says she
has only seen the word *agachas* (or *u d' agachas*)
used here in connection with orange blossoms.

Hasta la vista (y que sea frito)

Will


Washington January 24 1919

Dear Folks:

I got here day before yesterday and should have written you sooner, but you know how it is. I have been on the move every minute and in addition I was waiting to get something definite about my work.

Old Paul left last night for MN, to be gone a couple of days. I went down to the boat to see him off and then came up town in the rain, got a piece of pie, and went out to salute mother Browne, which I did with great eclat, and when I told her about my work in Mexico she shuddered and shed salt tears, pretty nearly, and she was sure glad to welcome me back. The adorable Kitty was there, and Ma and Pa took pains to leave me alone with her one half hr, so I could tell her how glad I was to see her again, but Kitty hasnt enough steam and I am going to allow the hollow headed 2nd lt of engineers to marry her. It seemed mighty good to sit around the Browne fireplace again and ma brought me out a whaling big hunk of hot gingerbread and a glass of milk, to which I did ample justice. Probably Paul and I will go out there again about Sunday afternoon, just in time to stop for supper. I am on such intimate terms out there that I dont feel it necessary to wait for an invite before going out.

When I blew into Washington, right on time, at 9.45 Wed morning, after a pleasant ride up from NO, old Paul was at the Station and you bet your sweet life hisface looked good to me. He took me to the Cosmos club and we stayed there for the night. We started out to look for a room and struck something fine; got in with the Rose family, where Ray Fuller is staying. Doc Rose is one of the botanists here, well known, and a good man. He is just back from Ecuador. We have a perfectly fine room on the 3rd floor; Ray is on the same floor and there is no one else, so we have the 3rd flr bath all to ourselves. It is going to be very enjoyable. We didnt ask the price but it will probably cost us about \$4) per month. We decided we would not try to get back the apartment until I come back from Florida as PHD says DF wants me to come down there for a month while he is there to go over the avocado situation. I will probably leave here within three weeks and put my time in there, then come back here for the late spring and summer. I have given notice that I dont intend to be forced abroad again until I have had about 6 months in this country. I will probably arrange it to go south next time via Calif, and stop to see you on the way.

I was sorry that DF was not here, but he left things in good shape for me. I am told that he put thru a request to the Secretary, or rather a recommendation, strongly supported by Taylor, chief of Bureau, that I be raised to \$2500 per yr. This

may, of course, be turned down, but the probability is that the Secy will pass it, particularly in view of the fact that Taylor is, I am told, supporting it very strongly. Old DF is certainly trying to do the right thing by me and even if the recommendation is turned down I will feel that he has treated me as squarely as possible. I guess I will get something out of it at any rate. Our new man, Norton, is coming on at \$2400 I believe, soon to go to \$2520, and as he is a much older man and a good one, I feel that they are treating me very white in asking that I go to \$2500. There is no doubt about it, DF is a good friend, and I am letting Dorsett know that I am here to stand by the O's, no matter what happens re salaries.

And now as to my Mexican work, I just this morning closed things up and settled accounts, bluffing them out of \$39 which they had disallowed on my previous expense accounts but which was really coming to me. You know those military folks don't say much, but from several small things I know that my work has been satisfactory. My chief did not criticize anything I have done on the trip and said "You did a good piece of work" which is all the praise you can expect, and instead of making me take a month's time on my own hook when I went to Mexico City this last trip (I applied for a month's leave to go up there and do the huacate work, and expected to get no pay nor expenses) they allowed me this month on pay and per diem, or a total of \$8 per day, which naturally makes a pretty nice little bonus for me. In financial matters they have really treated me very liberally and asked many less questions than the Dept of Agr does, and I fear I am spoiled to come back to the red tape of this system. I figure that my job paid me better than a first lieutenantcy, for I banked my \$124 per month here right along, and saved enough off of my \$4 per diem in Mexico to buy several fine zarapes (which Paul thinks are something swell), to spend a couple of vacations in the highlands, and to send home \$350 to be banked, \$100 of which was in the liberty bond I bought in Tapachula. Have you rec'd this bond yet?

Looking back on the Mexican trip, now that it is all over and the work closed up, I feel that it will always be a source of immense satisfaction to me.

As to the work I was able to do down there, it was not very exciting and the Germans never attempted anything which gave us a thrilling time, but of course we never knew when they were going to try something and were always on the qui vive. I find that the folks here in the Office are all wise to the thing, and it appears to have leaked out and around the BPI a bit, but not as much as I had expected; and I am not talking about it here. My reason is a good one; I am going back that way and if it should follow after me, as it might, that I had been down there on that sort of work, it might go against me in attempting to explore Costa Rica and other countries for huacates. For this reason I am going to keep quiet here and let the whole thing die out just as soon as it wants to. You, on your part, had best not talk it about generally, but if there are a few people who are particularly interested and you think they ought to know that I was really not trying to keep out

of the war by going to Mexico, put em wise. But if it was talk ed around very much, and Mrs Hotchkiss got onto it, for example, she might go down to Mexico City and tell all my friends there, who at present are blissfully ignorant. Furthermore, I am planning to stay in the service as a volunteer, without pay, and get snything I can when I go abroad again. So dont tell Ruby or any people of that ilk all you know, but I should think in a case like that of the Bartons, with proper precautions, you might let them know that I wasnt travelling in Mexico for my health.

Paul and I are looking forward to some might good times here. There is lots of activity socially in Washn now, apparently, and dancing is uite in vogue again. The Roses have two daughters, one of them very interesting and attractive, as far as we can judge up to the present, and there are plenty of other girls about. I suppose we will have to trot Kitty B out once in a while, for her mother's sake.

It seems good to be among the "boys" again and talk shop with folks that know what they are talking about. I have seen most of my old friends already, but still have a few to look up.

Recd letter from FOP on arrival, and have had another full of enclosures since. Hope you are all getting in good shape again. I dont believe I am going to get sick here as the weather is mild now and I will have time to get hardened up before the severe cold strikes us. Paul looks well, tho Mrs B says she thinks he has grown several years older since she last saw him. I hear frequent half-smothered comments on my mustache but am still bravely retaining it. Probably I will get disgusted one of these days and shave it off. It depends upon whether or not the girls object to it. Kitty doesnt look very well, by the way.

No more today.

Happily yours

W

Washn, Saturday Jan 25 I guess [1919?]

Dear Folks:

Still a pretty busy man, yo, but I have a few more words to add to what I said yesterday, and I have to acknowledge your letters read [this p m, and written just after you got my nightletter from H O.

Sorry to hear you are still having some trouble with the flu. I will not come to Calif until it has run itself out. By the way, I am told here that it is understood I am to make a trip to Calif later on, after coming back from Fla, to look over the ground the sets of Guatemalans are to be planted on, preparatory to sending out the sets to the various experimenters. This may or may not be true. I think probably it will work out, however.

I have just read the plate proof on the avocado bulletin. It is in pretty good shape, but the bulletin does not impress me as so interesting a document as the paper published in Calif last yr. It is too dry, regular Govt style. By the way, I want you to send me, by express collect to 329 Homer Bldg, 15th and F, Washington DC, a box containing the following:

50 copies my Guatemalan paper, 45 Colt's revolver, with any cartridges for it H took out there, field microscope in leather case, and anything else I left out there, if there is anything. Didnt I leave a silk muffler there? If so, and FOP is using it, dont send it back, but if he is not using it I can use it here.

I expect Paul back tomorrow morning, without fail. We

will probably have a delightful day together tomorrow, and take tea at the Brownes in the evening. I tell you, it is going to be a big treat to me to be with Paul here for a while.

Last night I went home with Chas and he set me up a swell dinner, cooked in his own rooms; broiled spanish mackerel, sweet potatos, and muffins. That boy is a better cook than Paul or myself. His room is now so full of accumulated auction sales products that it is hard to find a place to sit down? He only has 6 rifles, I think; says he needs one or two other models to complete the collection.

Incidentally, I am learning why Herb could not call on the Gates, Saffords, Brownes or anybody else after I left last yr; he was busy hanging around the Gaiety theatre with Johnny Graf, queening little Mary Redman with Chas et al, and driving around town in the Overland wh belongs to one of the ladies (?) now in our apt.

Herb, you cant keep anything from the Secret Service!

About my Mexican trip, there really isnt very much to tell, and I will wait until I get home and answer your questions.

I am going to dine tonight, with Dr Schaus, a butterfly man with whom I traveled a bit in Guatemala, as you may remember. He is now here working up his material in the museum.

I believe we are going to like it very much out at the Roses. Mrs Rose seems particularly nice, also her younger daughter.

Lots of love from

Copy to F. O. P
for his information

Washington, January 26, 1919.

Dr H J Webber, Director
Citrus Experiment Station,
Riverside, California.

Dear Dr Webber:

My father mentions in a recent letter that the much-delayed meeting of the California Avocado Association is likely to come off some time in February.

In looking over the "Preliminary Report on the Avocados of Mexico" which I sent you last fall to be presented at this meeting, I do not find anything in it which later observations would change, and I believe it would be a good plan to go ahead and present this paper as we have intended, and then let me prepare the paper on Atlixco for the next meeting, whenever that may be.

The two principal regions in Mexico in which California avocado growers are interested are Queretaro and Atlixco. These are in addition the two most important avocado regions in the republic. The Preliminary Report referred to contains all of the observations made at Queretaro, and the Atlixco paper will contain the observations made at this point. I will work into the Atlixco paper any other items of interest made after I wrote the first paper, also, so that the two will cover all of the observations made in Mexico, insofar as they would be of interest to avocado growers in general. The Atlixco paper will probably make at least 35 or 40 pages of MS and I have plenty of photographs to illustrate it with. I am going to write it within the next few weeks.

I do not know how you now feel regarding the publication of a bulletin on the avocado in Mexico. That is, a separate bulletin, to cover the field in general. It will naturally have to include much of the material in these two papers for the Avocado Association, but it can be rounded off a little better and better arranged. If you want to publish such a bulletin (it would not need to be a lengthy one) I would be glad to prepare it; if you do not think it will be easy to arrange for its publication, I will hold the material on classification and any other material which is not included in the two papers for the Association (there is not a great deal of it) and use it next year when I prepare a general bulletin on the avocado which I hope to write after I make my next trip.

I believe I wrote you from New Orleans asking if you would be good enough to forward me the herbarium material I sent up from Mexico. If this has not yet come forward, it should be addressed to 329 Homer Bldg, Washington, altho it will undoubtedly reach me if sent simply to the Bureau, in care of Dr Fairchild.

Yours very sincerely,

1812 Clivert st., Wn, Sunday
morning, Feb. 2, 1919,

Dear Folks:

This typewriter isn't what it should be, thanks to somebody (was that somebody you? as the poet says) but its better than nothing, and hereafter I may be able to get a letter to you occasionally.

Roswell Johnson was in town yesterday and I lunched with him. He thinks the book is going to come long all right, and told me of a number of reviews that were soon to appear. He is making lots of money out of the oil and gas business.

H, I found yesterday that my psychological friend Capt. Patterson is living across the st. with the Bryans. He got his discharge from the army yesterday and is going to Philada to join Walter Hill Scott and other good men in a company to do for industrial plants what the com. on personnel and classification did for the rmy. I understand that Scott is going to give his entire time to this, and has practically taken over to it the old army Committee, with a million dollars worth of W.D. free adv back of it.

You are certainly making a mighty good start at Whittier, H, and I expect soon to see you established as a regular psychologist

After considerable uncertainty about our work, Percy Baker has decided that it had better go on at full speed until July 1, when the appropriations run out. There seemed for a time to be a chance that it would be broken up right away. After June the work is likely to be distributed around among other agencies, I think, and it will be optional with us whether to stay in the service or get out. This is mostly a guess, however. The overseas crowd is still here and more and more dubious about getting across. If they stay on this side, the chiefs will probably constitute a traveling squad of trouble shooters, and won't disturb my hold on the ops. I have organized it so the administrative work is fairly light, and altho I have to kill a good deal of time in "conferences" I am not working hard.

Friday night we dined at the Shoreham with Paul Hudson et ux, and talked about Mex. They wouldn't agree to bring Katherine down here, however, as she is helping Jo with her dramatic attempts in N.Y.

Last night we dined with Wilson's family and had a good big feed.

We don't get up until 7:45 or a quarter to 8 nowadays, and then walk down town and grab bkfst (at the Cosmos club, so far), hence to our respective ops, where we see we are not over-
going at all.

Raymond Fuller is under the weather toly and it

looks as if I would have to take his SS class for him; wh will be pr tty tough on the class.

We are going to send that searape off tomorrow, together with the gun for H (sh-h-h-h).

We hope soon to hear that you are all on your feet again, but this flu is notoriously slow convalescence, and neither one of you was up to par when it started, so you mustn't be at all worried if it takes a month or two for you to come around,

Send this to H, as we have no carbon out here. Now I'll go and take abath, and let W tickle the celluloids for a while.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Please ship me six dozen brown liquor jugs. If I had knowed all the time, as C Sands would have done, that this machine was going to work so hard when I got thru paying for repairs I would have kept my \$6.20 in my pocket, added about \$14 to it, and bought a real typewriter. However, now that the money is invested in this one we will have to use it at least \$6.20 worth.

I have not doubt Paul has told you all the news already. He has now gone back to bed, pending the disoccupation of the bath room. Raymond has upset the household order by coming down with a bronchial cold.

Yesterday I spent the day out at the BPI. Had a long talk with Safford, and lunched with him at the mess, where he, Coville, Scofield, Kearney, Collins and a few others daily put down a big bowl of bread and milk apiece. I had a long talk with Doc Galloway re avocado work. He is of the opinion that we ought to stop with the foreign work for about a yr and organize some experimental work with the material we have already introduced into this country. He says one of our mistakes in the SPI has been that we have kept right on introducing new stuff and dumping it into gardens in this country and then forgetting about it, with the result that we now have plenty of material on hand to give some fine results if it is worked into shape. I believe he is right, but I suspect DF will want to see the foreign work go on and will send me out by the end of the year. I would just as lief spend a year in the states now, were it not for the danger of falling in love and wanting to get married. I guess DF realises that langer as well as anyone and will consequently see that I get back into the field at the proper moment.

They have a fine lot of young trees of my Guatemalan introductions down in the greenhouses, and are going to send them out before long. Galloway and Goucher is a good combination. Goucher is the best propagator we have now. Yarrow has gone to seed pretty badly. Rankin is leaving, and they are bringing M Brown and D Cronin to Brooksville to take charge of it and put it in shape. Dave Bisset has gone to Brooksville with his wife to take charge there. It will give Dave a chance to show whether he has any steam in him or not. These

gardens of ours show up a fellow pretty well; if he is slovenly the gardens soon get in dirty condition, just as Brooksville was when Morrow went there from Chico, and as I am told by Dr Galloway Miami is today, the Dr says he is afraid Simmonds has been in Florida too long. He seems to be getting pretty careless and to have lost all idea of system and organization. I suppose he will stay on the job indefinitely but a change some time would probably be for the good of the service. However, you know how hard it is to effect a change in this organization.

