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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.

WELLINGTON & Co.

NEW YORK - PITTSBURGH

TELEPHONE CORTLANDT 7-6363

120 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK

July 1, 1938

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
c/o United Fruit Company  
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Dear Wilson:

Your letter of June 12, 1938, was received, and I appreciate the information which it contained. Under the circumstances, I shall not approach Mr. Pollan, and I quite understand how this is a delicate subject.

When you arrive in this country toward the end of September, we can discuss whether something or nothing should be done.

Many people believe that the worst of the depression has been seen, and I trust that this is the case. My own view is that lasting prosperity in the United States is impossible as long as Mr. Roosevelt and his associates are with us. Nevertheless, purchases of securities at present prices might make a favorable showing over the course of two or three years. Those securities which you obtained at my suggestion are thoroughly satisfactory, and in my opinion you do not need to be concerned about their position.

Recently Dr. James Zetek made a study of cercospora in Haiti and arrived at rather optimistic conclusions. He doubts whether the disease will spread in Haiti, or at worst that control measures would be comparatively simple. Dr. Zetek inspected our banana operations, which are still in the experimental stages, and was most favorably impressed. In fact he stated positively his opinion that our operation should be highly successful. Probably you are acquainted with Dr. Zetek, and I should be interested in knowing the extent to which you would be inclined to take practical action on the basis of his opinions.

Recently Mr. Gordon Smith was in New York, and we had a pleasant visit. Your name entered the discussion, and you do not need to feel uneasy about the comments which were made. I consider Mr. Smith as a very high type of person.

There have been some recent developments which I wish to describe to you in strict confidence. Two or three weeks ago the son-in-law of John D. Rockefeller asked me to discuss Haitian conditions with him. He is in charge of some rather large financial interests and was considering the possibility of undertaking a business enterprise in Haiti. We discussed the matter rather thoroughly, and he is definitely interested. Of course your name came to my mind, and it is not impossible that a project will be devised for the production of agricultural commodities in Haiti, such as bananas, sisal and coffee.

There is no use in talking about management until we know whether there is to be an enterprise. But I wished you to know what is going on, and if you would not be interested under any circumstances there is no point in discussing the possibility with you.

With best regards and looking forward to seeing you in September,

Very sincerely yours,

*Bill*

2333 TWENTIETH STREET  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 4, 1940

Ben Wilson,

Your letter of July 14 reached me in Blue Hill, Maine, where I spent not less than one month on vacation with Edith and the dog! Of course I want to reply to you, if only to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me the lovely stamp cover; but well, vacation is vacation, and there were many, many important things to be done in the way of cocktail parties, shoe shines, and similar occasions



business. So the days slipped  
by, and I now find myself  
back on the job, with pleasant  
memories, some five pounds of  
additional adipose, and your  
unassured letter.

It really did me well out  
of good to hear from you after  
the long silence. But a visit in  
person would have been better. You  
didn't miss a heck of a lot by  
not attending the Scientific Congress  
meetings, I think, though it would  
have meant a lot more to you  
that it probably cost to me. In

Now, things were well done,  
though the program could have  
been arranged better. The  
social part was - great success.

Yes, when <sup>are</sup> you coming this  
way? We are anxious to see you.  
Edith will get back from Blue Hill  
next week, after exactly three weeks  
up there. Mary has been here all  
Summer. She has a job in the  
Public Library and, with a girl  
friend, has been running the house  
besides since the middle of July.  
It seems to agree with her, for she  
looks fine & is getting on weight.

This letter may sound cheerful,  
but I am not. Who can be,  
these days, unless he is Samuel?

When you write again, tell me  
how the Germans in your part  
of the world are carrying sail.  
I don't know where the world  
is heading, nor does anybody;  
but I definitely do not like  
the prospects. Do you? If you  
have any good work to cheer, for  
the love of Heaven spare it.

See the best to you & do  
let us hear from you again soon.  
Remember, the door is open.

Faithfully  
B. C.



WELLINGTON & Co.

NEW YORK

TELEPHONE CORTLANDT 7-6363

120 BROADWAY

July 17, 1941

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
c/o United Fruit Company  
One Federal Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Wilson:

In thinking about your problem of finding a director for the proposed agricultural school, I decided to consult Dr. H. D. Barker of the Department of Agriculture, who was one of our abler men in Haiti.

Enclosed please find a copy of Dr. Barker's letter. There are many suggestions, and you might find merit in something that he says.

When you come to the United States again, please do not fail to have your itinerary include my office.

