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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.

[1912/1913]

Wednesday 2 .00 P.M.

have got the avocado article in shape for the printer. Baker went over it at night and made several minor corrections, and this morning I inserted them and finished working up the key etc., and now have everything all done. I had been waiting to write you until I could have a talk with Baker re calendar work and let you know the results. I have just had this talk with him. He thinks I ought to arrange to spend the greater part of my time down here from now on and push this work. Nothing can be done over here he says I had better spend most of the time down there and can come over here occasionally to go over it with him. He doesn't approve of the card index system anyway or other, although I put it up to him pretty strong. Of course we can use it anyway if we want to. He drew up an outline of what I ought to cover, and thinks I ought to circulate around as much as possible, get the notes I can, and then work them in according to this outline. He thinks there will be sufficient material to justify the use of a card index for every month. I'll go over it with him further before I come down and get everything well straightened out so I can go right ahead when I come down there. I would just as soon come down this week, and it is very likely that I may come down.

ely th t I may come down Thursday eve or Friday, but dont look forme
Donald's folks are coming over Saturday to the inauguration and he seems
be anxious for me to stay here and be here while they are here. I am not
ious to stay, but will talk it over further with Don and may decide to
so. In that case I will probably come down Sunday or Monday.

fV Baker doesnt want any pf those cuts from the Cultivator or photos of
fruitd which Stephens has because they are not named and have not been
cribed. I tried to get him to let me use the big photo of the elegant
it, but he didnt want to. I think we will have plenty of illustrations
way. He says any thatv have dark backgrounds(which as you know is the
e with many of mine) can be tooled out and cleared up alright, but he
afraid we cant improve the looks of the Lyon any except to clean up the
ground. I have nt spoken to him yet about having the avocado article
ished as bul letin of the Botanic Gdn but will do so in a day or two. I
nk he will satbd for it al lright.

Glad to hear by postcard from FOP that everybody is improving down the
Hipe you are all well by this time. Good many of the boys have bee n
ed up over here lately, Don is still suffeting, kind of an attack of the
. Headache etc. Guess he will be alright by tomorrow.

As ever

GWP

~~as quite disa~~
~~quite disa~~

as quite disappointed last night not to get the photos which I left
have attended to at Clearwaters. I told Baker they would be over last
night and he is anxious to get them off to the printer. Hope they wont
fail to arrive tonight. We are very anxious to have them. Baker has asked
if they would be here several times.

Economic Plants of the World

POMONA COLLEGE, CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

Thursday noon.

1912/1913

Dear Folks:

Havent got those photos yet but hope to get them in this afternoon's mail. Baker is very anxious to send them in. Had a long talk with Baker this morning and he wants me to finish up my work at High School this next year if I can. He says if I can do that and keep an article in every number of the Journal that by the time I am through at H S I will be almost certain to get a scholarship in one of the universities for two or three years study along horticultural and botanical lines. He says that I have got hold of the work now and can carry on my work for publication just as well down there as up here, and if I could be getting through with my work there at the same time that I would be a good deal

better off than by putting in my entire time on this work. ~~Of course~~ I'll give you further particulars when I get home. His plan is a great deal more promising than Doc Cooks. I talked with him about the avocado article and he thinks his best way to send it out will be as a separate from the Journal, with a nice neat cover on it to keep it clean and no

ads of any kind. He says if I get into commercialism with my publications now it will absolutely ruin my chances in a scientific way. He says the thing to do will be to get up a little circular with the recipes and a little other material and our ad in it and enclose it with the bulletin

Economic Plants of the World

POMONA COLLEGE, CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

to every possible customer, but when sending it to Botanic Gardens or Washington just to send the bulletin alone. I think his plan is a good one. He thinks the Bureau of Plant Industry work would be a good thing for me but says I will have much better chances of rising if I go on with my work here for a few years more.

Donal is alright today. Dont say anything to his folks about his being sick. He is very anxious that they should not know it and cautioned me not to mention it when they ~~are~~ up here. We expect them up tomorrow. I will come down just as soon as they get away from here, probably Sunday or Monday. I want to get out on that calendar job. I think I will have to join the gardeners association to get in touch with all the gardeners and find out what they are doing all the time. I think that calendar job will be the biggest thing I can do.

Hope everybody is well down there by this time. It surely is fine weather. I tell you this batching business is great. Im living off the fat of the land. Tubby Macfadden came in this mornign when I was just devouring a bacon sandwich (dont tell BBP) and he said it smelled so good he had to get out, or he would get so hungry he couldnt stand it. There are a lot of tangering trees down the railroad track about a mile, between the right of way and the ~~publication~~ road, and the boys go down and lay in a supply every few days. A Dona and I are going down tonight to get a stock to last over the celebrations tomorrow and Saturday. We have open house Saturday and all the girls come through and inspect our

Economic Plants of the World

POMONA COLLEGE, CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

rooms and swipe anything they can get their fingers on.

Well, you can look for me about Monday. I'm kind of anxious to get home and get my calendar started. Am working up the material I have clipped now, and will clip everything else we have here before I come away. I find I have quite a lot of stuff on January. Before I get through I will have a lot of material alright.

As ever

FWP

of the end of the 19th century the most likely to be successful

1918/1919
Dad:

What do you know, in general, about the condition of

my Guatemalan introductions in California? As I understand

it, budwood was sent out there to several people. Do you

think all of the varieties were saved, and are in condition

to come into fruit promptly? Here in Florida the budwood

which was sent out only resulted in the men getting about

10 to 15 varieties established, even less in some cases.

I don't believe buds of every variety were sent out,

anyway. We have quite a lot of young budded trees to

send out in sets, and I am placing many of them down here

now. Some more ought to go to California, tho the

promptest results will be obtained, of course, by topwork-

ing old trees. Suggest a few people who should receive some

of these budded trees. We haven't the whole set ready yet;

can only send out about 6 varieties, in fact, as we do not

have large stocks of the rest, and need all the trees we

have to make up the sets we have planned on. The varieties

growers and consequently the most likely of all the set to

prove valuable. All of em are fine in quality, of course.

to them will be some difference in season among them. Mr

Isak said that he could send Mr. J. Groves a set of

which I had asked him to do after

think all of the varieties were

to come from Florida? Here in Florida the budwood

which was sent out only resulted in the men getting about

10 to 15 varieties established, even less in some cases.