I have heard from Col Hasbrouck, now in command of Ft Monroe, Virginia, urging me to come down there over the week end. He wanted me to come today but I wired him I could not come until next week. Will go down on the boat Paul used to take for Newport News, and spend Sunday and Monday there. It will give me a taste of high life in the army, and I will be very glad to see him again.

Bailey writes me that I should go ahead with the book now; that if it were ready just now he could not take it, as conditions are bad, but he thinks by the time I have it in shape, say by the end of the year, he can go ahead with it. I shall attempt to work it up before I go abroad again.

Paul remarked this morning that he had felt better this past week than at any time during the past year. I guess he likes to get a little sleep once in a while just as well as anybody, and doubtless the stimulus of a little good Wash society is just as agreeable to him as it is to me. I am glad he is back here again.

We had a fine big feed at Brownes last night. I would feel safer in going out there often if there wasnt a nubile daughter in the family, and if it wasnt so evident that ma B has designs on me. It certainly is a homelike place to spend an evening, and the food remains at the high standard which characterised it last year. Kitty is a good girl but hasnt quite enough steam.

Paul has been smoking out girls who might serve as dancing partners. We now have three or four in sight, and hope to go down to a cabaret some night early this week. We are keen on doing a bit of dancing once more.

I have been living high while my ten days' guest privilege held out at the Cosmos Club, but it expired yesterday and from now on I suppose I will have to eat in more plebeian surroundings. After I get my book in print I am going to get in to that Club if I can.

Going to start my Atlixco paper this morning. I cant do any work on it at the Of's so shall spend my mornings at home for the next few days, until I finish it. The Of's is no place to do anything except talk.

Washington, Monday eve, Feb 3 1919

Dear Folks:

The official day is over, and I am killing time until 6 p m, when I meet Paul and eat a good dinner with him previous to stepping out on a heavy date, i. e., we are taking the two Rose girls, -bless their hearts!- to the Powhatan for dancing this evening. By George, but I am having an elegant time. Every time I step out on F street I swell up full of washington air and say "Aint Washington a great place?" I used to appreciate it plenty in the old days, but never like I have since I came back from Mejico.

Received two letters from you folks today, also pkg of my calling cards, wh I am mighty glad to have. In return, I mailed you today by insured parcel post the zarape I picked out for MBP. Enclosed in it is the Ivory Johnson Herb asked for. Pls give it to him. I have a few other things from Mejico for you, but could not send them in this pkg. They are not of much importance anyway. Probably I will bring them when I come out. Since the avocad~~o~~ mtg is not to be held until May it is quite possible I may ~~be~~ able to get out there for it. I would like to do so. I began yesterday on my Atlixco paper, and believe it is going to make a good one. There is no hurry about publishing it, so I will just finish it and turn it over to Webber to stick into the Report when he

gets a chance. I am staying home mornings this week in order to write this paper; cant do any real work down here at the Ofcs.

No, father, dont send me the copy of the 1917 Report of the Avocado Assn, as I have filched one here from the stock which was sent DF by somebody out there. He seems to have five or six on hand yet, and quite a few of my separates. of wh I have filched three.

In re my liberty bond, it was to be sent by mail to me at Altadena, and not to go to the bank. It was to be a registered bond, wh means I should think that it would have my name on it. If no bond has come to me at Altadena then I will start an investigation one of these days, tho there is no great rush about it. Those things take a long time down in Mejico. I have only purchased one such bond, so if you have recd one addressed to me at Altadena, it is this one.

Re Ins, I already have policies in the NW Mutual and Natl Life, so I guess I will take out my new policy in some one of the other companies you recommend, will look intonthematter as soon as I get a chanst.

Yesterday morning we met Dick Groves on the street and had a few minutes chat with him. He knows our location now and will be up here nearly every Sunday, so we shall probably see him once in a while. He is not nearly so dark nor so handsome as he was several years ago.

Yesterday Paul and I ate dinner with the Roses, Mrs and the two girls, the Doc having gone to NY. They put

In re my Mexican work, I havent been told officially that my lips are unsealed, but I suppose no oath can hold good after you go out of the service. However, I do not talk the matter with people in general, as I do not care to have it follow me to any countries I may visit in the future. But I dont see any objection to your saying a few words as you have to the people you mention, and any others you want to confide in. I dont think of anybody outside of those you mention.

It is decided that Paul is to marry Martha Rose.

The only things yet remaining to be done are to tell Martha about it and purchase the license.

I am still clinging to my mustachio like grim death to a sick nigger. Oftentimes I think of cutting it off, but always decide to leave it one more day . i suppose Daisy Bell's verdict will settle the matter one way or another.

I doubt, by the way, if I leave here before the end of this month. I am in no great hurry, of course, and things move pretty slowly unless you push em. We havent heard from DF yet. Guess he is blowing up a tire somewhere on the road between Jax and Miami.

Yassir, I guess a job by the Govt is about the right thing for me. No financial worries, beyond those connected with keeping a small balance in the bank, and enough travel to keep me feeling good. And now that I am getting \$2520 I feel that I am rated as a man of science, and no longer forced to associate with Mrs Clime and others

of her stamp.

We are glad Herb is having such a good time. It looks as tho he was in just the right thing.

We called on the Saffords last night. It looks as tho the wimmen folks out there have decided that we are not of the marrying kind, and are giving up hope of finding any helps meet for us. They used to take a good deal of interest in our matrimonial futures. Saf told me at length how the chief said to him "Germans take all good Samoa land; bime by all Samoa German", and also that the words axacaquahuixotl and macpalxochitl really are not derived from the same root.

Mother, as to Kitty B, I think, as previously advised, that Ma is still earnestly hoping for a Popenoe son in law, but I dont know exactly waht to Make of Kitty; in any event, there is nothing doing. She may have other interests, but it looks as tho she is just natcherally infifferent.

No, dont return my Guatemalan blanket; whaffor I want it here when we still have 3 fine zarapes? You better hang onto it; you may not get any more.

Unfortunate that Kitty Kaiser isnt coming down here, isnt it? I fear there is not much hope of our getting up there to see her.

Awfully sorry to hear about Dorcas Holcomb.

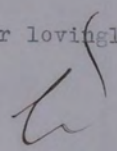
It looks to me as tho it has been a good thing in many ways for me to be outn the Ofs for a year. Apparently there was a considerable feeling here that I was not

going to come back, and natcherally, when you think you cant have a thing you want it a whole lot more. Now that they know I intend to stay here permanently they seem to feel pretty good about it, and even P H D, who never used to say very much, now tells me how he remembers the day we met at the Maryland in Pasadena, and I told him of my plans, and how I have carried em out, and made good. Of course they will all be expecting that my raise will swell my head a trifle but I dont intend to give em any occasion for accusing me openly of it. In any event, it is patent that I am now looked upon here as a qualified explorer, one who has served his apprenticeship, and from now on I shall expect to have the rights and privileges appertaining to said office.

I sort of like this business of lying in bed late in the morning, and coming down to work after every body else has come. It makes a feller feel sort of independent. I guess Paul likes it too, for we usually have a pretty hard time in the morning to see who will get up first.

The Roese are mighty good people, and very enjoyable to be with. Little Martha can play the piano, too. Think of that.

Ever lovingly,



Feb 5 1919

Dear Folks:

The old saying about nothing new under the sun doesnt hold good here. I can always scare up something to serve as the excuse for a letter, even tho it is nothing more than the news that I have just recd another communication from E Rolfs.

I went to the mtg of the Botanical Society last night and had a bully time, shaking hands with all the old timers. Filled up on grape juice lemonade and got home at 10.45 to find Paul already in bed. This morning I got up and went to work on my bulletin, while Paul came on down town as usual. About 9 I dropped down to have a word with Dr Rose and Mrs R insisted on my taking a cup of coffee, and after I had this and some toast I took a bit of ham and a baked potato, so all told I made out pretty well. I think Mrs R is almost as nice as Ma Browne. I seized the opportunity to tell her Paul and I were greatly enjoying our room, and she returned the compliment by saying that they were enjoying having us there, and so on. I tell you, that daughter Martha is a pretty fine proposition. I dont know that I have written you since Paul and I took Martha and Becky to the Powhatan to dance. Martha dances divinely, Becky scarcely at all; we have decided it is up to us to put some life into Beaky? (she is getting to be an old maid tho not over 24 I suppose) and we are going to take the girls out once a week as long as I am here, wh wont be very long.

DF has wired for me to come down to Fla as soon as possible

and I reckon I will leave here in about two weeks. I am in no

great hurry to go, as I am having altogether too good a time here to want to leave it. However, I would probably fall in love with somebody if I stayed here more than a month, so I suppose on the whole the best thing is for me to start for Miami.

Folks over in Military Intelligence, Paul Hudson's bunch, have asked me to come over there for a few days and give em everything I know about Mexico. I am going to spend my afternoons there the rest of the week.

This morning recd letter from FOP saying he was sending pkg by express. Will be glad to get it. Hope you didnt send the Guatemalan blanket, as we have no use for it whatever. The dress clothes will come in mighty handy.

When I can get at my books in the Apartment I will see if I can find a recipe for guava jelly that will help your friend any. The variety you have out there is just the same one they have in the tropics, so I should think it ought to make the same jelly if properly manipulated.

Ma Browne asked us to escort her daughter and herself to a dance at the Congressional Club tonight, and we are going. Ought to be a pretty select affair, wh is what I like.

Washington, Feb 10 1919

Dear Folks: --

I'm just back two hrs ago, on the Norfolk boat, from two days at Fort Monroe with the Colonel. Went down Sat night, getting there at 7 Sunday. The Col met me, and we had a good long talk after a hearty bkfst. Then we took a look all thru the fort and examined the various batteries and the captive balloon and lots of other things. Another walk in the p.m. to see guard mount, and in the evening to a concert at the Hotel Chamberlin, Old Point Comfort. Yesterday, Monday, he put in the whole day teaching me how to make military route surveys with a compass and plane table. I learned a lot, and now with a book wh I am going to get will be able to get the thing in hand so I can make good road maps and that sort of thing.

The Colonel is not the man he once was, and I was rather surprised to find him still unable to use his left arm freely, and with the left side of his face partly paralysed. He feels very keenly that he is a back number; says that he will never be able to keep up with the other men of his class and must eventually lose out entirely. He speaks of the armistice as having "spoiled" the war, because it came before he had a chance to get over to France.

It was altogether a very pleasant trip, tho pretty cold work yesterday working out on the road. The Col's little nephew Terry is with them now, aetat 6, and we had some good times together. He is a very bright little chap and fond of plants. He said he was going up to the farm in Connecticut pretty soon;

"Oh, I can go out and play in the brook, and get wet and rip my clothes" he replied with gusto. The world may change and all be strange, but boys will still be boys,--I hope.

2nd instalment:

Had to stop this suddenly and will finish it up now before I go down to the War Dept for the afternoon,--a short one, however, as Paul tells me we are invited to dine out at Natl Park Seminary with the two young ladies that Safford knows, and afterward dance there. We have never seen the girls but assume they must be okeh, since they are Saf's friends. Saf took me off in the corner the other day and told me the girls were afraid that we, being scientists, would talk science to them and shoot over their heads, so of course I assured him that we wouldnt mention biological subjects at all.

Paul seems to have had a quiet time while I have been away. Guess he was waiting for me to come back so as to begin again with renewed energy. He tells me there is a costume ball at the Willard Friday evening, and I must go, wearing my Mexican Mule Driver's official costume. I am going to rig up some girl in a Guatemalan huipil and skirt, too; we havent decided yet who it shall be. I am dying to take Martha, but we havent settled the matter yet.

Found MBP's letter of Feb 4 here upon return this morning. Glad to know she is getting out again. We are also glad to know Herb is doing well, just as we always knew he would.

I have been asked to talk before the Botanical Soc of Washn on Guatemala, Mch 4, but have had to refuse as I plan to start for Fla the 20th. I am going direct to Miami.

I feel reasonably certain that I am going to get a trip to Calif in May. It will rush me a bit to get started that early, as I wont get back from Fla until after the middle of April, but I guess I can make it. I suppose they can postpone

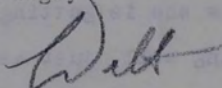
the avocado mtg until the first of June if I am not there in May, cant they?

My dress suit seems to be coming out allright. It isnt quite finished yet. The tailor seemed to be rather doubtful at first as to whether he could make it fit me perfectly, but he seems now to think it is oksh. He is a high class tailor and will do me a good job I believe.

Mrs Rose put a nice plate of home made gingerenaps in our room last night. I guess I will sort of hate to leave there and go back to our apartment. Maybe I wont have to. We wont make any move until later in the spring when Paul knows what he is going to do. If he drops out of the Army in June and takes a job somewhere else we probably will let the apartment go, store most of the stuff, and I will get a room for the short time I am in town. Unless Paul's breaks Martha's heart like he did Anna Cooper's I reckon I could get in at the Rose's almost any time. It certainly is delightful there.

By George, but the days pass quickly, and I dont get anything done either.

Lovingly



1812 Calvert St

February 14 1919

Dear Folks:

While I am waiting for Paul to dress I will dash off a few lines to you. I have not written for two or three days, contrary to my usual custom and my intentions. Same old story,--I have been very much occupied.

Lemme see; what do I know that will interest you.

The Of's is very hard up, according to Dorsett (it always was) and travel authorizations for himself, Jones and me are being held up until they scare up some money. I have planned to get away on the 20th, and shall probably do so, but if I have to delay a little more I wont be heartbroken. It will give me more time to dance.

Speaking about dancing, we took the Rose girls to the Powhatan last night. It was a drizzly evening, so we had a Taxi, and the crowd was not very large so the floor was better than usual. We got there for the first dance and did not leave until after the last one, according to our usual custom.

Those girls like to dance allright, and so do we. They are about as good company as you can find anywhere. Its pretty hard on Kitty Browne, but as Paul says, there's no use raising false hopes in the breast of mother B. Guess I will take Kitty to a The Dansant tomorrow afternoon at the Willard. I havent done a thing for her since I got home, except to eat a meal at the expense of the Browne family. I shall probably eat

here over Sunday. Mrs Rose has taken compassion on me and has invited me to take Sunday dinner with them. I will probably go to the Mt Pleasant Congl Church in the morning, to see if Herb Austin's brother in law can still preach a sermon.

Col Hasbrouck had been wondering why I scooted off to Mexico after I had made so much talk about getting into the war. And as he is a man who believes every able bodied male citizen between the ages of 18 and 45 should be under arms, I suppose he thought I was a slacker. So I explained to him what

I had been doing, and he expressed himself as believing that I could not have gone into any branch of the service where I would have been more useful than in the one I was in. It pleased me to feel that he thought I had made the most of my opportunities. It is pretty well known among the Dept crowd here that I didn't go to Mexico for my health, and occasionally I am kidded a bit, or asked a few leading questions. Some times I act very innocent, others I go on the assumption that the nature of my work is known, but I dont say much. For th sake of avoiding the reputation of having been a slacker during the war I would just as lie that my colleagues understood the matter.