With best regards and all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

*Bill*

Enclosure



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY  
WASHINGTON

Division of  
Cotton and Other Fiber Crops  
And Diseases

July 9, 1941

Mr. W. W. Cumberland  
Wellington & Company  
120 Broadway  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Cumberland:

Upon return to the office after a few days annual leave at my home in South Carolina, I find your letter of June 21 regarding suggestions for personnel for an Agricultural school to be established by the United Fruit Company. Most of the names that came to mind were eliminated by certain of the qualifications that you indicated would be required.

I can think of no one whom Mr. Popenoe would not know and whom he has probably not already considered. Among the older experienced men here who have reached retirement and might be available, there would be Dr. W. T. Swingle and Dr. O. F. Cook. Mr. Popenoe would know both of these men and I feel that it is not necessary for me to give any details regarding their experience or qualifications. It occurred to me that Dr. R. D. Rands of the Rubber Plant Investigations of this Bureau who has been seeking personnel with tropical experience for filling positions in that Division might have some suggestions. He gave me the names of two young men with tropical experience and a knowledge of Spanish, who had applied for positions and who Dr. Rands thought from the information contained on their application sheets might merit investigating for the position you suggest. These are Mr. Joe Permar at Almirante, Panama, and Dr. Benjamin J. Birdsall, graduate assistant in soils at Michigan State College. Both of these men have worked for the United Fruit Company so that Mr. Popenoe may know them or could obtain information regarding them.

Dr. Rands reports that Mr. Permar has a wide acquaintance with tropical crops, is an enthusiastic investigator, and although he has probably no experience in teaching, should make a good director for establishing and administering an agricultural school.

Dr. Birdsall spent 7 years in the Central American Tropics from 1929 throughout May 1936 in the employ of the United Fruit Company. During the first  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years he worked in the Soils Research Department on projects in Honduras, Panama and Colombia and made many trips to Costa Rica and Guatemala. The latter  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years were spent

in the Production Department of the Company as overseer and administrator. Since 1936 he has been in school and has completed his doctorate in Soil Chemistry and Fertility. Mr. Popenoe referred him to Dr. Rands for a possible opportunity in the rubber program. Dr. Grant, also of the Rubber Division and formerly with the United Fruit Company, knew Dr. Birdsall in Honduras, says that he has an agreeable personality although he might not be a very enthusiastic and aggressive leader.

There is also in this Bureau Dr. F. L. Wellman, Division of Fruits and Vegetables, who I think would be a good man if he would be willing to give up his Bureau connections. He has also worked for the United Fruit Company and I am sure that Mr. Popenoe knows him, or knows of him. I am not sure that he speaks Spanish fluently. In fact I am inclined to feel of the requirements specified the ability to speak Spanish fluently may require modification. I know that most of us who went to Haiti had only a reading knowledge of French but that it did not take long to acquire sufficient facility in speaking French to get along, and I think you will agree with me that a speaking knowledge of Spanish is considerably easier to acquire than a speaking knowledge of French.

I regret that I am unable to furnish you with a greater list of likely candidates. If I recall anyone else whom I think it would be worthwhile to investigate, I shall forward his name to you, and if I can be of any further help in obtaining information regarding anyone who may be considered, I shall, of course, be glad to do whatever I can.

I think this is a very worthwhile task and I certainly hope that someone who can do a good job may be secured. With all the faults that might be mentioned in connection with the establishment of the school at Damien, I feel that the school and experiment station is a creditable monument to the efforts of the Treaty Service and that you and all of us who had a part in building it up may take justifiable pride in it.

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Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. D. Barker  
Principal Pathologist

NOTE: Upon second thought it occurs to me that I failed to mention several first class men who have most of the requirements specified because I felt that it was unlikely that they could be induced to give up the responsible position they now hold. There is, of course, the possibility that they might secure leave for two or three years. However, it is more likely that it would be worthwhile to contact them for recommendations or information concerning suggested candidates. I suggest:

Dr. E. C. Stakman, Head of Plant Pathology, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota - extensive experience in Mexico, Central and South America, Africa and Australia; speaks several languages and has trained several graduate students who have had tropical experience.

Atherton Lee, Director of Federal Experiment Station, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico - world wide tropical experience; especially Hawaii, Philippines, Antilles; fluent Spanish.

William P. Kramer, In Charge, Division of Operations, Forest Service, Washington, D. C. Several years in charge of the forest service in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; several official trips to South America and Antilles (was on Dominican survey with me two years ago); fluent Spanish.

Dr. J. H. Beaumont, Prof. of Horticulture, University of Hawaii; tropical experience limited to Hawaii, but he might be helpful in connection with Hawaiian trained graduate students and others who have had tropical experience; Spanish speaking ability doubtful.

Dr. O. A. Reinking, Chief, Plant Pathology Department, New York Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., formerly with the United Fruit Company.

Dr. R. D. Rands, Division of Rubber Plant Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C. Experience in Dutch East Indies, Central and South America.