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send out in sets, and I am placing many of them down here

now. Some more ought to go to California, the the

promptest results will be obtained, of course, by topwork-

ing old trees. Suggest a few people who should receive some

of these budded trees. We haven't the white set ready yet;

can only send out about 5 varieties, in fact, as we do not

have large stocks of the rest, and need all the trees we

have to make up the sets we have planned on. The varieties

[1918]

I wish I could find some way to rejuvenate the envelopes you send down and use them over again. Paper is awfully high down here, and I neglected to bring any envelopes with me.

Just went down to Hotel Colon and took my lunch. I wanted fish, and saw filete de sol on the menu: not until after I ordered it, however, did I awake to a realization of the fact that sol meant sole. I go to the Colon now because two musicians perform there, and there are none elsewhere. This town is almost devoid of music. The old pianist that I enjoyed so much has disappeared.

Again re the loquat proposition: I am agreeable to anything you folks decide upon, so don't stop at anything on my account. Paul can vote my proxy alright. It looks as tho there was some money to be made out of those loquats every year now, if they are properly handled, and anything that has real money in it, without several years waiting, is almost too good to throw up. I wish you could find some way to close out WIG gradually, as it would be a load offn our hands.

The Amconsul is already beginning to kick because I get too much mail, just like the one in Guatemala used to do. They say I get more than the consulate itself.

An itinerant dulcemonger just inveigled me into buying fifty centavos worth of quince jelly, to avoid having to take six california apples for a peso. Nothing costs less than fifty centavos here.

I must go out and get a haircut now, I'll be glad to get up to Orizaba tomorrow and breathe cooler air for a few days, But the hot season will be over now in a couple of weeks, when the rains commence.

W

[1918]

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W

Washington D C New Years 1918

Dear Folks:

Happy New Year!

H and I came to our respective offices this morning about 8.30, thru atmosphere that was decidedly cold, and I have been writing letters and thinking most of the morning. Just now I telephoned Daisy Bell to ask if we could come out this afternoon, and she said yes, so we will make a little call out there. Barbara and Nancy Bell both had to talk to me before I hung up. Also phoned out to see how Ma Browne was coming along, and Edward said she was still in bed. Poor ma. She has been sick a week now, and the most inconvenient time of the year to boot.

Herb came in after I was asleep last night, having worked down at his oficina. Sewall has gone to Pittsburg or somewhere, to come back next Thursday. The house seems quiet and dirty, especially the latter. Gosh, but the soot does drift in there terribly! And my office is worse. The books and everything else are covered with dirt every morning.

I threaten to take Herb to the Powhatan for a New Year's dinner tonight. He affirms he doesn't want to go,-- but then, he didn't want to eat Lynnhavens until I made him do it, and now he wants em regularly every noon. I think H will enjoy the Powhatan after he tries it a few times, and gets used to seeing real gente around.

It sure has been cold here the last few days. Yesterday I bot myself a swell silk muffler, dark gray, to match my Wattamalan overcoat, and now I look pretty swell. Herbs says, however, that neither he nor I can ever look quite so swell as Paul, because we havent the forms to set off the clothes. I guess he is right. I also bot a new suit yesterday, dark Brown mixed double breaster, at Sidney West's sale of winter suits, \$52 marked down to \$24. I think it is a good buy, if they make it fit me well. I get it tomorrow.

Looks more and more as tho I wouldnt do anything for the next two months, and would then go to Calif, and return via Fla. I got my questionnaire last night and tomorrow will fill it out in DF's presence, so as not to make any tactical blunders.

Sorry I missed out on the excitement in Guatemala. Must be big times down there. Just my luck. When Paul got shot up in Wadi Semail I was in the hospital at Masqat, and now when Guatemala is destroyed, I have to be here 10 days.

Washington, January 5th 1918

Dear Folks:

Less see; Guess the principal thing to chronicle is the big housecleaning rally I had last night. Got home about 5, and worked from then until 7 putting things in better order than they have been for some time past. First I scrubbed the bathroom out thoroughly, floor and all; then I took down the curtains and sent Herb over to King Lee's with them, and I swept out the bedroom, ditto the living room and hall. The kitchen has been in normal condition for some time, so now I feel the house is quite livable once more. When we get the curtains washed and re-hung it will look very decent.

Sewall and Herb went down to see Mister Antonio last night, which the same Kitty B and I saw the other afternoon. They reported it OK.

Eye not one

Yesterday I turned in my questionnaire. It was supported by an affidavit from the Secy stating that I am a necessary employe of the Dept and should be placed in section (I), Class III. If this request is granted, which I have every reason to believe will be the case, there is no possibility of my being drafted this year. I have told DF that I am anxious to do some sort of war work, and he has promised to keep his eyes open and get me something if possible. I don't like to be sitting around in Washington indefinitely these days, especially when I consider that it is going to take just about all of my salary to do it. Between re-stocking my trunk and paying the ordinary bills here, I am not going to have much left out of my salary envelopes for the next few months. I have enough in the bank, however, to fall back on in case of need, and will keep at least \$200 in reserve at all times, so that in case you want any more out in Calif it won't be necessary to borrow on Liberty Bonds or anything else. I never intend to borrow on anything until I absolutely have to do it.

Had a long letter from Bob Hempstead yesterday, which made me think of Chejel. A letter came to DF from Liberty Hyde Bailey asking where I was and if I was safe, so I wrote him a note that I had left Guatemala before the big quake. I have written Dr Rose of the Rockefeller Foundation and may likely go up to N Y a week from tomorrow, only for a day or two.

Tomorrow Kitty B leaves these parts. Doggone it anyway. But I guess it is the best thing. If she stayed here I would be pretty certain to get ihwrong with DF,

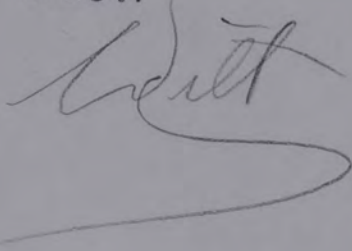
and of course I dont want to do that. Mendy writes that he will be back in a couple of weeks, and I suppose he will smoke out a ew girls for me, but if I wait to see Safford's proposition I will probably die a bachelor.

No, mother, I cant sell my Guatemalan photos, as they are Govt property, but I am going to try to place some of them if I stay here long enough and have time to write up a few articles. A fellow is interviewing me now to get dope for an atticle on plant exploration to put in Saint Nicholas. I went out to see Lake yesterday and made him promise to take a paper for the Proceedings of the American Pomological Society. Business is good.

Dont you tell me I ought to grab Kitty B while the grabbing is good, ma. Lee me alone. First thing you know I will lose my job as agricultural explorer if you get me into anything like that. You policy is to discourage consistency the grabbing of Kitty B and all other representatives of her sex. I am almost afraid to go near em these days, after so long a time in Guatemala without any decent company I am likely to fall in love with the first nice girl I meet. Hence I guess I better go around with girls that I know I could never like under any circumstances. Then I will be safe.