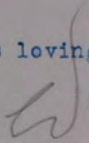
I am still working every afternoon at Military Intelligence. I hope to finish tomorrow. Yesterday Capt Huntington, in charge of the section in which I work, took me out to lunch, along with his wife and Capt something-or-othersky of the Russian navy. Huntington is a big man, of Yale, author of the work "Civilization and Climate", wh Herb knows all about. I am making a few good contacts down in M I D.

of these for our files at SPI, and the other two I will use to make up two albums containing a set each. These views include 60 from Atlixco and 35 from Queretaro, all avocados practically (or material related to the avocado industry) and the rest of the stuff is general horticultural. I think I will present one of the albums to Dr Webber, and the other I will keep for my own use, but believe I will leave it with you for the next year or so. I wont be able to get these albums ready until I come back from Fla, tho the prints are made. I believe they will make very interesting collections.

I get a good deal of satisfaction out of going down to the greenhouses and looking over my Guatemalan avocados. There is one long house entirely filled with budded plants, another half full. As I stand and look at them, I feel that here are tangible results, something better than an account of Guatemalan avocado culture and a lot of herbarium specimens.

Well, we will go down to the Of's now and I will mail this there.

Always lovingly,



Feb 14 1919

Dear Father:

I believe it would be worthwhile to make the Atlixco paper complete by listing all the introductions made from that region into Calif, as I may have written you before. On looking over my lists here I find that in addition to the ones Carl sent over, Roberto Johnson sent the following:

Popocatepetl; Volcan (formerly Ixtaccihuatl); Modesto; Carmen; Angela (perhaps not from Atlixco); Blandina; Lucia; Victoria.

I dont know how many of these are growing in California.

I believe perhaps the best thing for me to do is to work up the Atlixco material I have here, and then wait until I come to California to check up on the above and any other varieties from Atlixco wh may be growing in California. If I make this paper on Atlixco complete it will be a historical document of value, as well as having interest at present because of its description and photos of the Atlixco region. I am in no great hurry to get it published, as I consider it gilt-edge stuff wh no one can take out of my hands. No danger of any other horticulturist making a trip to Atlixco this year.

The ms covering my work in Atlixco itself will make about 30 pp; another 15 on the introductions into Calif will bring it up to 50 pp, with 25 fotos. This will make a respectable bulletin, and one wh the Avocado Assn ought to be glad to have.

How does the proposition strike you?

W

1812 Calvert St,

Sunday morning, Feb 16 1919

Dear Folks:

Pablo went up to New York Friday evening, and I feel more lonesome that when I got off in the boat at Puerto Angel and plunged into the Oaxaca mountains. I reckon he will be back here in the morning, and we will meet after work in the evening. I came home after supper last night and sat in the room and read until 8.30, at which hour I turned in to make up for time lost during the past week, and to lay up a little sleep for the coming one. I want to dance a couple of times more before I start for Miami. The latter event will probably exentuate on Friday or Saturday of this week. I ought to be in Miami by the 23nd, so you can figure it out and adress a few letters to me at the Plant Introduction Garden. I do not suppose I will stay in Miami more than 3 weeks, as I have a lot of visits to make elsewhere in the state. I am to look over the ground selected by experiments for our collection of Guatemalan avocados, and it is going to be quite a little job. I wont object to seeing the good old state of Florida again, especially the southern portion, but I rather dislike to leave Washington just at this time. Paul says there is a slight possibility of his going to France in a month or two, and of course by the end of June he may leave Washington for good, tho I think it doubtful. Anyhow, it is a long time since we have been together and I dont know

just when it may happen again. But if I stayed here I would be

almost certain to fall in love desperately in love with somebody that

I would be in danger of breaking my contract, so the best thing for me is to keep moving. Yes sir, keep moving; that's me all over.

Effie has it all figured out to come down to Gainesville when I strike that town, I reckon, but maybe I will just blow in there sudden like, and get out of the place before they have time to advise her and she can come down from Tally. Effie is a good girl, and will be a great help to her father.

We think Herb is doing splendidly down at Whittier, and that he has an opportunity to get just exactly what he wants there. Dont believe he could get better training anywhere. Go at em with hammer and tongs, Herb, and dont take any wooden money. We'll back you.

I tried to get Kitty Browne to go to a tea dance yesterday afternoon, but she was booked for a tea somewhere and her mother wouldnt let her break it. Guess I may take her down to the Powhatan tomorrow night. I havent done a thing for her since I got home. We have been decidedly negligent out there, but Paul says we cant afford to raise any false hopes, and must let them see that we are not in the market. I suppose he is right. It is rather an unfortunate position, considering how much we like the Brownes and how often we would like to go out there, but Kitty is looking for a real nice, real nice man, and we dont want to stand in her way. I hope she gets one, for she is a mighty nice girl, and a capable one. Maybe after she was married she would develop a little more emotion, but just at present she hasnt any more than a cigar store Indian. Too bad. I was going to go out there and call tonight,--told Kitty yesterday that I would,--but Mrs B just called up and said for me to come early and make supper with them, so I will advance the

hour of my visit a trifle. The Roses said the other day that I was to take dinner with them today, so I suppose it will eventuate allright, and that I will spend the afternoon with Rebecca and Martha, singing or something of that sort. They are a pair of mighty enjoyable girls. Rebecca is 26 and Martha 23, official figures obtained at the last dance. Rebecca is pretty sedate and serious, Martha to the contrary,--just full of ebullient spirits, as Rito would say, and always singing or joshing somebody. She is a bit coy, but would, I presume, listen to reason. I thought it was a go, for Paul, but as usual he doesnt seem to be warming up to the race quite so much as he ought. That boy is pretty hard to suit. The spirit is willing, avowedly, but somehow or other he always finds an obstacle in the way. Well, I dont know as I would do differently myself. I have never yet met one that exactly suited me. Perhaps I never will, though DF says, you know, that I can have absolutely anything I want if I will just wait a while. I dont feel so darned sure about it. One thing in particular I would like to do, and that is to marry the daughter of some good botanist, so as to insure that little Paul and little Frederic would have the best possible chance to possess decided botanical leanings. You know in those famous European families of botanists, such as the De Cancellies and the Vilmorins, they pass it down from father to son even unto the third and fourth generation.

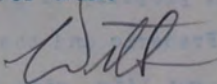
In order properly to protect Mrs. Popenoe and little Paul and little Frederic and the others, I yesterday made application for \$5000 20-yr life, with disability provision, to the Mass Mutual Life Ins CO. The agent was not dead sure that they would issue the policy, because of the nature of my occupation, wh takes me into the tropics, but he thinks they will, and I havent

much doubt of it myself. This will give me \$10,000 20-pmt life, my accident policy in the ICMA, and the disability policy which goes with the Mass Mutual 20 pmt life for \$1.49 extra per \$1000 annually, and which provides, in case of total disability before the age of 60, that the company waives the premiums still due on your life ins and in addition gives you an annuity up to the age of 60 of 10% of the face of the policy, without lessening in any way the final value of the policy.

I got the silk muffler alright. Guess I didnt mention it the day it arrived. I am glad to have it, tho I have not needed to wear it very much lately. The weather has been ideal ever since I arrived. I will get back here again about April 20, when danger from cold weather ought to be past.

As planned at present, I will stay here 3 or 4 weeks after coming back from Fla, and then go to California for two months or perhaps a trifle more. I want to get started for Costa Rica by Oct 1st at the latest, and will need 2 or 3 months here to get ready for the trip, so my time is going to be filled up and dont you forget it. I would like to stay right here until I start abroad again if it were not for the fact that you folks are in Calif. I seem to be less anxious to start out again than after past trips. Maybe the Wanderlust is gradually being killed out of my blood. If not, a few more trips like the Mexican one would exterminate the last remaining parasite. Yes sir.

Ever thine



Washington, Feb 19 1919

Dear Folks:

Paul just now walked out the door of our room (where I am writing this) and I am settling down to a couple of hrs on my Atlixco paper, wh has already reached 35 pp and will make 10 more, without the addition of the list of varieties introduced into the U S. I have simply loafed along on that paper, as I have on everything else during the month I have been in Washington. But that's just what I intended to do, as Nest Wilder said. I figure that when I come back from Florida the days will be longer, the dancing season will be over, and I can begin work earlier in the morning. I hope then to put in the first few hrs of every day on that famous book, wh I simply must get whipped into shape before I go abroad again. If it wasnt that you folks are in California and I am dying to see you I would cut out the Calif trip and stick to the book, but you need not have any fears, under the circumstances, that I will do so. Guess I can find time for both; if I dont, the book will be the one to get left.

Yesterday I went out to Yarrow with Dr Galloway and Mr Bisset, stopping on the way back at Mr Bisset's house for dinner. There were only 7 of his 9 kids at home, but it made a pretty respectable table full. Dont see how he can do it on \$2800 a year. We had a magnificent meal, simply unbeatable. I like Bisset more and more as I know him better. I think he and I will always pull together as we have the same interests

But Yarrow, poor old Yarrow! It is in bad shape. They decided last yr that they ought to increase the food production of the country during the war, so they let everything at the garden go and planted 200 acres of soy beans, harvesting a crop of 1200 bushels which cost them just about twice what any farmer would have grown them for on contract. The greenhouses and all the plants they contained have been terribly neglected, and there isn't much out there now but my avocados. One immense house is entirely filled with avocados, and the other partly filled with them. As a matter of fact, I think that more than half the stuff in Yarrow and the greenhouses here in Washn is at present avocados, my avocados, so I feel that I have been able to help a good deal in keeping the supply of plant material from running out during the bad times incident to the war. I tell you it does me good to see these houses filled with me stuff. Maybe I have said that before.

They have a fine stock of budded plants of many of my avocados, others are still short, but they have 4500 seedlings yet to be budded at Yarrow (they are cutting them back and bringing out new sprouts to bud on) and will be able to work up a stock this summer. Galloway says they can just as well send out quite a few more sets including about 10 numbers, and has asked me to get names of several people in Calif and Fla who would like a set. If you know anybody who would be particularly suitable and would like to be in on this, let me ~~xx~~ ^{know} and I will take it up with Dr Galloway and Mr Bisset. I expect to pick out several people in Fla, and will do the same in Calif when I get out there.

Cock's palm as I call it. They have been badly mistreated, but will stand almost anything, and practically all of them are alive. Many of them have made good growth and would now be fine for house decoration. Bisset has decided, however, not to send them out until next year. I told him I wanted him to send out a couple of dozen for me on my personal account and he said he would do it. I want you folks to have a dozen for yourself and a few friends, and I want a few for friends here. After looking them over yesterday and seeing how easy it is to ship them up here and get them thru alive, I decided that when I get down in Guatemala next fall I am going to stay a week at Chejel and send up 5000 more. I believe we can make a 10-strike with them. If we send them out widely people will begin to wake up to them, and lots of requests will come in. It is almost impossible to get seed in any quantity, so the best thing is to send up a lot of young plants. I didn't believe they would stand the trip when I pulled and packed them at Chejel, but it seems that they have lots of vitality.

Bisset told me some more about the Office plans for me. Probably I will get further particulars from DF when I get down to Miami (I have a ticket for Friday evening, thr 21st) but I will say now that % B they talked things over and agreed that I was to be broken in gradually as DF's assistant, so that he could let go of lots of the heavy work. They want to have me make this next trip to Costa Rica, and perhaps after that spend a yr here, working right alongside of DF himself, to get hold of the work. I might then, if DF is still able to hold on, make a trip to Europe and the Orient, and then come back

how long DF wants to hang on. Bisset says he feels pretty sure

DF would like to let go at almost any time, and will not be connected with the Of's as much as five years longer. The idea seems to be, however, that they will break me in to DF's work, put me in as his asst, and then let things run along that way for some time, with DF at the head nominally but not actually coming down to the Of's or doing much work. This would suit me first rate. I would not like to ~~xx~~ be installed as Agrl Explr in Chg until I was quite a little past 30 in age; if they put me in as DF's asst at 28, say, and leave things that way 3 to 5 yrs, wh probably they will do, it will suit me. I will always be glad to work under DF.

Paul and I are taking the two Rose girls to the Powhatan to dance tonight; tomorrow night I take Kitty Browne and he takes some other girl to the same place. He has recovered this morning from his sleepless trip to N Y, and I have made up for lost time and feel that I can stand two nights more of it before I leave, as I can sleep all the way to Miami. On arising this morning and being questioned as usual, Paul avows his intention of marrying either Martha R or Kitty Davis. The latter is a dark horse to you, and you neednt become inquisitive about her yet. I will let you know if there are any developments. From my point of view, Martha is a winner, and simply too fine a girl to let pass by. However, Paul is pretty hard to suit, as you perhaps are aware, and there is no telling what he may do. The most probable thing~~s~~ is that he wont do anything.

Must get to work. Stacks of love from

Wilt

Feb 19

[19198]

Dear Folks:

I wrote you a long letter on this machine about 10
hrs ago, but Paul says he is writing so I will just add a few
lines to kill time, while I am waiting for a bawth. We are
about to step out for a dance.

I got my dress suit finished today, and tried it on just
now. It looks very well, and is certainly a fine piece of goods.
I asked Potbelly, my tailor, if he thought it looked thoroly
allright on me, and he replied in his dignified way "Oh yes sir,
I can assure you it will not compromise you at all, sir". Of
course any tailor hates to make over a suit, when he might just
as well make a new one for you and double his money.

Tomorrow I will pack up and get everything ready for a
start on Friday.

Finished my work down at Military Intel this afternoon. I
called on Paul Hudson last thing. He had just been up to N Y
to meet his aviator son, Donald, who comes back with the D S O
and Croix de Guerre, not to mention a red X nurse fiancée. He
is going to be married right promptly. The men I have been
working under down at M I D tell me I have given them a lot of
good information, and they urge me to come back when I return
from Fla and give em some more, but I have pretty nearly told
em everything I know.

Seems pretty quite around the Of's with Dorsett in Savanna
and DF away. Bisset is acting in chg. I dont spend more than an
hour a day down there anyway, so it doesnt matter to me very much.

they have been investigating the matter and find the Fuerte tree is 55 to 60 yrs old. The letter is in English, and I guess I will send it to you after I have answered it.

Herb, we havent located the slide ruler yet, but if I find it I will send it to you. I am going down to Willard Cts tomorrow morning to dig out a few things I need to take to Florida.

I find I can sell my Florida lot to some of our men here without difficulty. Dr Galloway would like to have it. I dont want to sell. I am going to put up a small house in the Spanish style, one story, flat roof, and patio, down there as soon as we get the new garden running, and have it for myself and friends.

I guess I will have to write to Mejico City to ask them about my \$100 Liberty Bond. Probably there has been a lot of delay with the ones ordered from down there.

I have made quite a hole in my bank account since I got back, but will accumulate a little to replace it while I am on this two months' trip.

It is firmly believed here that Meyer committed suicide in China. He left his stateroom at 11 p m and was not seen again. He was feeling blue over the war and other things.

Mail sent to me here while I am in Fla will be fwd promptly, but as previously written you can catch me at Miami for a couple of weeks.