The name of Mr. Henry Pittier who is, and has been for several years, with the Venezuelan Department of Agriculture, has been suggested to me. I was told that he was a very able man, and that although he is in his late sixties he is very active.

H.D.B.



Antigua, Guatemala, 12 Oct 1941

Dr W W Cumberland,  
Wellington and Co., 120 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Bill:

Just about the time I was due to get back here and take up the problem of our agricultural school, the U S Dept of Agr borrowed me to take part in a survey of sites in five South and Central American countries which have been offered for the proposed Interamerican Institute of Tropical Agriculture. This was quite a job but was finished last week.

Many thanks for your letter of 17 July with enclosed one from Barker, whom I know. Most of the men he mentions have come up for consideration in connection with our school. Swingle and Cook are both too old. Joe Pernar already works for us and we do not think he is quite suited for the job of Director of the school. Birdsall who used to work for us is now back with us again, but here also we do not think he is suited - at least ready for the job. Dr Wellman used to be with us and we do not believe he is the man for this post.

And so on. To make a long story short, Mr Pollan called me up on the radiotelephone a few days ago and told me they had decided to put me on the job! This suits me allright. We have pretty well completed the agricultural research on bananas which we started out fifteen years ago to carry out, and for the past couple of years I have been working mainly on public relations jobs - on loan to various countries down here. This agrl school job will probably not interfere greatly with my continuing along such lines, though it will curtail the amount of travel I can handle - which will be a relief. And it will give me an opportunity to build up something of an experiment station along with the school - anything I have wanted much to do. I am to continue my collaboration with the U S D A, which has taken a good part of my time this year.

I dont know just how it will work out, but I like the idea and am going

at it with enthusiasm. I don't know any way in which I could prove more useful to Central America than by building up such an institution as the one we have in mind. With luck, I should have ten years' more of active service, and in this time the thing can be put well on its feet. The main problem will probably be one of sticking closely to the job and not being called off on a hundred and one others. This judging from experience of the past few years.

We are still dickering for a site. We want one 35 kms from Tegucigalpa - a fine valley which lies between 2000 and 2500 feet in elevation, on a good road from Tegucigalpa. I hope we get this property; it strikes me as just about ideal. We will know in another month or so.

Best regards always. I hope you are enjoying the best of health.

Sincerely yours



WELLINGTON & Co.

NEW YORK

TELEPHONE CORTLANDT 7-6363

120 BROADWAY

Air Mail

November 19, 1941

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Tela Railroad Company  
La Lima, Honduras

Dear Wilson:

A friend of mine is weighing the desirability, or the opposite, of acquiring citizenship in one of the Latin American countries. His possible action is motivated by his belief that the increase in debt in the United States, together with drastic advances in taxation, will wreck the American economic system and bring disaster to those who have a stake in our country. He also disagrees fundamentally with the general economic policies which have been pursued over recent years, considering that they have resulted in sharp restriction of individual enterprise and may eventually result in some form of state socialism. Under these assumptions he is wondering whether it would not be the part of wisdom to make a start elsewhere, even as our ancestors left the countries of their residences for the United States, inasmuch as opportunity in this country seemed to be superior.

I have told my friend that there is no one with more experience and better judgment than yourself who might be able to give him answers on the following questions:

- 1) Is the move described above desirable or undesirable in principle?
- 2) Which of the Latin American countries of your experience would be most desirable as a place of residence?
- 3) Which would be most desirable as a center from which to conduct business?
- 4) Which Latin American country has the most favorable corporate tax legislation?
- 5) Which country is most constructive in dealing with investments, whether on the part of its own citizens or foreigners?
- 6) Which has comparatively low or non-existent income taxes?



- 7) Which has favorable inheritance tax legislation?
- 8) In which can citizenship be acquired in reasonable time and without undue formalities or expenses?

Specifically, my friend has made some preliminary investigations and has reached the conclusion that perhaps Guatemala or Costa Rica offer the greatest advantages, provided the plan itself is valid.

Another person whose experience and judgment I value in Latin American affairs considers Panama as definitely attractive. Of course, certain of the South American countries, such as Uruguay or Peru, or perhaps Argentina, could be considered, but these are remote from the United States and Canada, where my friend wishes to spend a considerable amount of his time, partly for vacation and partly from a business standpoint.

Presumably, if he should decide to make a first-hand study of Guatemala, you would be able to give him some letters which would permit such study to be soundly made. Please understand that although my friend has extensive business interests, it is not his present intentions to transfer these to the Latin American field. However, he is naturally interested in a country that might have possibilities in case he should acquire citizenship.

Knowles Ryerson is going to be here on Saturday and Eddie Dunn on Friday. We all wish that you also might be present.

Good luck to you on your present assignment.

Very sincerely yours,

*Bill*