I wanna work a while now. Certainly dont get much done these days. I am going to clean up some articles and get the Guatemalan bulletin on the road, and then go after my opus magnus. DF says Kellerman wants to put the avocado bulletin right thru, and get it out within 3 months, but that he thinks it is going to be a short paper; and if he finds it is a long paper, as it is, DF thinks he will let us publish it in California, wh both DF and I want to do. I suppose I will get the matter settled by the end of this month. I am getting up the photos for the bulletin now.

Lovingly,



Washington Monday morning January 7th

[1918]

Dear Folks:

It morninged much warmer today (as the Guatemalans would have it) but the road was covered with a slick glaze of ice and we had to walk down con mucho cuidado. Herb slipped as the came out of the door and if he hadnt grabbed my arm and slid for a couple of yards he might have precipitated himself upon the pavement.

Papers say more earthquakes in Guatemala. Just my luck to miss all that fun. For the sake of my work, however, it is exceedingly fortunate that I got thru down there just when I did; everything will be tied up now, of course, the trains probably not running to Barrios account landslides, and all that sort of thing. I would probably have had to camp out for a month without much to do, and grub is doubtless pretty scarce.

Yesterday morning I went out to Mount Pleasant Congl Church, but found there was no service, s/c Billy Sunday's arrival in town. I came back to the house and ate dinner alone, Herb staying down at his Ofc, and then about 3.30 I went out to Brownes to tell Kitty goodbye. I took Ma a petsai to keep her feeling good. Found a dog-faced boy from S. Ca'lina out there, who was a dead ringer for Stanley Altman, but had been to Wisconsin and apparently knew the girls. It is natural to assume that he had his eye on Kitty. He came down to the train with Ed, Tom and myself to see Kitty off, and lingered in the Pullman a few seconds after the rest of us left. If Kitty falls for a guy like that she will merit sympathy. From all I can deduce however he isnt looked upon as a son-in-law yet; I rather think the fault is not hisn, too. I promised to come out again very soon and see ma; she is a pretty good friend of mine. I suppose it will be a long time before I will see Kitty again. I dont think she is quite intellectual enough for me, anyway. She's got a mighty sweet disposition, and all that, but there's no use looking around for girls if you dont intend to marry any of em for 8 yrs.

Pa Browne told a good one. He was speeding down the road the other day, and a cop stopped him. Says Pa "I am Representative Browne of Wisconsin; there's a bill on in the house today to pension all policemen and firemen and I am hurrying down to the Capitol to get there in time to vote for it". The cop let him go instantly, and told him to hurry just as fast as he wanted to. Of course there was no such bill.

I heard from Major Hasbrouck yesterday, and he is down in Jackson Barracks, La., so I wont get to see him while here.

I feel pretty decent in our rooms now. We will have the curtains up again in a few days.

Hasta mas tarde

Wednesday, January 9th 1918

Dear Folks:

Found fine letter from PP on arriving chez nous last night about 7.30. We dined at the Acropolis, and I guess it will be the last time, as the place has run down badly, and in addition they don't appear to be keeping the meatless day, so we feel we ought to blackball em. We still have the Powhatan, Old Dutch, Steinhardts, and Port Arthur left on our schedule, wh gives us something for all occasions. Herb has been working pretty hard the last few days, so we have stayed down town for dinner two evenings. Now we are going to take up housekeeping again at the Willard Courts. Going home tonight to hang the clean curtains and purchase a new stock of tinned fruits, etc. With all due regard for Paul's sentiments re the Wfrijol de Boston I must say that about once a day is enough for me; I think if the Govt should appoint a beanless and pieless day Herb would have to go hungry one day out of seven. When it comes to pie, however, I am right there; pie and ice cream are two things which I didn't eat in Guatemala much of the time, and I am trying to fill up on them now. I don't go very heavy on the ice cream, however, as it is too extravagant of sugar.

Father, that letter I mailed you from the boat happened thusly; I had it in my pocket when I came ashore, along with some other letters, and they asked me in Customs if I was carrying any mail. I shelled out, of course, and they said I would have to leave them there and they would be forwarded

after censoring. It was Sunday and I was pushed for time, so I couldn't go out and buy stamps and put them on, and they said they would send them out postage due. Apparently they were not censored in N U, but in New York. Such is war.

We had P. J. Wester out for lunch a couple of days ago. He spent a half day with me, talking over the question of plant names, and the more I know him the better I like him. I want to get as well acquainted with him as possible, as it is likely that I may strike the P. I. some day and will want to put up with him.

Last night I finished up an article on the Avocado for the March J. of H. D. is now going over it. Father, in re the avocado bulletin, Guatemalan, I think very likely I am going to be able to put ^{it} in the hands of you folks for publication, eventually, but I won't be able to get it out there before the end of this month. I am still waiting for the photos, and should have them this week; then I will put the MS in D. F.'s hands, he is to show it to Kellerman, and the latter is to decide whether we can publish here, and do it promptly; if we can't, it goes to Calif.

It looks more and more as tho I would be in the U S for quite a while. I don't see anything coming up on the horizon. I had some war work in mind, but D. F. apparently was not keen on that particular thing, so I will probably drop the idea and wait for something better to show up. It is clear that D. F. doesn't want to let me out of the Ofs if he can help it. I am planning on a big trip to the West, returning via Florida, about March. I am going to take up the question of lantern slides this week. D. F. told me yesterday to go ahead

and get all I wanted made, and have em colored. I am going to have a nice set fixed up. Probably I will use them before the March meeting of the Botanical Society.

Since getting back from Wattamala, DF has shown a strong inclination to let me have pretty nearly anything I want. I am not ~~ex~~ asking for many things, but a few little points like this lantern slide business and publishing my bulletin in Calif have been up.

Weather is warmer here now, and fairly decent. Cloudy and dark, so that we dont get up very early in the morning, but not so bitterly cold as it has been.

Father, DF and I have decided to name all the avocados with Maya names, so as to mark them as being from the Maya country, and distinguish them forever from the Trapps and Spinks and Harmans. I would have preferred to name one after Webber, as we planned, but we couldnt very well break into the set. There are 3x 23 in the set which we are going to distribute generally, and 3 more which we are going to test out in a small way, they being varieties which I do not know well enough to recommend for a general trial. I have the whole set written up fully, and have photos of each variety. I think we ought to publish the descriptions of the varieties in the Proceedings of the Avo Assn; I had not planned to append them to my bulletin, as they would make it pretty long, but this could be done if desired. It would simply mean tacking on about 25 pp extra to the bulletin. You better let me know what you think about this. I can send out the descriptions along with the MS in case we publish the latter in California. How many photos can they use, do you think?