Ever thine



Washington, Feb 26 1919

Dear Folks:

Just recd father's letter of Feb 15, with lots of news re dates etc. Thanks for the Atlixco circular. As previously written you, I will wait until I get to Calif to complete the data on Atlixco. I have pretty nearly finished writing up my material from down there. I would have it altogether done, were it not that every once in a while when I am typewriting up in my room about 10 a m Martha begins to play down stairs and I forsake my machine to go down and practice O Sole Mio or La Colondrina with her. Good thing I am going to Florida.

About two hrs ago the Bishop of South Dakota stuck his head in my door, considerably to my surprise. Said he had been looking all over town for me. It is pretty hard to locate our Ofc now, altho it is right in the business center. It is too far from the other Dept offices. I went out with him for lunch, and then talked an hour, and after supper tonight Paul and I are to go out to the Brownes to have a little visit with him before we go down town to dance with Kitty B and Marguerite Neale. I was mighty glad to see him. He says Little John is a fine boy.

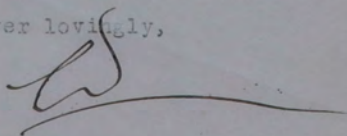
Went down to the Willard Courts this morning to get my gabardine raincoat, which was nearly new, never been used, when I went away from here. Found it among a pile of bath robes and worn out overcoats on the floor, about two inches deep in coal dust, and with several nice large holes eaten in it. It is a

total loss.

Mother, I dont know what I am going to do with that son of yours. He is one of them most recalcitrant customers I have ever met. No sooner do I get him scheduled to marry somebody than he decides,--for example--that he ought to marry a girl with scientific leanings so she will know how to educate the children properly. Or if he matters a girl with such leanings, then he decides that he should marry a very domestic creature. He is a tough case.

Tomorrow I sail for Miami, rain or shine.

Ever lovingly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W.S.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Father, I bought the zarape I sent MEP in Veracruz, and it cost thirty pesos. It is about as good a one as you can get in Mexico these days. I have a light blue one wh cost me \$35, and which I like better than the dark red, but MEP said she wanted red. I dont believe pale blue would look well at pine lodge. It will go finely at Xochimilco, however. Say, why dont you call pine lodge Ahuacatlan, and put the hieroglyphic up on the gate. That would be a name with some distinctiveness to it. Le Blanc of Atlixco writes that he got your Fuerte literature.

Washington, Feb 21 1919.

Dear Folks:

Now 5.15 and I am waiting for Paul to come in; we are to dine with the Roses at 5.45, and then I go to my train, the N Y and Fla Special, thru car to Miami, arriving Sunday morning at 9.15. When I get offn the train onto the white limestone dust, and see the Casuarinas standing up like sore thumbs, and hear the darky carriage drivers call me Cap'n, I will begin to feel as tho I was home again. That's a pretty good part of the country,--in the winter time. I suspect I will have a very enjoyable time down there. I have a good deal of work cut out, however, and want to finish it as promptly as possible so as to get back here and start my book, so I wont loaf around any.

By the way, I sent Herb today, at Altadena (not knowing his Whittier address) the slide rule that he asked for. Give it him when he shows up over in your part of the country.

We danced last evening, as usual. Took Kitty Browne and Marguerite Meale. Kitty confessed to Paul (not to me) that last summer she came pretty near to eloping with a guy. Why didnt she go ahead and do it? Kitty, if she ever gets up enough emotion to ~~want~~ want to elope, ought to aprovechar la oportunidad,--take advantage of the opportunity. She is a nice girl and all that, but I still think she hasnt lively enough emotions for a man of my temperament and disposition.

I have finished up the Atlixco paper, and find it makes just 50 pp. Maybe thats as long as the Avocado Assn will be able to stand. If you can write a history of the Atlixco varieties

and publish it separately at some other time. I want to figure things out so that I will have a good long paper in every volume of the Annual Report from now on. It is a good outlet for stuff and keeps me on the boards.

It snowed a bit this morning, but melted right away. There were a couple of inches on the ground when we first got up.

Dont suppose I will be able to write you folks as often for the next couple of months as I have recently. It will be a little harder to do so on the road. But we will see; I most always find time to send you a few lines. I have had more time here this past month than usual, due to the fact that I was not trying to hurt myself working. It has been a great life. I get a considerable amount of satisfaction out of going down to the Office at eleven oclock, when everybody else is already down there. Makes me feel sort of superior, dont you know. It isnt so cold at that time of day, either. I have been working in the room here as a rule until sometime between ten and eleven, and then going down town and getting my breakfast at twelve.

Paul says he expects to travel around a bit after I go, and I dont suppose he will engage in so much social activity here in the city as he has recently, either. It is much easier to go to dances and that sort of thing when there are two of you. When you are alone you are inclined to sit around the room and read. Well, we have certainly had a fine period of it here, and it tastes good to be in white man's society again. The Rose girls have liked the dancing business pretty well, too. They are always mighty prompt so as to get there before the first dance is played, and they never suggest coming away until after the violinist gets out his case and puts his fiddle in it.

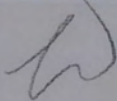
They are a good pair, particularly Martha.

This old typewriter wh we inherited from Herb isnt all it might be, but maybe if we pondid it hard enough we will get it limbered up after a while. Maybe we wont.

I just had to send Rood a check for \$100 in pmt of the 40 cent assessment on my 250 shares of Date stock. Ouch.

I started out with nothing to say, hoping to stall for time until Paul came. He hasnt shown up yet, and I can tell by the lack of sweet notes floating up from downstairs that Martha isnt in yet; but I have writ myself out and might just as well quit, maybe a little bit better. I'll look over the Atlixco paper once more before laying it aside until I come back. I can copy it off and bring it to Calif if I come out for the May meeting and want to use it.

Ever lovingly

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be a stylized 'W' or similar initials, located below the typed text.

MIAMI, Feb 24 1919

Dear Folks, carbon to PP:

After quite an enjoyable trip,--mostly sleeping,-- I arrived here yesterday morning at 10.30 and was met at the train by Dr Fairchild in person, with his Dodge. He drove me down to the Garden, where we had a look around and ate dinner with the Simmonds. It was one of those typical Simmensian dinners, of exactly the same component parts as many which I have eaten at the same table in years gone by,--roast lamb, with its coexistences and sequences. It was a good one. After dinner we went down to Coconut Grove to see Mrs F and the kids, all of whom kissed me, except Sandy of course, and all of whom, including Sandy, have grown a good deal since I last saw them. Their house is chuck a block with relatives and friends; they say several are leaving the end of this week, and they then want me to come down and stay with them for a while, which I should be glad to do. I am afraid DF needs a little more rest and quiet than he is getting just now, for he seems a bit nervous and tired.

I came up to the Lab, my old stamping ground, at night and rigged up my canvas cot in the corner room, which I appropriated, and turned in. There are seven or eight fellows working in this building now, three or four of them sleeping here. Some from Entomology, some from Orton's office, and two from the Field Museum of Chicago. The old Lab aint what it used to be. To add insult to injury, they have moved the ocean back nearly a hundred yards and we no longer have any beach of our own. Its a darn shame. However, the place has a certain air of home, to my mind, and I greatly enjoy being in it again. I spent some happy days in this old lab, and some lonesome ones. I do not mean to imply that the happy ones were necessarily the lonesome ones.

Miami has built up wonderfully in the three years that I have been away. If it continues to develop at the same rate it will be one of the finest winter resorts in the world within ten years. Coconut Grove in particular has improved wonderfully. Real estate has risen greatly in price and I find I can sell out my lot at a decided profit, if I care to do so, which I don't. Perhaps Doc Harris will sell his half of the property to Dr Galloway, which would insure me a good neighbor. I visited the place this afternoon, and found that everything I had planted was wiped out by the freeze of two winters ago, and that a cracker family had put up a very undesirable residence next to my lot, but the property they are on is too valuable for them to hold indefinitely, and as their house is a flimsy frame affair, they will almost certainly sell out within a few years and something better will go up. The section back of our place has been opened up with streets and quite a number of good little bungalows have gone up around us.

The garden has changed a great deal, though Simmonds hasn't. The latter sends his regards to F O P, and says to tell him that we are now growing yams in sand. Doesn't that stir your emotional nature to its depths, father? I find that Simmonds has decided the ground should be covered with legumes, and the whole garden is now a forest of pigeon peas. When I want to find one of my pet avocados I have to thrash around in a forest to do it. My Guatemalan avocados are attracting a great deal of attention down here and some of them look very promising. One of them is already in bearing,--now carrying its first fruit.

Paul, my lad, your suits for breach of promise have all gone up in thin smoke. Thyra is engaged. Dot is in Baltimore, doing war work. Yvonne is still here, and I shall have to call some day, but there is no danger from that source. Ruth is happily married. And Lucia, poor girl, has come down here

from Connecticut a chronic invalid, and is considered to be in serious condition. I would not go to see her were she well, but since she is so ill I shall do so, tho I do not feel sure she will receive me after the last letter I wrote her. I learn now that she was trying hard to land a young millionaire who lived across the street from the Harris school here. All of which interests you less than it does me.

I havent seen many of my old friends here yet, but will get around slowly. I suspect I shall spent most of my time running around with Dr Fairchild. It is pleasant work. Dr Harris I find is at Lakeland, and he writes me a long and cordial letter. I shall stop there to see him if he is still there when I go up that way next month. All his family have been down with the flu, and he brought them down here to spend the winter. I wish he had come to Miami.

I must walk in town for my supper now. It is so warm here that I hate to wear a coat. I brot down a suit of Palm Beach and shall wear it whenever I can do so; it wont do to scuff about in, as it gets dirty too quickly. It is rough work scrambling about these Miami rocks.

Paul, Mrs Fairchild sends you her love; and by the way, you remember that I brot down the big brown Oaxaca blanket, dont you? Well, I find that she needs just such a thing for the couch on her porch, and that the blueone wont harmonise with anything in the house, so I am going to give her the brown one. Nothing is too good for Mrs Fairchild. DF says he was considerably worried when the armistice was signed and I evidenced no intention to return to the States immediately; he didnt worry as long as the war lasted, so he says. He is the same old DF, and as good as they make em. I feel that he is aging considerably, however.

Ever lovingly,

Will

Miami, February 27 1919

Dear Folks:

I continue to lead a reasonably lively existence, and continue to meet people who know me, or did before I grew a mustache. A few of them I would just as soon didn't recognize me.

I am still at the Lab, but suspect I may go down to Coconut Grove with DF in another couple of days, after which I will be able to do any mere work until I leave Miami. But I didn't come down here solely to work, anyhow. I want a chance to get a few good talks with DF more than anything else, so as to see what he has up his sleeve. I have already been told by him that I must not think of getting married for five years yet. I think I will bid him 3, which will make me thirty. However, if he sticks out for 5, allright.

I dropped in at the Jeremiassens the other night and was required to stay for supper. I still think Yvonne has about the prettiest pair of big brown eyes I have ever seen. Paul, shant we keep her for a while? The other afternoon Lucia Bowen blew into the Garden with Mr Stewart of Coconut Grove, and surprised me. I tried not to be too cordial. After she had left Mrs Simmonds told me some stories about me which Lucia had circulated here after I went to Guatemala, and I decided I wouldn't call on her while she is here. I told Yvonne today to inform her to that effect. Met J L Hickson at the Dade Co Fair this afternoon, and he says come out for dinner some day soon. Tomorrow morning I am going up to see Prof Simpson. This morning Edwahr, Mrs E and I called at Cellon's. Old George B came out from behind the plant shed, dripping tobacco juice from both corners of his mouth, and walking doubled up like Herb before the war, and when he spies me he ups and says "Hel-le Pem-pa-ye!" with accent on each syllable. To show how glad he was to welcome me home he took me behind the dead line, for the first time in my life. As

we walked thru the gate into the sanctum sanctorum he says "I'm going to take you in here now", and I slapped him on the back and laughed. He is propagating Selaha extensively and thinks it is the best Guatemalan yet proved out here, but expects some of my introductions to beat it. He recently sold 700 Fuertes to Gillette to plant an Orchard at Winter Haven. Cellon says Fuerte, which he calls Few-rett, is the greatest thing out for the cold sections, but it gets rot down here, and is a little too early in season. He says he has fruited Verde and it is a fine thing, may prove to be valuable. Sinaloa is also fine but does not bear heavily enough. My numbers 18 (Pancheoy), 17 (Nimlich), and 3 (Lamat) are the ones which seem to be giving the most promise down here. The whole collection is not yet established here; several numbers are still lacking.

No, Paul; I daresay little Marthe would rather marry an army officer, not below the rank of Captain, than any millionaire in the land. Is there anything doing?

I'll try to hunt up Val Godard here.

I believe after I have been over Florida this winter I will be in pretty good shape to write my book,--right up to date on things. After I see Calif I can add the finishing touches.

I am still impressed at the way in which Miami has grown while I have been gone. You have never seen anything like it in California, I don't believe. This place is certainly destined to be the great winter resort of the U S. No, I have not been reading booster literature. Just now there is an awful scud of gobs, petty officers, and naval aviators knocking about town. Also a good many marines. I presume there are more soldiers and sailors in town just now than in most any other place of this size in the country, unless it be Newport News.

As to selling the east property at the W I G, or the west property with the avocado orchard, I reiterate what Paul says: don't sell it without letting

us have a chance to consider it. I believe I could make more money by buying another piece of property here, but it is doubtless a safer investment to buy that Altadena property, and if we can scrape together enough money to get hold of one of these pieces, I am desirous of going in with Paul on the deal.

Kreme has a nice crate of Guatemalan avocados in the Fair here, and part of them are Tafts. They look good. Taft doesnt seem to do anything up here at Miami, however.

Paul, I have been getting back to normal sleeping hours here at the Lab, but I suppose when I get down with DF I will become as demoralised as I was in Washington. By the way, what was the result of the compromise to pay the apartment rent on the 25th? Where are we going to be this summer? Out in the street? Or do you expect to put me up at your father-in-law,s, and if so, which one?

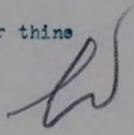
Two letters from Paul recd since getting down here, last one enc a letter from MBP. Nothing direct from Altadena as yet.

The garden here is getting in pretty poor shape. Simmonds seems to be getting in a deep rut. There is a good deal of satisfaction on the part of Bisset, Dorsett and Galloway. Simmonds has gone back to prepagating mangos by inarching,--a retrogression covering about 4000 years.

The cafeteria here is the highest priced one I have struck. I cant get a half way decent meal for less than 75 cents. Food is high down here.

Well, I'm a gonna turn in.

Ever thins



Miami, March 5th 1919.

D

Dear Folks:

Wednesday evening, and I am back at the Lab for the first time since Sunday afternoon. Norton and I have been camping down at the Fairchild's (in the famous ex-jelly factory, which is a little bit of allright) and during the daytimes have been running all over south Dade with Dr Fairchild. We have seen much of interest, but are all pretty tired and ready to sleep about 13 hrs tonight.