Pablo, do you think I could get into the Press Club?
If I am going to be in Washington a good deal of the time
this yr I would like to belong to one club.

This Ofc of mine is the dirtiest hole I was ever in.
I cant wear a shirt but one day without having dirty cuffs.
I have to watch Herb awful closely on the dirty collar question.
He is just like I was 3 yrs ago. Paul trained me, now I will
do the same to H.

Yep, Paul, that Kitty Browne is a good number alright.
In most respects she cant be beat. She isnt very demonstra-
tive, tho for all I know it may be because she is too much
interested in the dog-faced Tar-heel that showed up there and
spent 3 days last week, but she is going to make somebody
a mighty capable wife, and an attractive one at that. You O 2
see the new photo of her; it is a pippin. I guess I better
steer pretty clear of the girls for a long time yet, however;
in the first place, I couldnt support one of em at present, and
in the second, it would spoil all of DF's plans. So there.

Always yours

Friday, January 11 1918.

Dear Folks:

Still pretty cold here, and walks somewhat slippery. Last night we attended the annual mtg of the A C A, business, and helped elect Collins to the council in place of B Van Wagenen, retired. The mtg was small but select, Cook and his gang and DF and his gang and Sewall Wright being the members who constituted a quorum. DF spoke very highly of Paul's work with the journal, and recommended us all to give Herb our generous aid to keep it going during the intermission. There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion to adjourn is now in order. Contrary No. The ayes have it.

We took R Jones home with us to dinner, latter being a new Cornell man who has come into this Ofs and occupies a room with me. He is a good boy, and I am looking toward the possibility of having him for an asst on my next trip abroad if he is not drafted. It seems likely that he will be drafted. I had been down to center market at noon and bought a fine big salmon steak, at 40 cents a pound, and as I had enough for 4 I invited Sewall to dine with us. We had salmon steak, boiled potatoes with their jackets on (there not being sufficient gas pressure to bake em), rogenbrot with plenty of Wisconsin butter and Mrs Popenoe's jelly, a waldorf salad in liberal quantities, and finished up by eating bread dates and smoking the marghileh all evening, much to the edification of de gang. Beyond voted the evening a great success, and

the amount of grub consumed by Herb and Jones would have made Mr Hoover furious. You will note, however, that it was all over rations.

This morning we had a big bait of stewed dried apricots, rye bread and jelly. Tonight we are going to have fried spuds and something else. Sewall got up early this morning and washed all last night's dishes. That boy has the right spirit. When he thinks about anything he up and does it. Sometimes he is pretty forgetful of matters which appertain to cleanliness in the home, but he is thinking about the red hair which appeared on the left hind foot of that last guinea pig, and consequently is not to be blamed. He always wants to do his share.

Our house is pretty nearly right. The curtains came out of the wash a little the worse for wear, Hing putting good size rents in a couple of them, but they are clean, that's sure. I thot we had everything done, but find now we must go thru the bookshelves and dust all the books at the first opportunity. I guess it has never been done before. And probably it will never be done since.

Father, DF phoned Kelleman about the Guata avocado bulletin yesterday, and K said that he wanted to see if he couldnt push it right thru, asking that we send it out to him and let him keep it a month, by which time he would know whether it would be possible to put it thru by May, wh was the time DF said we wanted it. If he cant put it thru, he is to give it back to us in 1 mo and it goes to Calif. So you know how how we stand.

More next time.

Wilt

Noon edition:

Had a call from John Howard Paine this a m, the same being in need of money; so I ordered 6 more prints of the good photo he took of me just before I left for Guatemala. Guess I O 2 give one to Ma Browne, and I want to send Hempstead one. I thot I had some copies left here, but dont find any.

Called up that dear Ma Browne this noon, to ask her if they still had a stock of Wisconsin butter, and she said yes, so we agreed to go out and get some tonight. She said to bring along a market basket and she would give us some Wisconsin (8th dist) potatoes and a squash. She also said she had been wanting to see me very much, which I take as a good omen, in view of the fact that I was out there not more than 5 days ago.

Stuntz and I are cooperating in a big drive to establish common names for the tropical fruits; going to publish a paper in the next proceedings of the Am Pomological. I get along allright with him lately. Guess he has forgiven me for getting all the work for Bailey's Cyclopædia.

Herb and I just dined at the Merchants. Herb has changed his regular fusil, andnow takes mashed spuds and gravy with pineapple pie, in stead of beans and ditto. Herb and I are getting a good deal of fun out of life these days.

But say, Pablo; tip me off to some of those girls who like to go to T dansants. I suppose Mendy will be back next week and put me wise, but you better tell me which ones are

Jan 15 1918. Pay day in the B P I.

Dear Folks:

This southland looks like stage scenery this morning, with the trees all covered with icicles. Not very cold, but slushy under foot.

Few days ago I recd a letter from POP wh went to M O and was returned; I put it in my pocket to read, and knowing it was anbit stale I forgot to read it until just now, when I find it is full of items wh are at least new to me, and is just about as good as a bona fide fresh letter. So I take my pen in hand at once, even if it is Tuesday morning and the letter wont reach you until next Monday. I sort of callate the trains are not running on time these days anyway, and a letter mailed Tuesday might reach you just as promptly as any other. Perhaps your trains out West arent as bad as ours here, but I guess traffic all over the country is something drefful.

Firstly; I found a pkg at H's ofs last night, and on opening it discovered that it was the bronze vase for Mrs H which I thot had gone to Guatemala. H gave it to Chandler to put in the pouch, and as H did not get orders from DF, apparently, Chandler thot it was his chance to put one over on the Popences, so he just held it here 3 months, and then sent it back to H. Kind, wasnt it? I have not said anything to him about it, and shall not. Whats the use? I had a row with him the other day over stenographic help; he always tries to make me do all my own typewriting, and usually succeeds. I have tried to get action out of Dorsett, but it isnt much use. They are short handed here (they always are) and of course everybody else has a regular stenographer, and I have not, so I have to take the leavings, and just now there arent any leavings (there never have been). but does it worry me? NIX. I just plug right along grinding out the jolts from jeltz, and shall keep on doing so.

Last night H and I went down to the Canton restaurant to catchem small piece chop suey, and stumbled on to Bob Jones, my running partner. So we ate together, catchem big feed, and then took Bob home to fill him up on walnut, as he was feeling blue as indigo, and talking about enlisting in the Royal Flying Corps. Bob and Herb punished about 2 libbits of said walnuts, finishing up with some bread dates and peppermints, and Bob went home feeling better.

Paul, I called on George Barrow yesterday afternoon. He is now Supt of SS at our church, and says Delta Class has gone to smash. He doesnt recommend Doc Gordon at all highly. He wants me to join the home guards, but I dont like the idea, for I feel that the slackers all join to make themselves think they are doing something. I would rather do nothing.

Allright, Father; I knowed it all the time, i.e., that

Shamel had quite a job laid out for me out there. I don't mind if it takes 6 mos, if only I can get DF to agree. I know Shamel got DF's agreement verbally, but that was probably under pressure, and it seems quite possible that when it comes to a showdown and DF is facing the facts, he will say he didn't understand what the arrangement involved and won't want to give me very much time for it. However, vamos a ver. I would rather like to be in on the job.

I see Wester every time I go out to the library. He spends all his time delving in the musty tomes, and doubtless when he gets back to F I a big crop of articles will be the result. Libraries are F J's strong and weak points; he overdoes it, original work being almost lacking in most of his stuff. But I am getting to like the old boy 1st class, and will probably take him out to lunch again one of these days. He isn't popular here in our Ofc, but that doesn't matter to me. I am absolutely tired of these little Govt jealousies. I saw a letter from Pittier yesterday in wh he said Safford had a big grouch on when he left the States, and he hoped he had outgrown it by this time. Fine way for a man to talk about his colleague, - and have it go in the files.

H hasn't done any psychological work since I got home. He claims he is too busy with the Journal. If he knew how to economize time a little better he could do both, I think, but far be it from me to attempt to teach him. We have had no further difficulties since Sunday, but I plan and expect to leave him pretty much alone from now on. If he doesn't want to go out with me to make calls on some of the folks, like Saf et al, he don't have to, as daddy Raymond said.

Sunday noon I ran into DF here at the Ofc, and he invited me to the Cosmos Club for lunch, so we dropped in, and he met his old friend Dr Nichols, ex-president of Dartmouth, and one of the big men on the Shipping Board, and all four of us *clunged* lunched together. I picked up a lot of information re the war wh interested me greatly. DF certainly has a way of falling in with the big guns. Incidentally, he mentioned to Dr Nichols that someone had asked him recently if he would accept the presidency of K S A C (Manhattan), and he had told him that he would not. I guess DF likes the Washington environment too well to want to go very far West.

Twenty of nine, and the boys will be coming in soon. Bob Jones gets here early and leaves late. He has only worked by the Govt 3 months. I am sure going to take him out with me on a trip if he doesn't get drafted. He is a clean, industrious chap, and willing to learn. I think he would make a better asst than any other man I have considered for the job, except perhaps Allen Groves.

Got my other boxes from Guatemala, so now everything is here.

Lovingly,

Washington, January 17 1918.

Dear Folks:

First you must know that I am today shipping to MBP, Pasadena, Calif, via W F Ex, one parcel containing the Guatemalan blanket, and a few minor curio. Among the latter I may mention a pair of silver cuff buttons which my esteemed friend the silversmith in Antigua made for me (mostly out of nickel, in all probability) and a small tin of chocolate from Chejel. This chocolate is sweetened and ready for use; just add hot water and serve. H and I find it takes about a heaping soup-spoonful to make a good cup of chocolate. I send several huipiles and a reboso and some napkins. I have marked one huipil in particular, same being a large from from San Antonio A C, wh I dont want MBP to give away, in case she is tempted to dispose of any of these articles. It is a particularly choice one, and could not be duplicated very easily. You better hang on to most of the stuff; if you want to give Auntie Belle one of the items, alright, but dont make a general distribution.

Yesterday just before noon Stuntz came in and remarked: "You told me you had been having a hard time to find a satisfactory place to get a good meal cheap; a neighbor of mine out in Vienna says she has eaten from G-town to the Union station and from Columbia heights to the river, and the only place where he gets a square deal is down here at the corner of 10 and E". So at noon H and I went down to try it. And man Sir, it sure was ole virginny right thru, and I cant see how any Virginian could help liking it. The place looks inside like the interior of one of the old Virginia houses, - wallpaper and all, and there are four or five buxom wenches with enormous feet, shoes not buttoned up, and rawboned as the dickens, slouching around to wait on the table, and Mrs Culpeper herself ambles around once in a while to see if you are making out right smart, and little Jefferson Davis Culpeper, in rompers, toddles behind her. They set you up a big plate of fresh bread and about 1.4 libbit of fairly good oleo, and the bring you on a plate of beef pie which would make three ordinary orders, and two big spuds and a dish of peas; following this you struggle with an enormous cup of steaming hot chicory, with plenty of milk to dilute it, and then you ups and pays your 25 cents at the do' and you walks out. Yassir, that am the gennywine ole Virginny. herb and I felt paralysed in the abdominal regions all the pm.

H and I went to call on the Gates last night, and were lucky enough to find them at home. Dr G sends Paul his very best regards. Night before last Sewall and Bob Jones and I went to the Anthropological society to hear a symposium on War anthropology, in which Hrdleka led, but was eventually outvoted by the rest of the crowd. It was excellent. A dapper young officer from the SANITARY CORPS was there, by request, and gave a most excellent talk upon the work of the Corps wh filled me with satisfaction. He didnt mince his words any.

I went up to the bank yesterday to put my stock certificate in safe deposit. I took the opportunity to look over our papers there, and I was somewhat surprised to find what an array of assets Paul and I have. It makes quite a showing when you get everything together.

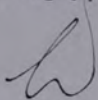
Living is getting so high here in Washn that it absolutely hurts me to exist. we paid two bits for 3 lbs of corn meal last night; 20 cents a lb for prunes, and 80-120¢ at that; small pkg of hominy 25 cents, and brown sugar 10 cts a lb. I would like to go out West somewhere and make my living off the land, if they dont let me get into this war game some way or other. My idea now is to leave everything else alone, however, until I get my book out of the way and make my trip to Calif and Fla, and then when I land here along toward the end of summer, if the war is still on and is going to keep going for some time, I shall certainly make a break of some kind. I havent the slightest doubt that Dr can find me a good piece of war work, when we get ready to look for it. There are a good many more jobs than there are men right now.

I went over the proofs of the next J of H with Herb last night; I think with Sewall to advise on matters genetical, bibliographical, geneological, theological, etc. a la J H Cruzen, and my modest efforts along botanical lines, the Journal will make a pretty good appearance. Herb can swing it allright, I think.