When I stepped here this morning (first time since Sunday) I found a first class accumulation of mail, with two letters from Paul inclosing two from mother. I dont know just yet how I am going to fix it so you can catch me when I leave here and commence to travel over the State of Florida, but I guess that I can advise Paul a week in advance of reaching certain points, and he can forward mail from Altadena.

My opinion of the Montessori system has risen about 95 ~~per~~ points, having formerly been at point 00. The Fairchild youngsters are about as well behaved and obedient a set as any I have seen. Little Nancy Bell is a perfect dear, and Barbara is strictly allright. I have not seen much of the kids for three years, as you know. Sandy is not as industrious as he might be, but then I dont remember having seen many boys of 12 years who were exceedingly industrious, except when doing such things as making club houses and digging caves. I took down my big brown Oaxaca zarape and deposited it on the Fairchild front porch. It certainly fills up the corner beautifully, and I am very well satisfied with myself for having brought it down. Mrs Fairchild appreciates it. I noted, en passant, that the front room was tolerably well filled with Guatemalan huipiles, of origin well known to me.

Norton and I were arguing with DF this noon about taking photographs of plants, and we had made him double back on his tracks several times. Finally, after we had just cornered him again, he remarked "Well now, if you boys think you are going to force me into a fit of consistency, you are going to be badly disappointed". That's about the size of it.

In re slide rule for Herb, I mailed it the day I left Washington, or rather turned it over to the messenger boy to mail for me. Hope Herb recd it. It was sent to Altadena. Sorry I did not remember that Herb and I were about to have a joint celebration before I went down to Coconut Grove, so I could have sent him something to arrive promptly by the 9th. It will be a trifle late now, but I enclose a slight token of esteem and affection, and would be obliged if H would purchase himself something that he will enjoy. It is useless for me to try to buy anything for him here in Miami.

Pablo, letter from Lt sgt G. McMillan Darrow instructs me to step off in Georgia to see him on the way home. I'll see about it. I suspect when I get headed Washington-ward I will go straight thru, not even stopping at Notasulga, Alabama, to saludar John C Sims. I would that I were stepping on the train for Washington tomorrow. Not to say that I am not

enjoying life in Miami, but the fact of the matter is that I have sort of lost my taste for this traveling business, pro tem, and I don't have any desire to pack my suit case and take the boat across the Everglades to Okeechobee. There's something radical wrong with me, that's certain. Never before have I felt so indifferent toward travel. I would earnestly recommend that any victim of the Wanderlust take a year's travel in Mexico to cure himself. I guarantee the results. Barriga llena, corazon contento.

Father, I've been seeing a good deal of avocados lately. Krome says Taft, Taylor and Wagner are the most promising varieties down his way. Krome is strictly oksh. They find Fuerte very subject to avocado scab, a disease which is troubling them greatly, but they are growing and recommending it for up-state. Krome and his company grew about 20,000 avocado buds last season and will have about 25,000 for the next season. They claim they haven't made any money out of it yet.

I haven't been able to talk future plans with D₁ as yet. Norton has been on hand all the time and we have discussed things in general, nothing in particular. I can see anyway that he is not anxious to take up the question of my next trip; probably he considers it pretty early in the day, and I have so fully impressed him with my desire to stay home a while before I tackle any more foreign travel that I presume he thinks it would only bore me to discuss the subject at this early day. Well, so far as I am concerned, I don't care if I never go abroad again,--that is, not before next fall.

Paul, me lad, has Cremen yet delivered to you my new life ins policy? If not, you better phone him about it some time. It is the Mass Mutual Ins Co, in the Evans Bldg, near 15th and N Y. I hope to goodness they don't turn me down because of my occupation.

Paul, still me lad, when the Botanical Society finally decides to give its dinner dance, I authorize you to atten in my place; but you needn't think the expenses chargeable to your general fund, per and pro Wilson Popenoe.

Charles Deering yesterday placed ay my entire disposal (as we would say) a Ford car and one of his launches on the bay. If I were going to stay here I would take advantage of the opportunity to use the boat some day, but I won't have time for it. Dr and Mrs Fairchild, Norton and myself have spent today with Mr and Mrs Glenn Curtiss (he of airplane fame), Mr Curtiss being decidedly interesting. Mrs C is no intellectual giantess, and DF significantly points to the fact that Curtiss married while he was very young, and a journeyman electrician, or something of that sort. If he had waited seven or eight years more (segun DF) he might have done better. You get the point, don't you?

Dpc Fahnestock, of Palm Beach, has just written me inviting me to be his guest while in the city, one week hence. DF and I got up a notice which we sent to all papers in Florida, saying that I was coming to town and wanted to meet everybody who was interested in planting Guatemalan avocados. I suppose they will now line me up for a series of lectures before the august chambers of commerce. Let em.

Satchs of love,

Wilt

Strictly business:

In re mother's proposition to sell Pine Lodge and build on the west property at W I G, let me state that I am unqualifiedly in favor of it. I formerly opposed letting Pine Lodge go because I wanted that we should have some place in Calif that we could call our own. But if you build on the west property and we own it clear I will be more satisfied than I am with Pine Lodge in our hands. The fact is, Pine Lodge is too far down the hill for me, and always has been; and as far as holding it as an orchard property is concerned, I have frequently expressed an opinion on this subject (and been called a pessimist therefor) which is familiar to you; indeed, I do not believe a place with that confounded sand would ever be a first class orchard property, and as for the avocados supporting FOP and MBP, I have always said, and still maintain firmly, they would never do it. The west property at WIG is good, and while I wish that Paul and I might be able to hang onto the East part also, because it is a fine property, if you think it would be attempting too much, go ahead and sell it, along with Pine Lodge, and count me in on any sort of a deal you undertake. I would like to get the \$1500 (or perhaps now somewhat less) which I have in the bank out where it would be earning a little more than it is on checking deposit. By the time I get back to Washn I will have \$1500 allright, which with my \$500 Liberty Bonds would make \$2000, and I would like very much to put this into the deal, PROVIDED, and this goes, that you call the new place Ahuacatlan, and not Greendale or anything else.

If you build a new house on the Calaveras property, I want to have you include, at my expense, a small room in one corner somewhere which I can have for a laboratory and workroom. Paul and Herb and I can all use it; we will all be home offn and on,--probably more on in the future than in the past three years, so far as I am concerned, and we ought to have a little place to store a few books and a broken down typewriter and have a nice work table in front of a generous window.)

If you think it at all practicable for Paul and me to hang on to the East property at W I G and pay off on it within the next couple of yrs, let me know. I always liked that corner muchly, and can't help believing that it will have a steadily increasing value

Yes, mother, I would much prefer to visit you on Calaveras St than at Pine Lodge, though you know I like to visit you anywhere; so go ahead and fix things up if you get a chance, and you bet I will fall in line; but as aforesaid, it must be called Ahuacatlan.

W

This could be a bedroom for us as well.

Miami, March 7th 1919

Dear Folks:

The representative of the Office of Horticulture and Pomology upon whose machine I have been accustomed to write to you, has evidently been apprised of the fact, and has locked the door to his room; therefore I have transferred my activities to the office of the representative of the Bureau of Entomology, and trust he will not become aware of it until I am about ready to leave Miami. The picayunishness of some of these boys makes me laugh. They are all so afraid of doing something the other fellow ought to do that none of them will sweep out the big room of the laboratory, confining their attentions to their respective offices; hence the big room is never swept out. Yesterday Dr Fairchild jumped on the honorable representative of the Bureau of Entomology because the screen in the front door was in a bad state of repair, and told him to get it fixed. The honorable representative later complained bitterly to me, and inquired to know why he had been singled out to do the work for the representatives of the Field Museum and the representative of the office of Horticulture and Pomology, not to mention the representative of the office of Pathological Investigations. To quote the words of E Simonds, "they're a bad lot, that's what they are".

My dear Paul, in reference to your remark about a handsome agricultural explorer with a fierce military mustache, I would say that you must be referring to Jesse Baker Norton, late Professor of Plant Breeding at Cornell University, etc etc. I am not handsome nor have I a mustache,--the former state being of about 27 years standing and the latter of two days. I must confess that it is much more comfortable without the mustache.

DF remarked the other day that he thought it was decidedly cheeky in Shamel to suggest that I be sent to California, or allowed to takettime while out there, to help him write his book.

I left here this morning early on the old bicycle that I used to ride in days of yore, and spent the day with Prof Simpson at Little River. We had a great time. The Prof was decidedly surprised to learn that I had paid for my property in full. Said he always supposed that I had bought it on long time and small payments. When I went so far as to intimate that I not only had this lot, but sundry other small assets, he was almost completely overcome, and said that his opinion of me was now better than ever. He had always assumed, altho I do not know on what grounds, that I managed to spend my salary as fast as I received it, or a little faster.

Simpson and I went down to the Harris-Popence Estate, known as Ahuacatlan, and looked it over pretty carefully. There is a lot of ground in an acre, isnt there? The three acres to the East of us are

for sale at \$1500 each, and the lots to the West of us, 50x150 feet in size, can be had at \$500 each. So you see we have a pretty fine proposition, when you remember that we bought the acre and a quarter three years ago at \$750 cash. I thought at the time we were getting stuck, but wanted the land for its ideal location with respect to the new garden. Simpson and I spent some time this afternoon drawing plans of the house which I am some day going to build there.

I visited Val Godard et uxor the other evening. I find that Val has come out a good deal better than I had expected. He struck me as a first rate fellow. He is serious and certainly bears every evidence of being a good husband. His wife appears to be of good family, and I should say she was just about his equal. The young Godard, by name Jean, is a model child and favors her dad, which is her misfortune. Val will never set the world on fire, but will probably make a good living. He says he hasn't made any money here yet, having put everything into the business. He owns a third interest in one of the construction companies and I would not be surprised to see him financially as well fixed some day as his pater. I shall probably call there a gain in a day or two. I dined with them, and find that Helen puts up a pretty good meal. She is quite musical, and after dinner we sang songs for an hour. Due to the excellent training I had in Washington, I was able to outsing Val every time.

Dr Fairchild seems to be pretty tired. Norton left yesterday noon and I hope the Doctor will take a rest for a few days, but he won't. I don't believe he will go back to Washn for a month yet, if he can help it. He says things at the Office are in something of a muddle, due to the acquisition of the bamboo grove at Savannah. I don't know how long DF is going to feel like hanging on to his present amount of work. He speaks about turning some of it over to somebody else and taking things easier, but I don't suppose he will do it. Some day, however, he will have to, as he is not going to be able to stand up to it indefinitely.

I dined chez Jeremiassen last night, afterward taking Yvonne down town to hear the band play and buying her one of these famous Goodness Knows sundaes at Seybolds. This is a brand which Thyra (of lamentable fate), Yvonne and I invented in bygone and forgotten days. Lucia had been to the Jeremiassen's for dinner a couple of days previously and had enlightened them considerably regarding me. No use talking, my name in Miami is Dennis from now on. As the days go by, I am more and more inclined to agree with Paul (who is always right, of course) that Lucia is, was, and always has been, not to mention that she always will be, a vamp, pure and wimple. The only friend I have left here is Yvonne, and I even suspect that she is cherishing something of a grudge, due to things Lucia has told her. I have just about decided that I will keep away from all of 'em. I never did like these Miami girls, anyway.

Altadena contingent, you'd better send all your mail to me via Paul from now on. I will keep him advised as to where to reach me. If he leaves Washn I will be high and dry, however.

Ever thine

Coconut Grove, Fla.
March 9th, 1919

Mother darling:

I will stop a few moments before leave the Jelly Factory to go down to breakfast, and start the day a night by sending you my loving greetings. Just as I was on the point of leaving the Lab to come down here with the Fairchild's last night your birthday letter arrived, also a few lines from F.O.P., and a card from Amelia. How well you timed your letters!

Allright: Paul and I will be careful not to break any hearts (except our own) Chee the Roses. DF has now agreed that I can marry when I am 30; this gives me 3 yrs more, so I am going to take my time about it and not go in over my head until I am sure I want to stay in.

I shall leave Miami in a few days.
It is delightful down here at
the Fairchild's. The Jelly Factory has
been overhauled and fitted up very
attractively, tho' simply, for the Bells.
It is 500 ft behind the house,
near the high road, and I love to
get out here alone with DT and
Halk. I don't believe I shall ever
regret having cast my lot with
DT. If he can say the same
I will be happy.

Little Nancy Belle is a dear. You
ought to hear her sing in French.
I hope you and father and Herb
are listening to the strains of
O Sole Mio and La Galonaria to-
day, and that you will turn down
an empty glass for me when
I come home we are going over

to the General to stay over a Sunday,
and just loaf and talk and enjoy
ourselves. What do you say? I am
glad you have some nice new clothes.
I shall outfit myself in fine style be-
fore I start West. I can't say
yet whether I will come home before
July or not. It will depend upon the
state of the office finances. It is
altogether possible that I may.

My loving thoughts will be with
you today, mother dearest, but I do
want to see you again and tell you
just how infinitely great is the
love of

Your devoted and happy son
Witt

Miami, Fla., March 10th 1919.

Dear Folks:

The honorable representative of the Office of Horticulture and Pomology jumped all over me today because I had presumed to use his typewriter without obtaining his august permission. I dont know what the illustrious representative of the Bureau of Entomology is going to do when he figds out that I am now using his machine.

I have been down at Coconut Grove more or less since the last of the week, mostly more. The old Jelly Factory is beginning to be associated with the word "home" in my consciousness stream. We have been having some delightful times. Yesterday the Kiddies set me up to a great birthday blowout. I didnt know that they were on ~~the~~ to the fact that it was my birthday, but it appears I had told Barbara a couple of weeks ago when we discussing birthdays that mine came on the 9th of March and she certainly remembered it with a vengeance. They started me off with a lot of flowers and presents (small boxes of candy) at my plate at the breakfast table, and at noon we had a glorious big birthday cake with candles. Those Fairchilds are certainly allright. I'll bet you folks didnt have any better celebration at the Glenwood.

The Baroness Koff, whose husband was governor of Finland during the Kerensky regime, is now staying with the Fairchilds. She is a Washington girl, or was before she grew up and married the Baron. I have been having some very enjoyabale talks with her. Of course she knows all about Russian affairs, and our usual procedure is as follows: the Baroness tells a tale of horror about the Russian bolsheviki, and I match it with one identically horrible about the Mexican bolsheviki. Then she blows up Trotsky, following which I blow up Carranza.

I expect to leave here Thursday of this week, the 12th, for my tour of the state. I have just heard from Doc Harris, and he says Come to Lakeland, where the balmy breezes blow, and I suspect I shall stop with him a couple of days on my way to Brooksville. He has had another attack of influenza and says he isnt up to his old form as yet. I shall probably land at Brooksville within 8 or 10 days after leaving here, and will pick up my mail there. Paul, address me there for about a week after receiving this letter, but not more than that. I will advise later of another address, or ask you to continue Brooksville, and leave instructions with Bob Jones as to catching me elsewhere. I will be rather glad to get on the road again. This life at Miami is too fast for me. I cant stand the Fairchild gait. But by George, I dont believe Dr Fairchild can either. We were talking about it this noon at lunch,-- he and I lunched together at my old hangout, Douglas Italian Tea Garden,-- and he said he didnt know but that he might have to take a year off and go off on a foreign trip. Said he hadnt felt up to par for some time. He is certainly feeling much better than when he came down here, but even at that I dont believe he is at all strong. He gets nervously tired.