In spite of the war prices, H and I are living on lots of good grub these days, but we fight pretty shy of wheat, meats, and sugar. It is going to take practically all of my salary to support me while I am in the U S, but even at that I am a whole lot better off than most of the boys. I note that the Secy says 1000 men have left the Dept of Agr to go into milit ary service since the war began. I am putting in some money now for clothing and other supplies, looking forward to a further rise in prices. I might just as well fit myself out in pretty good shape for another trip and for a year here. I plan to buy a couple more pairs of heavy shoes, as I always have use for them, and they are continually rising in price.

Havent heard anything from my friends in Guatemala as yet. Guess the mails arent running.

Lovingly,



Washington, Saturday morning Jan 19 1918

Dear folks:

Yesterday a m i finished up the table of contents and list of illustrations for the avocado bulletin, and am now waiting to get hold of DF to let him sign here, so it can go out to Kellermen. I had to copy most of the thing myself, they being so short of stenogs here that they couldnt give me any help. it makes 125 pp of text and 23 of photos; I included the complete descriptions of my 23 varieties in the text. If the bulletin is published with the varieties as I now have it, I think it will make a paper of about 75 pp; if they cut out the varieties it will be about the size of our Navel Orange bulletin. But I really havent much hope of the thing being published here, and I am looking forward to putting it up to the Calif Avocado Assn. Have they enough money to handle it?

I am now finishing up the report of the Tropical Fruit Committee of the Am Pom Soc, and will then work up a paper on the Guatemalan Explorations for the vitrograph. Watch out for my cherimoya article in the next number.

Pablo, in re the housework, I get a certain psychological satisfaction from doing it, and now that the place has been thoroly overhauled it does not require much attention. in re hiring a wench, we cant afford to lose any more revolvers or other property.

Night before last Sewall and I went down to Cosmos club to hear Major Auld of the Bristish Commission lecture on the use of gas in the war. Monday we are going to hear A Aaronsohn on Palestine and the War. Doubtless we will learn that the British capture of Jerusalem was entirely due to Aaron's assistance.

Herb has not been home for several evenings; spends all his afternoon out at I H S, I think. It makes it pretty lonesome for me at supper time, but I rope in Bob Jones pretty often, and am going to have G Barrow and one or two of the other boys out soon. I suspect H could get home in time for supper if he really wanted to, but he thinks he O " stayb later, and blows in about 8, and gets himself a can of beans and a half dozen apples. I dont think that is a particularly wholesome sort of dinner for him, but he likes it that way, and I dont intend to attempt too many changes in his habits from now on.

Last night I made my weekly pilgrimage to the home of,-- whodo you suppose? Ma Browne, of course. Ma was sweeter than ever, and set me up to a big cup of malted milk, some fine cookies, and a satsuma orange. When I came home she gave me two slices of pie and some cookies to bring along. I inquired about Kitty and learned than Ma hasnt heard from her but once since she went back to Madison. I am still at

a loss to determine the precise status of the dog faced boy. Mr B is all excited over an ad in the Monitor, offering a farm of 150 a., 26 miles from Boston, with 10 room house and \$2500 apple crop every year, price \$12,000. He has written for full particulars. I took Ma B a pound can of Guatemala coffee wh came in with my last box.

No news from Guatemala as yet.

I guess Mendy will be in soon, and I will wait until his arrival to smoke out Marguerite Neale, Pablo. Just now I dont feel the need of female society so much. I have been out every night this week, so far, but not later than 10 every time. Sleeping until 7, as we usually do, gives one enough rest at this time of year. I have picked up a pretty bad cold in the last couple of days, and will probably lay off for a day or two. H and I are talking about going to Mens' Bible Class at the 1st Congl tomorrow, as Dr Gates is leader, and asked us particularly to come. H seems willing to go, doubtless because he has such respect for Dr Gates.

Paul, I dont think we need any sweater vests here. We are pretty well stocked up on clodings. But dont forget to tell me where is my Tuxedo and your dress suit.

Gonna get to work now.

Lovingly



Dar-es-salam, Sunday evening Jan 30th

Dear Folks:

[1715]

Guess I will dash off a note tonight so I can begin work in the morning without delay. Delays are dangerous.

I have been in the house all day nursing an acute rhinitis. I wanted to get out to church this morning, but it was very cold and snowing, and I thought I better lay off entirely for a day and be in a little better shape to work tomorrow. So Herb went down to the East Congl and heard Dr Gates talk to the men's bible class, then he went across the road and worshipped with the papists. I guess the boy has reformed and is going to go to hear Dr Gates regularly,--at least for the present. I will go with him next Sunday. Herb really wants to do the right thing, and after he has time to think over a proposition he nearly always comes to scratch, but at the start-off he sometimes balks pretty badly.

At noon I cooked up a big curry, made out of a little bit of everything in the house. I used some dessicated tomatoes which I swiped offn DF as a basis, and then added a little Vegex, curry powder, poultry seasoning, and other things too numerous to mention. Herb voted it a great success, and ate about a quart of it. Tonight we are going to have a baked Hubbard squash, comps of E E Browne, and some stewed prunes. I just remarked to H a while ago that we were living pretty well these days, and he admitted the corn. We have plenty of good simple grub, about two kinds at a meal.

This afternoon we have been going thru the house and hauling out old stuff to look over, making a few swaps by way of diversion. I gave H a set of anatomical instruments at 3 p.m., and he has spent the rest of the p.m. shining 'em up. I found Paul's dress suit and my Tux, and we tried the latter on H. It fits him like the paper on the wall, and if he should ever want to go to anything formal here, he can wear it while I wear Paul's full dress. Both have to be pressed before they can be worn.

Tomorrow night, if my cold is not worse, Sewall and I are going to hear A Aaronsohn lecture at the Cosmos Club on how he enabled the British to capture Jerusalem, or more probably, how he captured it for them.

DF is talking about putting me on a food job later on. He has the food question on his mind these days to an extent that is almost interfering with his sleep. He admits that it worries him unduly. I wish all Americans were as much concerned over the war as DF.

Washington, Tues morning January 22 1918

Dear folks:

Six inches of snow fell last night, and judging from the amount which I have just shaken off my hat, I should say another inch fell while we were on the road down this morning. It looks pretty. I was just remarking the other evening, to myself, that one of the prettiest sights I know is F street about 6 p m, when the big flakes of snow are falling. its great/ The lights, and the people moving, and the snowflakes! Had I but plenty of money the life ~~were~~ for me were a life on the city square, in Washington.