I have grasped the opportunity since Norton left to talk with Dr F about my own plans. He says there is a bare possibility that I may be sent over to Morocco to help the French develop subtropical horticulture, but it is only a possibility and I presume a very remote one. I suppose it would not be a very long trip anyway. We talked over the book, and he says I should tackle it at once this spring upon reaching Washington, and attempt to get it finished before I start out in the fall. In all probability I will make the trip we have planned on, stopping for a month in Guatemala to saludar mis apreciiables amistades and get some avocados seeds for stocks, then go on down to Costa Rica and work it, thence to Columbia and Ecuador, and perhaps back around the point to Venezuela, and then home. I have served notice on him that this will be my last trip to Tropical America. Sin falta. I am thru.

I have also grasped the opportunity to discuss the subject of matrimony with him. He says if I should fall violently in love with the right girl (looking me straight in the eye) he wouldnt object to my getting married in a year or two, but he prefers me to wait until I am thirty. He also says, with much emphasis, that he expects me to marry a girl who will be able to support herself. He doesnt mean by this that she should take in washing regularly. You know. Says the other kind will always be a drag on me. Mrs F is somewhat disappointed that Paul hasnt picked out a girl yet, and DF says it is because he doesnt mix with the old girls enough. He says the only way to meet the eligible young girls is to cultivate the acquaintance of people like Miss Seidmore, and then they invite you out to dinner, and you meet the eligibles and do it in the right way. Paul, there's your clue, work on it.


I might add, however, that DF says he doesnt want me to marry any girl that I am not dead in love with. Well, I wont.

Pretty confounded hot down here. I feel just now like a grilled chop. Maybe it will be cooler up state.

I have several letters from you folks, but I guess there is nothing in them that requires an answer. I owe Pablo \$20 and will enclose a check for the amt. I hope you dont go to NY in March, as you suggest. However, Rito writes that he has his passport and will be here the middle of April, so I reckon I will have company in Washn anyway.

We are going over to the beach for supper this evening. I have decided to stop calling on all Miami girls (Yvonne, in other words) with the exception of a brief call just before leaving. I never did like these Miami girls anyway. Daisy Bell says its better to be a nonentity than a bore; the latter is the unforgivable sin. This has no relation to the preceding sentence. I just throw it in for good measure.

Ever thine own



Miami, Mar 13 1919

Dear Folks:

Addio Napole! I leave at 1 pm for W P Beach, or in your language, West Palm Beach.

I shall be the guest of Mr and Mrs Edward Simmonds of Brickell Avenue at a farewell luncheon today, following which Mr Simmonds will conduct me to the auto bus, White Star Line, which takes me to WPB.

Last night I went home with Val Godard for dinner. We found Mrs G feeling pretty tired, so Val decided to get dinner himself. After allowing me to look over the stock in the pantry and suggest several things he gently but firmly persuaded me to let him prepare a round of buckwheat cakes and pork sausage. It appears that Val's especial forte is buckwheat cakes (Aunt Jemima brand). We had a pretty substantial dinner. I can taste it this morning. Val says he batched it down here quite a while and became tolerably proficient in the art of pancake frying. Says I to Val "Did you eat nothing but pancakes when you were batching it?" Replies Val "Oh no, often I had a can of Walker's Chile Con Carne".

I went down to Homestead day before yesterday and cleaned up my avocado work. I will probably stay in Palm Beach tomorrow and the next day go by boat to Moore Haven, on Lake Okechobee. From there I go up the new RR to Avon Park and then to Lakeland, where I will visit the Harrises. After that I will probably go to Brooksville, pick up my mail, stay a couple of days at the garden, and give Bob Jones a lot of good advice on how to succeed in the FSPI, and then come back to Tampa. I have ten days work in the region between Tampa and Fort Myers. After that I will head north again, thru Orlando, Gainesville, Daytona and Jax. Speed the day when I will board the Dixie Flyer in Jax and ask George to wake me up when we reach Washington.

Pablo, I am going to ship you my trunk by express today. I cant tote it all over the state with me, and I have no further use for my evening clothes and overcoat anyway.--I hope the dillies are ripe by this time. One of the same lot which I kept here has softened up okeh.

I am going to discuss with Doc Harris ways and means for improving our property on Ave 42. If Doc wants to stay in the game, perhaps we can each put in \$500 one of these days and erect a small stone bungalow, Cuban style, which can be used by ourselves when down here, and by our friends at all times. But we dont want to do anything for a year or two yet, as we have no one living at the new garden, and until our work is transferred to the new garden there is no object in living up in that end of town.

Miami city water supply now contains one half or one percent of sodium chloride, and is therefore, one third to one fourth as salty as sea water. It is pretty nearly impossible to drink it. The distilleries of this region can all take up the distilling of H₂O when the country goes dry.

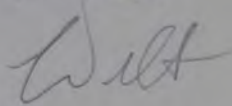
DF says he believes scientists are obsessed with the idea that Truth is always to be sought in everything. Tisnt necessary nor even desirable. All you have to do is make an assertion and then STICK TO IT, and you can get by with it. At least that's what DF says. I have seen him demonstrate it several times recently. When folks come to the garden and say "Havent you a tree of Supernumerarius wallingsfordii?" DF looks grieved for a moment and then replies "The only specimen we had growing here went out in the big freeze two winters ago". It works.

I shall miss the free baskets of tomatoes which I have been enjoying here at the Lab. The boys get them for experimental purposes, and there is generally a surplus. Just the kind we had at the Teacup Inn, Pablo, two slices for 25 cents. I have eaten \$75 worth these last two weeks, at that rate.

Our old friend Boob Sulzner is going around the world, starting in May. Says he is going to take \$40,000 with him and intends to purchase commodities at low prices and ship em to the States, and make enough money to cover the expenses of the trip. He offered to back me when I go to South America if I would do the same thing, but I told him the Govt didnt allow us to engage in commercial work of any sort. He wanted to know how I paid my way around the world, and whether he could work any of the same tricks. He probably has the Fred Allen idea that he can trade the Sultan of Johore a string of glass beads for a load of mahogany and half a load of teak. Only mahogany doesnt grow in that part of the world. He may have to accept a load and a half of teak instead.

Paul, continue to address me at Brooksville until I advise to the contrary. It is probably that I can arrange to have my mail forwarded from there to the hotel in Tampa, so the Bksville address may serve for a couple of weeks.

Always lovingly



Dr Miles of Nervine fame has written me from Ft Myers, desiring a consultation when I reach that region. Allright, Doc.

Brooksville, Mar 27 1919

Dear Father:

Your note of Mar 20, inclosing long epistle from the Misses Leitch, duly recd. They sent a copy of the same letter to me. I have replied that I will be glad to come down and undertake the job if DF sends me. As you know, there isnt much chance of his sending me. I dont know as I would care much about going this spring, anyway, as I want to get that book in shape. We are hard up at the Ofc and wont have any money for such work, and furthermore it belongs to the Porto Rico Agrl Exp Station and not to our office. I dont believe DF could ever put it thru. As you know, the Ofc is a trifle sore on the Leeches anyhow, so I am glad you have not written DF on the subject, and think you will do well not to take any hand in affairs wh concern DF and the Leitches? The Leitches have a good enough scheme, and I would be glad to see it carried out, and to have a hand in it; the trouble seems to be that everyone fears they have something up their sleeves, and are trying to work the Dept in some way; I know when the matter was up last time DF was afraid their scheme wd create an outlet for budded trees and budwood they had to sell. The Dept has to be pretty careful about mixing up with such things, especially when the people concerned are as unpopular as the Leitches seem to be in P R. If we should go down there and tie up with them it would probably bring down an avalanche of criticism on our heads/

As to the avocados sent from Miami to "friends" (sit in the North, they were Colla, an inferior Guatemalan seedling wh we have at the Garden? The tree was grown from a seed wh Collins sent up from Guatemala City. The fruit is small, but has a very small seed. Shell very hard, quality of flesh pretty good. We havent many good varieties at the garden; ought to have more, but Simmonds doesnt always do things in just the fashion I would prefer. I have wanted us to maintain an excellent variety collection at the garden, but Simmonds has let most of them run out. He put buds on old trees and got a limb of each variety, when I got the budwood in Calif some years ago but he has never given the matter much attention and not many of them have fruited. I wish I could run that Miami garden myself; I might do worse than Simmonds in most respects, but I would at least push the mango and avocado harder than he is doing

In Florida Taft is going to be a January-March fruit Verde is the same, and Atlixco February and March. Wagneri is January and Feb. I figure the Calif Guatemalans will ripen 2 to 3 months earlier in Fla than in Calif. Fla is going to have lots of Guatemalan varieties for midwinter harvest, and several of them will be ripe at that time too. Kanola or one of the others will

ripen in California so that it can be marketed, ripe, in midwinter. But dont you forget that old Fuerte is the avocado for California right now, and I feel more and more that you are going to have a horticultural monument in Fuerte that will last long after the West India Gardens have passed into history. By the way, for our own protection, we want to be sure that Fuerte is kept securely tied to the West India Gardens; I mean that we want to remind people often that the WIG introduced that variety. Whenever possible, we will play it up in print. I hope Fuerte can be associated with your name so that people will never mention the one without thinking of the other. My paper on Atlixco may perhaps serve to emphasize the early history of Fuerte. I am glad we have secured it in such complete form early in the game. No matter what happens now, we have full data re the parent tree and know its whole history since its introduction into Calif. The Guatemalans are going to be good, and some of them will probably be important commercial fruits, but I rather suspect Fuerte is going to outdistance them in Calif the next ten years. Later we may get another hybrid as good as Fuerte; better I do not believe it could be. I dont really see a single fault in Fuerte.

And believe me, people down here are waking up to Fuerte. Unquestionably it is the most-talked-of variety in Florida today.

I think Spinks ought to be put in jail for 10 yrs for selling these green windfalls. That's the sort of thing that will kill the avocado business. I didnt suppose Spinks would stoop so low.

About my coming home; the Office is wailing more and more about lack of funds, and as the end of the physical year approaches money will be tighter rather than looser. I really do not believe, therefore, that they will want me to come until after July 1 (I mean to Calif) and I suspect anyway that it will be to the best interests of you to get settled down in Washn as soon as I get back and work on it a couple of months. After July 1 I can stop if I get tired and make the trip; but I will hammer right along as late in the summer as possible, for I simply must get that work in shape this summer, or I will never do it. I suppose when I come out I had better bring my Guatemalan slides and a set of Mexican slides, hadnt I, and prepare to talk a bit with the avocado growers? By the way, I hope you will see that the paper I sent Webber last fall on Mex avocados is used at this coming May mtg; perhaps they will not want to read it, in wh case it ought to be published in the proceedings with about 12 fotos of Queretaro wh Webber has. I will hold the one on Atlixco until I come out, and it can be used at the fall mtg and published in the next report. I want to get a good lengthy document in every volume of that report from now on, and Not enough investigative

work is being done on the avocado anyway, and I should think they could stand annually a paper on some foreign phase of the subject.

I dont like the idea of Paul's going to N Y to live, but I suppose he will have to do it, and N Y is a lot better than most other places, as far as accessibility to Washn is concerned. He ought to be able to spend every second Sunday with me during the summer, I should think.

Glad to see the letter from our Atlixco friend, Alejandro Le Blanc hijo. You better keep in touch with him by means of occasional communications, because you may want to keep track of the crops produced by the parent Fuerte, or something of that sort. I will write him myself from time to time. He is a good kid, only 18, and the only real white man in Atlixco, barring his father. Do you notice he signs his Postscript "W"worths?" That is a literal translation of the Spanish "Vale" which they put at the end of postscripts, meaning that the PS is ~~valid~~ valid, or authentic. They always do it that away.

I am going to leave Brokville tomorrow for Ft Myers and other points south. I will be glad when this campaign is over, but it is interesting enough. The trouble is I do not have any hankering after travel since being in Mexico. However, I will feel differently about it by next fall, and I am telling DF that we simply must make one more avocado trip in order to complete that survey. I dont know whether we are oing to get anything as good as Fuerte out of it, but of course we must have more than one variety in cultivation. We may find some very distinct and valuable types; quien sabe?

Did I tell you about Cellon and the entomologist? One of the Govt men went out to his place and explained wh he was, and said he would like to look thru Cellon's grove for insects. Cellon looked him in the eye and told him "Mr Moznette, I dont want you on my place; you are a dangerous man!"

Ever thine

W

No carbon

HOTEL BRADFORD

PETER SCHÜTT, PROPRIETOR



50 ROOMS
40 WITH BATH



OPEN ALL THE YEAR

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

April 3 1919

Dear Folks:

I reckon this is the first
time in 5 days that I have been
alone, and I will aprovechar
la oportunidad to write to
you unless someone calls on
down stairs.

The campaign goes on apace.
The bulletin board in front
of the board of trade says
that I will lecture there at
8 pm on avocado. This trip

2.

HOTEL BRADFORD

PETER SCHUTT, PROPRIETOR

80 ROOMS
40 WITH BATH

OPEN ALL THE YEAR

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

has taken a different trend since leaving Miami, and is just a little bit different from the ordinary tip of a Department man. It and I cut the Gordian knot, — or something of that sort — when we sent the notices out to the newspapers — and now we are obliged to see it there. Personally, I am inclined to think we have hit on a very effective way to get in

3.

HOTEL BRADFORD

PETER SCHUTT, PROPRIETOR



80 ROOMS
40 WITH BATH

OPEN ALL THE YEAR

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

touch with people and stir
 up interest in Guatemalan
 avocados. It smacks a trifle
 of political campaigning, but
 perhaps we can get by with
 it. I wouldn't be surprised
 if Scott would put up a hotel,
 but I am speaking his guns
 by keeping Guatemalan avocados
 in the foreground, and he
 knows darn well that we can
 talk about Guatemalans just as
 much as we please.

4.
HOTEL BRADFORD

PETER SCHUTT, PROPRIETOR



80 ROOMS
40 WITH BATH



OPEN ALL THE YEAR

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

The work is very burdensome at times. For example, I played golf with Harry Johnson this morning. Harry has trotted me around in his cage a lot, and I stayed with him last night. We called on Dr. Miles of Nerville fame this p.m. The Doc's avocado grove is not well cared for. The more I see of the aristocracy of wealth the less I care for it. The Doc ranks as one of the biggest men in the region and

5.
HOTEL BRADFORD

PETER SCHUTT, PROPRIETOR



80 ROOMS
40 WITH BATH



OPEN ALL THE YEAR

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

I cant see that he is benedicted
with brains at all.

I had quite a time at Punta
Gorda with Mrs McAdow and
her crowd. That's one of the
toughest towns I've ever struck.
I never heard so much cursing
in the presence of ladies.

Mrs Mc put up some A 1
meals - several of them. I went
down to Pine Island with
Harry Johnson to see his
grave. I O P should remember
over

having sold trees to him. He says of the 28 Verde and 1 Senalva you sent him with bare roots only the Senalva lived. He has a fine lot of Fourtes. Most of his trees, - 2 yrs old, all of them - are setting fruit. He has about 30 varieties. Harry is a big talker, but has a man on his grove who is taking excellent care of it.

Lots of interest in wicados here. Found about 90 names at the Press office. Tomorrow I expect to go down to Estero and perhaps to Naples. I shall start north again

7.

on Sat or Sun, and go up
to Bradenton, where I expect
to spend a couple of days.
I also expect to pick up some
mail at Reasoners, near
there. By the way, you
can catch me once more
before I get home at the
Hotel Seminole Jacksonville.
I shall probably be there
about the 15th. I am not
sure I will make Washn
by the 20th, as planned,
but it won't be many days
after that in any event. I
am still in a sweat to
get there. I don't feel
how ever, that I can afford

to hurry this work too much. It takes one day after you reach a place for people to get onto the fact that you are there, and then they begin to come in and hunt you up.

I feel that I am having a rather exceptional opportunity to get in some good work for the avocado.

These people need a lot of help, and we can do a good deal for them if we want to. There is lots of pleasure in it for me.

I can see this industry coming along, and I feel that I am having a hand in

9.

it, unimportant tho my part
may be when you see a
planting such as Johnson's, 65
trees of my new guatemalans,
it makes you feel that we are
going to get somewhere.

There is a W. K. Coulter of
Topeka here & he is coming
in to see me. I don't know
whether it is Willie or his
dad, but I suspect it is
Willie. He is working for an
orange company here.

I'm sure my head is not
getting swelled yet, and I
ought to be having a great
time, but some way or
other I don't care so much

10.

about travel as I did formerly,
in enjoying it all right, but I
will be glad to reach Washn
again. Maybe you've heard
me say that before. I've
certainly been living high, -
so much so that it has given
me a cold. I must play
more golf to work it off.

Ever lovingly
Will.

Hotel Semmole, Jacksonville.
Will be there about Apr 15th
after that date, Washn D.C.

HOTEL BRADFORD

PETER SCHUTT, PROPRIETOR



50 ROOMS
40 WITH BATH



OPEN ALL THE YEAR

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

April 3, 1919.
Dear Talks:

I have just mailed a long letter - the first I have been able to write in a week - via Paul, but thinking he may be in N. Y. and the letter may be delayed in reaching you, I send these few lines to advise that I am still alive and up to my old tricks.

I am just on the point of going down to the Board of Trade to address the citizens

HOTEL BRADFORD

PETER SCHUTT, PROPRIETOR



80 ROOMS
40 WITH BATH



OPEN ALL THE YEAR

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

of Ft Myers and vicinity upon
the subject of Guatemalan gators.
I've been running all over the
country these past few days by
auto and boat, seeing avocado
groves and growans. Very interesting
work, I tell you. I believe the
Guatemalans are the coming
thing for Florida. Everything
points that way.

Day after tomorrow I go up to
Prodenton and Reasoness
muzzing, where I hope to

HOTEL BRADFORD

PETER SCHUTT, PROPRIETOR



80 ROOMS
40 WITH BATH



OPEN ALL THE YEAR

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

pick up some mail. It seems like a long time not to hear from you for a week or 10 days. You can catch me with a letter direct if you want at the Hotel Seminoles Jacksonville to reach there about the 15th.

Ever lovingly
Walt

Bradentown, April 6 1919

Dear Folks:

Bob Jones joined me in Tampa yesterday and we are going out to Reasoner's this pm. R was in town this morning & brot me a stack of mail, including 6 or 8 Powhatan dancing checks wh I cant use.

Fort Myers ended with a rush; we had a big meeting with lots of interest and requests for 500 trees. The following day I ran around looking at groves and in the pm was rushed down to Estero, where I gave a brief talk to the Koreshow Unity, a crowd of religious fanatics who believe the world is a hollow sphere and agree to remain celibates for life. They are a pleasant bunch and showed me a good time. In the morning up at 5.30 and rushed to Ft Myers to catch the 7.40 train for Tampa. Such

9.

Mighty glad to get your mail here. Paul,
ill raise you; 10 to 1 Rito marries
Ellamoye. Do you envy him? He certainly
has set badly.

Dad: That dope about me in the Palm
Beach Post the reporter obtained from a
State Plant Board man. I tried to stop it
but couldn't. He didn't get any of the data
from me. I enclose the Iron Park Paper
wh is more conservative. The Ft Myers folks
wrote me up better, too. Ill try to hold 'em
down, you know it.

Pablo, Ill be up to N.Y as soon as I get
home, to meet Kitty K.

Billy Humphreys says she has engaged
to a gal in Florida. Mentiras. Bob and
Lulu have a new son, Allan Maxwell.

Paul, Thanks for the proof. Its interesting
and Ill be glad to see the stuff in
print.

We're working on that one from here.

Expect to ^{be in} Gainesville about the 10th and
 Jay by the 15th. I'm running out of
 clothes and will have to buy some more.

Herb, I'm going to send you a nice
 gray tropical or Kool Kool suit when I
 get to Washn. It's getting too short for me.

Tough luck about Paul leaving Washn.
 I'm afraid Rob will spend the summer
 in Houston and I will be alone in Wn.
Como Dios manda.

I am snowed under with work and not
 always getting as much sleep as I would
 like, but it's almost over, and it's a great
 campaign. I'll say it is.

Ever lovingly

Walt

Bradentown, Apr 8
[1919]

Dear Folks.

Bob Jones and I were going on to St Pete this morning, but the boat is busted and we can't go until afternoon. Tomorrow we will stop in Clearwater to see a man who is going to plant some of my Quats and the next day we will probably go on to Gainesville. The time is growing short, hum dillah. But it looks as tho I would have to move to NY if I want to see much of PP this summer.

Yesterday I rec'd Paul's letters of 3rd and 4th. I have left word for anything that comes here to be forwarded to Jay.

The avocados campaign is really over. I am getting too far north here than to be much interest in the fruit, and there will be no more meetings or anything

of that sort. I may have to talk to the boys of club at Gainesville or something of that sort.

Went to see a grove on the key opposite Sarasota yesterday. It is on low ground, about 2 ft above salt water, and is dying back badly. I am convinced that acaecora must be on fairly high ground, - which means 3 to 5 ft in Florida.

Paul, does your room have a double bed? If not, how are you going to put me up when I come up to spend a Sunday with you? - Glad the canoe is still on tap. I will use it this summer. - I have crossed CHP's tracks here several times and several folks that here and me was one and the same person - until they saw me. - I don't see that I wrote anything in my last letter to Marteta which could cause her to be in the condition ~~to you~~

speech of. I simply told her that I wasn't
enjoying this trip as much as I should and
was anxious to get back to Washington, which
is a fact. You're trying to scare me.

Don't send anything to Jax, it will
not reach there by the 14th, after
that, Savannah and home - insofar
as I have a home.

I've been thinking. In re the deal for
buying the West field at WIG, you know
I'm prohibited from engaging in commercial
avocados culture, and it may be best
to let Paul hold my interest for the
time being. All I ask is that he turn over
the dividends to me regularly, in place
of the Puckettian dance checks I am now
receiving by every mail.

Ever truly
Will

Bradenton, Apr 8 [1919]

Dear Folks:

I sent you a letter today via N.Y. Bob and I leave this pm for St. Peter then Clearwater tomorrow and the next day or up to Gainesville. Effie isn't there.

Reasoner tells me the money business in Fla is on the bum. He has run behind every yr for the last 5 yrs, and lost about \$45,000 in the big freeze 2 yrs ago. If it wasn't for his wife's money he couldn't stand it. The other St Mary folks are thinking of quitting the game. Reasoner has lost \$3000 on arcados this yr due to some disease getting into his young stock.

Love lovingly

Will

Did H take my 2 white duck suits (new)



S. O. CHADWICK
MANAGER

The White House

ONE OF FLORIDA'S BEST HOTELS

Gainesville, Florida

April 10 1919.

Dear Folks:

This hotel has a familiar appearance. Effie is not here to grace it with her presence, however. Dear Relfs is in Washn and may not get back here before we leave, tho I hope he will come tomorrow. We stay here until lay after tomorrow, the 12th, then go on to Jacksonville. Probably we will run down to St Augustine on Sunday and out to Glen St Mary on Monday. Tuesday 15th to Savannah, and I will likely leave there by the 17th for Washn, getting there the 18th.



S. O. CHADWICK
MANAGER

The White House

ONE OF FLORIDA'S BEST HOTELS

Gainesville, Florida

or 19th, if Allah wills.

So you can address me at
Washburn again. I haven't heard
from Kato to learn whether he is
engaged to the Houston girl yet
or not. but it looks as tho
he might not get to Washburn very
soon, in which case I may be
pretty much alone there for
some time. But Paul and I
will manage to see each other
pretty frequently, I reckon.

Things is pretty tame now -
out of the wocad's territory. It
was a whirlwind for a while.
I'm here to say, I hope it
will bring results. I guess we



S. O. CHADWICK
MANAGER

The White House

ONE OF FLORIDA'S BEST HOTELS

Gainesville, Florida

3.
have placed about 3000 seedling
Gustardens in the state, as well
as quite a lot of bud-ded trees.
I want to place now some of
the bud-ded trees in Calif. There
is no use, of course, in putting
seedlings out there, as the industry
is too far along for it; but here
in Fla it is all right.

Ever lovingly

Will

Gainesville Fla
April 10, 1919

Dear Folks:

We slipped quietly into Gville
this pm so's not to arouse Effie.
and went up town for a haircut. It
was too late to go out to the Uni-
versity. We will go out in the morn-
ing but Relf is in Washington and
will not be back for a day
or two, so we may not see him.
I want to get Bellings stuff, or
see if I can get it, at any rate,
and I want to see if anything is
being done by the State folks
on avocados. We will stay here
until Saturday the 12th, then
go to Jap. Sunday we will prob-
ably go down to St Augustine and

take a swim, as there is nothing to do in Jap. Monday 14 we go out to Isla St Mary. Tuesday 15 we expect to go to Savanach. I will probably leave there the 17th, getting to Washington the 18th or 19th. Please be advised and govern yourselves accordingly.

Yesterday we stopped in Charwater, where I visited a man who has just planted one of our sets of Guatemalans, and we took supper with Dean Alvord, a wealthy plant amateur. He has a beautiful place and treated us well. I got acquainted with him on the train the other day, coming up from Ft Myers.

Don't think I have much to report this time. We are out of the avocado belt and things

are quite - Bob and I spend our
time while on the train arguing
questions of philosophy and Our
Policies.

The other day in St Pete two girls
next to me were arguing about the
proper orthography of break. Say
one to t'other, it must be break,
'Cause you spell break br-ak-e.

I'm tired and dirty and am going
to quit. Thank good we'll finish
this well soon be over. I don't
never want to travel again, -
at least not for three months.

Love lovingly
Bill

I am told that Soebury has
married Marg. Connor. Hell!

Jax, Sunday eve Apr 13.
[1913]

Dear Folks:

Here we are in Jax. So this is Jax!
How it has grown in the last 3 yrs. Guess
we've got to lose a couple of days here:
Tomorrow to see Hume, here in town, and the
next day out to Elber at Mary to see the nur-
series. Then Wed we go to Savannah and
Thurs I will probably start for Washn. making
home Friday.

Today Bob and I went down to St Augustine.
I was there about 5 yrs ago, but in midsummer.
The "season" is not quite over yet and it
is a very attractive place - one of the
prettiest I have seen in Florida. We
took a swim in the surf, but it was
too cold to stay in long. Not like
Miami - too far from the Gulf stream.
Yesterday, in Gainesville. I packed Bellings's
instruments, and his

coll'n of separators, and shipped them to him at Forest Glen. Daddy Ralph was there and we had a good talk. He asked me to send a paper on succades to him and he will read it at the mtg of the Fla State Hort Soc in Orlando next month.

Found an envelop. of letters from Paul here, enclosing 2 from MBR. I think you're unduly frightened re Tillie, mother. But I don't really believe she is exactly the kind wire need to. I don't altogether like that scientific type (soi disant)

I'm afraid Paul is going to live a pretty strenuous life in N.Y. with so many lobster suppers and that sort of thing. I'm glad I'm not going to attempt to follow his lead. As for me, I shall take it easy in Washn so far as society is concerned and try to keep my brain clear for my book.

I want you to see that it sends all

the white dog he has not have any wear left in 'em look to us. on part color he must have 2 new ones of mine oh I had made in Guatemala.

I'm going to reach Washn just in time to attend church Easter Sunday. Don't know yet which one I'll go to. I still find, in spite of all my radical ideas, that I get a lot of satisfaction out of the right sort of a church service. I've been reading Wm James, and find it is due to my emotional nature. Sometimes I wish my nature were just a little less emotional. Not to keep me away from church, but to keep me away from certain other things - bless their ever-loving little hearts!

Anyway, I love you all a heap, and don't you forget it.

W.

Has it my dancing shoes? I need em.



HICKS HOTEL

EUROPEAN PLAN
ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

April 16 1919

Mather darling:

I'll just write a few lines
to accompany these "snaps" which
Bob took of me in Bradenton.
They're nothing wonderful, but
neither is the subject.

The other morning, just after
I had written you at Jack, Bob
and I went downstairs and
in the lobby ran smack into
Dr Fairchild, who had just
arrived from Miami! We all
spent the morning with Hume.



HICKS HOTEL

EUROPEAN PLAN
ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

and in the pm came up
to Savannah. We have been
here 2 days, and tomorrow the
Dr and myself take the train
for Washn, Bob staying here.
I have never been with the
Dr when he was any more
enjoyable than just now, and
I feel that it was a great
stroke of luck to run into him.
He has given us some ex-
cellent talks on several sub-
jects he has broached one of
new theory, to the effect that
a man shouldn't marry
until he is 35.



HICKS HOTEL

EUROPEAN PLAN
ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

He says he may go to
Ches next month. If so
I hope he will see you
folks. I think his health is
pretty good now. Mrs T and
the kids have just gone up
to Washn.

Stacks of love from you

Ever devoted ~~one~~

Wilt

Su casa, Sunday afternoon Apr 20

Dear Folks:

Dr Fairchild and I came up from Savannah together, reaching here Friday evening, about 9 hrs late. John D Rockefeller was on the same train, in a Pullman compartment; we were tied up for a couple of hrs at St Stephen, S C, and everybody got out to take some air. Rockefeller stopped in front of a small house to admire the roses; the lady of the house came out and cut him a few. John D then handed her a small white envelop containing his card, and stood back to observe the effect it would have when she saw his name. She opened it, and looked at it, and then drawled out "Oh yes, I have seen yeah name in the papers". That was all.

I found word from Paul here that he would be down Sat morning, so I just had time to get in a night's sleep, and at 7.30 he walked in on me. We breakfasted at the Cosmos Club and met again in the afternoon. This morning we went out canoeing, finding the weather delightful and the canoe still in fighting trim, despite the vicissitudes of the last few years. I am going to overhaul it and repaint it this week and put in shape for the season, as I expect to get much use out of it. I dont know just when I will dare to take out canoeing, and I cant go alone, but Allah is great. Paul doesnt allow me to take the same girl more than once a month.