Sewall and I didnt go to hear A Aaronsohn last night after all. I felt pretty rocky with my cold, and Sewall didnt want to go alone. I have been filling up on hexamethyltetramin (let's hear you say that, quick) and this morning I am greatly improved in that which concerned my physical well being. By tomorrow I will be first class again, and can begin to make some more calls.

Heard thru Willie Hempstead yesterday that our Guata friends are all OK, but that the big house in wh the Owens lived is a heap of ruins. That was the American Consulate. I enclose Bill's letter for MBP, thinking the intimacy with wh Bill treats me may worry MBP a trifle and cause her to forget her other troubles. No, mother, I shant marry Bill. Nothing doing.

Dr came into my room yesterday with a very worried expression on his face. He sat down in a chair and after toying with his watch chain for a while he finally blurted out "Do you know a young lady out at the Bush Brown house?" For the moment I couldnt recall who the Bush Browns were, and so I told him NO. He replied that someone had intimated to him I was interested in a very attractive young lady who lived there. I reiterated that I was innocent, but that if there was an attractive young lady out there, I would appreciate an opportunity to meet her. This sort of caught him in the solar plexus. I then recalled who Lydia was, so I explained to him that he must have confused Paul's case with some of mine, and that I had only met the girl once, and had never even called at the house. With this knowledge he cheered up a bit, but didnt offer to make me acquainted with any young ladies. I think Dr is dead set upon keeping me out of trouble for a while yet. Well, I aint so sure but that he's right about it.

Mother, when I start for Calif shall I stop off a day in Topeka? And had I better stop a day in KC, not to see the Kings? I rather think I will go out via Santa Fe, particularly if it will be of interest to me to stop in KC, but if Kitty K isnt on hand I might go via SP instead and see Paul on the way out instead of the way back. Father, what is the date of the avocado meetings? I shall probably knock around Calif for a while, taking

my annual leave at home and enough official time to cover the southern part of the state, and then I plan to come via by the southern route, and land at Miami for a month's stay, or something of that sort. It will give me a fine opportunity to check up everything for my book, and will probably, or perhaps, be my last chance to make the rounds before the end of the war. For when I get back here again I shall certainly make an effort to get into some sort of war work.

Help! Effie Mollufs has learned that I am back in the country.

Father, many thanks for the Puebla fruit, wh arrived yesterday. But it got her badly overripe. You oughtnt to pack an avocado in a tight tin box, with paper around it, cause it gets all het up. I can send you ~~much~~ some pomological boxes, if there is going to be anything else to ship. I was able to test the Puebla, but I dont think I got a fair idea of its quality. It struck me as being a good little avocado, with a little fiber, however. But say, that aint no genuine Guatemalan, any more than Puerte is; when I opened it, I noticed that the seed coats separated, one sticking to the flesh, and the other to the seed. No real Guatemalan ever did a thing like that.

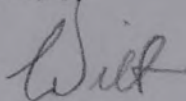
In re McLam, lyour plan of having him go to PR via Cuba is a good one, and the very thing he O 2 do, unless they have taken off the Julia. I think they are still running that line over to PR. McLam should write the Compañia Sobrinos de Herrera, Havana, and ask them if they still run boats to PR, and how often.

I will sure be glad to visit the Villa Park cherimoya with you, and all the other cherimoyas too. I believe that fruit is going to be the next one to receive attention in Calif. See next number of the Citrograph for particulars.

Father, who is furnishing the financial backing for the Leitch-McLam avocado campaign? Certainly not the Leitches, unless they have come into a fortune since I was down there.

Well, my wristwatch says it is quarter to nine, so I guess Inwill tackle some other letters. I want to get out to the library every afternoon this week, if possible, to go thru the periodicals and new books wh have appeared while I have been gone, and check up on all the new dope along my line.

Lovingly,



Thanks, dad, for
Barley's "The Modern Systematist"

Washington, Jan 24 1918.

Dear Folks:

It is now four p m. In half an hour it will be 4.30 p m. I have just completed a 30-pp report of the tropical fruit committee of the Am Pomological Society, which the rest of the committee probably will not see until it is in print, when it will be too late. I have attempted a revision of the common names of practically all the tropical fruits in cultivation. not exactly a revision, perhaps, but a selection of the most suitable one from among the several which are current, ^{for each plant} for the purpose of urging its use by horticulturists to the exclusion of the other and more objectionable ones. It is a matter I have had in hand for a couple of yrs, and while I have failed to get any two men to agree upon the entire list, I have it now where most folks are suited to a certain extent, and I guess I will shoot her thru.

Well; the Hon Bob Jones and I are going to part company. The Food Admon. is taking two rooms offn our floor, and the two happen to be mine and the one occupied by our seed collections. I am going in with Dorsett, while Bob goes in with Stuntz. I think I drew the best number. It puts me right next to DF's door, whereas I am now about 75 feet away, and the boys like Stuntz and Van wont dare to come into Darsett's room and loiter around to gossip the way they do down here. While it will have its drawbacks, it also will have its advantages, just like very-thing else in life.

Herb and I dined chez Charley Gong this noon, catchem small

we bot 2 lbs dr cots, 1 lb dr limas, 1 lb bacon and some small pastries. The bacon is to make gravy; we think it will be cheaper to use a couple of slices of bacon and make up a big bowl of gravy than it will to put on butter, especially after viewing herb's manner of going the latter. Herb and I still agree that we are living pretty well. Tomorrow night I am going to have G Darrow out for dinner. Tonight I think H and I will call on the Saffords, but NOT for dinner. Paul, isnt that man hopelass? If he werent a botanist I couldnt forgive him.

Father: TA feller who is writing me up for Saint Nicholas wants a photo of that stringof freight cars on a siding in the Coachella valley which contained our shpmt of palms from Arabia. Can you send me one? And also a piccher showing the offshoots newly planted out?

Last night I dined ches the Van Eseltines. Van is our Asst Botanist, and starts west next month, landing in S Calif later on. He rather hopes to be there when I am; if not, you will probably see him at WIG alone. He is a fine boy, of excellent moral character and kind to his frau, but LAZY,--OH MY!

H turned over letter from MBP this noon, enclosing BUD STORY'S graphic account of life in an army camp. Aint Bud the soldier, tho? I thot he was too old to get drafted. Dont tell me he volunteered.

Mother, dont talk about things you are going to do when the war is over,--not yet. Wait a while. Unless the Austrian people back out we may be in for a long time.

I didnt know Owen Groves was at Camp Meade. He has never sent me any word. I will hunt him up if I can.

I am beginning to get ~~not~~ lonesome for Ma Browne, but guess I cant get out again until Sunday, as I have something on for every evening between now and that day.