You know, it kinda makes me laugh; this here Paul jumps all over me because I have been singing with Martha, and

writing to her 3 times from Florida, (in two months) and then
when he gets down here Saturday morning he calls on ^{Marguerite} her two
times before Sunday evening, --and finds her in, too. He is
over there now, darn his hide. I dont reckon he will marry
her, because she is not domestic and probably never will be,
but I suppose it is sort of a soul-mate proposition. He says
he finds her very interesting, but he could never stand her
mother, to which I say Amen. Her mother is a bolshevik, and
wears her hair bobbed (as Marguerite also does) and would bore
me to death in 3 days. I dont really believe there is any
danger, but the point is precisely this; he accuses me of
traveling unier false pretenses and trifling with the affections
of the little dears, and then what does he do? The less said
the better.

I found a lot of mail here, including a letter from
L H Bailey saying he believes he will be able to put the
book thru next fall if I can get it ready, and I am writing
him that I expect to have it finished by that time. I am
going to settle down to it at once, or rather just as soon
as I can clean up the work which my trip has let accumulate
in the Of's. Dr Fairchild says he is going to ask me to take
a hand in running the Journal of Heredity this summer. I will
probably do most of the editorial work, I suppose. Dr Woods
has resigned. I dont know whether we can keep it going or
not, but we will have a try anyway.

Had lunch yesterday at the Mess with Safford, Collins,
Coville, Kearney, et al. That is a fine bunch of men, and as
I sat there I thought to myself that the pleasure I derive
from being in such company is worth more to me than \$2000 per

In about an hour we are going out to the Brownes to call. They are just back from Panama, and I suppose we will hear some tall stories from Pa. I suspect he has learned a few Spanish words and will ring em in frequently.

I would like to be present at the avocado mtg, father, but nothing doing as yet. We are busted for sho. I note you are going to plant the set of my Guatemalans Bisset is sending you at Vista. Seems to me like that isnt just zactly giving em a fair chance, but maybe they will do allright if you take good care of em. Why dont you folks move down to Vista, get ten acres more land if you want it, and grow fruit? Or maybe you can handle the thing from Altadena allright. I suspect you are right in not wanting to build right how, because of the high price of materials. Pine Lodge is a pretty good place, in most respects. I was never enthusiastic about the possibilities of fruit growing in that particular region. I refer to the sandy character of the soil.

Dr Fairchild may be in California in time for the big meeting at Riverside the end of May. He will pretty surely be out there early this summer, even if not in May. I hope he will see you folks, and I presume he will do so. My week with him on the end of this trip was even more enjoyable than the time I had with him in Miami, as he was feeling better and we had more time to ourselves. He gave me some fine talks. The more I see of him the better I like him, and I am not a bit sorry that I have cast my lot with him. I may give him a hard blow some day by picking out a wife who cant support herself, or something of that sort, but I guess he

As said previously, I want my dancing shoes which I assume Hero took west with him, and a cream colored silk cap which I cant find here, and all the good white suits which he has, or ~~xxx~~ component parts of suits. That boy certainly cleaned us out, but we are going to make him disgorge or know the reason why.

I was sitting in the station at Jax when a lanky youth came up, glanced furtively around, and sat down beside me. "Say, Capn, do you want a half pint of Three Roses?". "I dunno," said I, "What's it worth?" "\$2.50" "Cant you give me a quart?" "Sure" "How much will it cost?" "\$7.50". I sat thinking for a moment. "Say, Capn, are you all a surveyor?" "No, I am a government man" Whereupon he went up in the air two feet and turned the color of a sheet. "Oh thats all right" I said, "I am a botanist". "My God, Capn, but you gave me an awful scare" said the youth, y se fue.

Lovingly yours

W

Washn, Monday April 27 1919

Dear Folks:

Saturday morning I was peacefully sleeping in my comfortable bed at 1812 Calvert St, su casa de Uds, when in walked Paul. He hadnt told me he was coming down this week end and I was not expecting him. I had even gone so far, in fact, as to turn down a dinner invitation for him at the Roses, but I retracted later and we had the dinner Sunday noon.

We took bkfst at the Cosmos Club and then each went to our respective offices, as the Spanish would have it. We met again in the evening, but I had fixed up a deal for Doc Dunn and myself to take the Rose girls to the Powhatan ~~in the evening~~, so Paul passed the time away chez Marguerite Neale. She seems to be the only girl left in Washington that Paul cares for at all. As far as Marguerite is concerned, I like her allright, but her mother is a radical of the most radical type, and I would dislike to see Paul get sefiously interested over there. He wont give me much satisfaction on the subject. "Oh dear, who understands a man?"

Sunday morning we arose very late, came down to the Press Club for bkfst, and then went out to Rock Creek Park for a good walk. I have never seen a finer day in Washington. The trees are coming out in leaf, the dogwood is beautiful, and I was simply enchanted by it all. We had a paralysing dinner chez the Roses, and then at 3 we went out riding with Liet.^u
A

Goldsmith and Mr Miner, in the latter's car. Had another fine view of Rock Creek park. In the evening we walked out to Sheridan circle just at sundown. My, but the city is beautiful these days. I wish I could see more of it, but I am held down to the Ofs during a certain part of each day.

Paul left last night, after we had called on Ruthie Bowman, who is just the same old girl, only more anxious than ever to find her soul mate. She only lives a block and a half from us.

This morning I arose at 6.45, and played tennis with Little Martha from 7 to 8.30, after which I came down to work. Martha is a dear, but we have decided she is not intellectual enough. I suppose mother will come back at me hard for that.

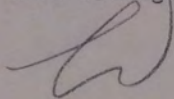
I have been working all day on my paper which is to be read at the mtg of the Fla State Hort Soc next week. It is finished and I am copying it. I have had to write it pretty hastily and it reads like it.

Herb, I want my tennis shoes and that white silk cap. Come along now!

Guess I will go out and give the canoe a second coat of Shamrock green tonight. Ruthie wants to go out canoeing.

Nothing very exciting to chronicle.

Ever lovingly,



Washington, April 29 1919

Dear Folks:

I respectfully beg to report as follows:

1. This typewriter is getting sticky already, and I wish I had my six dollars back in my jeans.

2. I this day put the second coat of varnish on the inside of the ~~xxx~~ canoe, and it is now ready for the water, with two coats of green enamel outside, and two of valspar inside. I will now have to purchase a carpet, four or five cushions, and a lantern, and I will then be ready to take a trip in her and find that she leaks. Dempsey borrowed one of the paddles wh we found in the canoe when we first went out to examine it, and said he would give me another in its place; he did so, and it was a new one, but of a very cheap brand. I guess he figured the other one was too good for us.

3. I this day finished a ~8 page MS entitled "Avocados, Particularly Guatemalans" and mailed it to Professor Rolfs, who is going to read it for me at the meeting of the State Horticultural Society at Orlando, Fla., next week. I had to rush it a bit to finish it, but I guess it is in fairly good shape. I now have the boards pretty well cleared and will take up the book and the Journal of Heredity. With these two I guess I will have enough to keep me out of mischief. Tomorrow I hope to get my books from the Willard Cts and install them in my down town of fice.

4. I went out to the Brownes last night. Everyone except Tom was out walking; I played the phonograph and talked the League of Notions with Tom until they came home at 8.45, whereupon I presented Mrs B with a copy of Applied Eugenics and the Avocado in Guatemala, and Kitty with 3 boxes of Florida guava jelly. Kitty seemed more vivacious last night than I have ever seen her before. Guess she is a pretty nice girl, tho I dont suppose MBP will ever forgive her for the type of letter she used to write me. Mrs B insisted that I eat some hot biscuits with plenty of Wisconsin butter and rich maple syrup, the jennywine article. Nobody knows any better what boys like than Mrs B. Kitty agreed to take me over to see some building lots which look attractive, and I guess we will go Friday afternoon after work, coming back for supper at the Browness. Most folks would begin to get suspicious when a young feller goes out with a girl to look at lots, but MBP, having had her hopes dashed to earth on so many occasions, probably will not allow herself to become excited about it. Pa Browne had his arm broken and is carrying it in a sling. He was working with the car and it slipped back on him some way or other and caught his arm. It wasnt the crank.

5. I duly telephoned Capt Mook at 9.30 Monday morning as instructed by ex-Captain Popenoe.

6. I am maintaining my Plenty of Sleep system with great éclat. This will be the second night that I will get to bed early. My rule now is going to be: Only one night a week later than 10.30. I figure it is the only way to keep in shape to write that book. A feller oughtnt to sit up late in summer time anyhow.

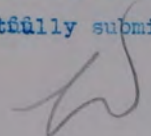
7. Father, for your information I may state that I have today addressed franks to every member of the California Avocado Assn, and they will go over to some other Bureau for the bulletins to be mailed. After waiting a couple of weeks, if you hear of any people who havent read copies and want them, you can either send me the addresses or I will fwd you another bunch of bulletins and you can distribute them. We had an edition of 5000 printed.

8. Mother, I dont think Paul looks tired and thin. It is probable that Betty saw him during the week he was initiating Marguerite Neale into the mysterious of New York. That's enough to make anybody look tired and thin. So far as known to the writer, Paul is in his usual good health and spirits.

9. Washington surely is beautiful this spring. I saw the finest trio of dogwoods out at Cleveland Park last night which I have ever seen. One pink and two white. By the way, Paul, that bungalow we looked at with the Brownes was \$150 per mo, and they are now looking for another. They are talking a bit about putting up a house for themselves, but more likely with rent or buy.

10. I dont think Paul and I have ever been better dressed than at this moment. I suppose he has been as well dressed in past years as now, but the pair of us have never set such a high standard at one and the same time. It costs money, but what's money for? Herb, where is my silk cap and my pair of tennis shoes? And all those white dux? That ominous silence on the clothing question which proceeds from the environs of Whittier arouses suspicion.

Respectfully submitted



[April 30, 1919]

Dear father:

Enclosed copies for your information. I hope the boys come thru with the data I need to make the historical part of my paper complete.

In case I do not have any of the addresses correct, and the letters will not reach the men, you might send them ~~kk~~ the copy which I enclose.

I presume I can get Murrietta's data from the paper which is going to be read at the avocado meeting. With his account, the history should be fairly complete.

W

April 30, 1919.

Mr Dan E Clower,
Monrovia, California.

Dear Mr. Clower:

As you may know, I visited Atlixco last December on behalf of the University of California, and made a study of its avocados. I am now preparing a paper for Dr Webber on the subject, and wish to include in it a brief historical sketch of the early introductions which were made by Californians.

I believe you were one of the first to obtain varieties from that region, were you not? I would like very much to have a brief statement regarding the work which you did. Have you ever visited Atlixco personally, or did you get your budwood thru Fuentes? And what was the date? How many varieties were established in California as a result of your work? If you will give me these and any other facts which may be of interest I will be greatly obliged. I am sure you will be glad to cooperate with me in putting on record the early history of Atlixco avocados in California.

Yours sincerely,

Agricultural Explorer.

Vera Cruz, April 12 1918

Dear Folks:

I met a fellow this noon just up from Tehunatepec, one of the men Bell gave me letters to. He is from Topeka, name Paxton, and is OK. He is now on his way home to join the army. He says I will find his partner down on the hacienda and can stay as long as I feel like. If we dont sail tonight too early I am going to take him to dinner at the Diligencias.

I stopped in a cafe at noon today to listen to a fellow play the piano, and what do you think he struck up? El Gallo! And he rattled it off in great shape. Yesterday I heard him play Maria Mari. He appears to be blind, and probably a Spaniard, and his little daughter passes the hat for him, just like they used to do over in Algiers. It is all very European.

The fellow I picked up and thought I might take on down to the isthmus with me did not pan out very well, so I decided to drop the matter until I get down there. I am going right to the hacienda Dos Rios at Santa Lucrecia, where I want to look into the oil palm matter. There are several Americans there, and I may be able to tie up with one of them. I think I will get back to Vera Cruz within a month, and I dont know how much mail you folks are going to get from me in the interim. I will do the best I can. I dont suppose I will hear anything from you until I get back here. I will leave instructions with the consul to hold my mail, as there is no use forwarding it until I know where to have it sent down there.

I must go ashore now to the immigration office to get a ticket so I can leave here tonight. Too bad they couldnt book me clear thru, which they might just as well have done, but the folks that are running this line havent found themselves yet.

There are some Filipino mangos in the market here, but no aguacates as yet. Things are pretty high in price. It certainly makes me wish I was back in Guatemala, where I used to kick when they tried to charge me for than four cents for a pineapple.

They put up better grub here than they used to in Guatemala, and the town is altogether more up to date and businesslike, with real street cars, and good cafes. Guatemala hasnt a band to compare with the one we heard at the plaza last night either. I went in town with one of the boys from the boat, and took in a very long and tiresome (to me) cine.

I am a little bit early for the aguacates, but it is well to be on the ground in advance, and I suppose it wont be long now until they begin to show up.

Lots of love from

Wilt

April 30, 1919.

Mr. A.R.Rideout,
Whittier, California.

Dear Mr. Rideout:

As you may know, I visited Atlixco last December on behalf of the University of California, and made a study of its avocados. I am now writing a paper on the subject for Dr Webber and wish to include in it an account of the Atlixcan avocados in California.

I seem to recall that you had something to do with the early introductions made by Wm D Stephens. I want to mention all the work which was done in the early days, and would be obliged if you would tell me whether you propagated any avocados which Mr Stephens introduced, and if so, what varieties. Any information that you can give me will be appreciated. I am sure you feel as I do, that it is worth while to put the history of this work in permanent form, at this early day when we can still get at the facts.

Thanking you in anticipation for your assistance, I am

Yours faithfully,

Agricultural Explorer.

April 30, 1919.

Mr Wm. D. Stephens,
Montebello, California.

Dear Mr Stephens:

As you may have learned, I visited Atlixco last winter on behalf of the University of California, and made a study of its avocados. I am now engaged in writing a paper on the subject for Dr. Webber, who will publish it somewhere in California. I wish to include a brief account of all the work which has been done in that region by Californians, and desire to be accurate in regard to the part which you played in bringing the avocados of Atlixco to our attention.

I recall the article you published in the California Cultivator about the year 1910. So far as I know, it was the first time that the avocados of Atlixco had publicly been called to the attention of Californians. Am I not correct in this?

I would be greatly obliged if you would kindly tell me at what time you were in Atlixco, how long you were there, and how you first came to know of the place. I can then incorporate it in my account. Also, did you introduce any avocados from there into California? If so, which ones?

Atlixco has played a very important part in the development

of the avocado industry in California, and it is to the interest of all concerned that we have on record an accurate account of the early work which was done in introducing Atlixcan avocados into our state. I am sure, therefore, that you will be glad to cooperate with me by furnishing ~~me~~ with a short account of your own work.

Thanking you in anticipation, I am

Yours sincerely,

Agricultural Explorer.