Mother, I cant enlist in the army now, no matter how much I might want to. I am subject to draft, and nothing else. But what I can do and hope to do is to get intonsome good war work this summer, and then hold on to it until I am called up under the draft, wh may never take place, and wi1l in any event be a year or more from now.

I still find that Herb's neck gets in an unconscionably dirty state if I dont watch it pretty carefully, but I begin to see an improvement in the collar matter. I am making him change his collar every morning, and once ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ a while he does it without being reminded. Herb is a good boy, and wants to do the right thing, when he can see that it is ^{to} ~~for~~ his personal advantage. If he cant see anything in it for himself, he does not, as a general thing, desire to adopt the measure. I just this noon found him about to send off a big bundle of magazines badly wrapped, and I explained to him how DF and Dorsett jumped on Allen Groves because he couldnt wrap up a decent looking bundle. It impressed H deeply, and he swore an immediate reform.

Father, dont forget that El Few-erte, as Simmonds calls it. And send it in a pasteboard box, without much paper around it.

Pablo, have you got the volume on Anthropology, Proceedings of the Pan American Sc Congress, and where? I want a copy, if you havent it.

Dorsett just said if I dared to get married before I was 70 years old I lost my job automatically, so there. Hoping you

are the same, Pablo.

Washington, Jan 26 1918

Dear Father:

In re paper by myself to be presented at the mtg of the Avocado Assn in Feb, I have looked over the "Preliminary Report on the Avocados of Mexico" wh I sent Webber to be read at the mtg in October, and it looks to me as though it would be well to go ahead and present it at this time, holding the Atlitxco material for the next mtg. My reasons are as follows:

Practically the only regions in Mexico which are of great importance to Californians and which I visited are Queretaro and Atlitxco. These are probably the two most important regions in Mexico from any standpoint. The report sent to Webber for the Oct mtg contained all the data I secured at Queretaro. On looking it over I find nothing which needs to be changed in light of more recent observations. There is quite a good deal of information in it aside from that secured at Queretaro. If this is read and published it will cover the first part of my trip; then I will prepare a second paper of probably somewhat greater length upon Atlitxco and include in it the few other notes of importance secured since the first paper was written. In this way the two papers will put before the California growers practically all the material of interest which I have for them. I have many observations on the classification of avocados wh will not be included but these are technical and incomplete as yet and had best be held until I finish the survey of tropical America. So let em go ahead with the Preliminary Report, and see that they use at least 12 fotos when they publish it, and I will soon have another one on Atlitxco ready for the next mtg, whenever that may be. There is no great rush about the Atlitxco paper; it will be just as good a year from now as it is at present.

Concerning the Atlitxco paper, I have decided to make it as complete as possible, and I believe it would be well to include in it a list of all the introductions which have been made into Calif from Atlitxco. I think I have here a complete list of Carl's, but I am not quite sure about Johnston's and know nothing of Wm D Stephens. I only want to include varieties which have been established in California, of course. Can you obtain from Stephens or Rideout a list of the varieties established as a result of Stephan's introductions, if any? And will you let me know how many varieties you have growing wh Johnston introduced from Atlitxco? I do not believe the latter number more than two or three. And as for Marrieta's work, I suppose I will have to wait until his paper comes out after the Feb mtg to get the facts. If I can include all this data it will make the paper of considerable historical value.

It appears that the Ofs, i.e. DF, PHD and Bisset had acquired a belief that I was likely to go out to Calif and work for Webber when I got home from Mexico. Bisset says Webber said something to that effect. Webber had mentioned to me, as you know, that he hoped some day to have me with him, and I had told him that it might be possible, and we would wait and see how things worked out; I never like to burn any bridges behind me, as something might happen of course to make it necessary for me to leave the SPI. And I guess it is not objectionable, from my point of view, that the folks here learned that Webber was interested in getting me. But I have told them that I have never had any intention of leaving this Ofs as long as DF was around and desired me to remain, and

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I also have it from Bisset, rather on the QT, that the Big Four, i.e., DF, Galloway, PHD and Bisset have talked matters over pretty fully and have decided that I am to be groomed for Fairchild's desk when he decides to pull out. I am glad they have discussed the matter and have it in mind. Bisset seems to be in favor of it, though I tell him and should tell the others if the opportunity arose, that I would not want to be considered for the place for some years yet. I guess there is no danger of their doing so, anyway, altho it looks as tho DF might be glad to leave if he had someone to turn the work over to, as they say he isn't standing the strain very well. In case he should want to drop out two or three years from now I imagine they would arrange things so that for the first two or three years DF would remain nominally in charge with me doing the actual work, or something of that sort, which would be a good way to handle the matter. I am not at all desirous of being tied down here until about five years from now. After I finish the avocado survey I would like to have about three years to get thoroughly acquainted with Europe and the Orient before I settle down here. But I guess if I am able to stand the work I had best plan to stay by this Ofs and take up the executive end when the time comes; I have hoped of course that I could stay in the field all my life, that is, do work in the open air, but this place could be run without my being on the ground more than six or eight months of the year, I feel sure, and if they finally decide that it is up to me to stay here in the Ofs I shall probably do so, particularly if DF is somewhere close by so that I can be associated with him to a certain extent. You know I like Washington pretty well, and I would get more travel than in any other way I know, with a visit every year to Calif and Fla if I wanted it.

This is Sunday, and I was fully expecting old Paul to show up this morning, but he did not do so. I suspect he will be here tomorrow. I miss him, you bet. I shall console myself by going out to the Browne's this afternoon. Want to write some letters between now and the n. I am down at the Ofs--got here at 11, and will take lunch with Ray Fuller, Press Club, at noon. I find my meals for the past three days have cost me 85 cents altogether. Just about like Mexico City, but it won't last that long. I sure do like the ice cream here, and the pie. Going to take a little zarape to Ma Browne this afternoon.

Washington looks mighty good to me. I feel that we have very pleasant quarters and are with nice people. And I enjoy walking up and down the streets again. It seems mighty good. The weather is still very mild and pleasant.

They are having to pay some of our stenogs \$1200 a yr now. It certainly is a shame. They probably have a good many scientific men at the same salary. I must confess I do not like this bolshevik tendency to put labor on the same basis as brains. It discounts brains too heavily. I suspect there are a good many plumbers and masons and carpenters getting more today than we scientific men. It must be stopped.

Always lovingly



Washington, January 26th 1918.

Dear Folks:

I am now established right along side P H Dorsett, and in the room between DF and Dr Galloway. Very central location. It may be a hard place to write a book, but it does look as tho it would be rather interesting in other ways, and get me a little closer to things than I have usually been when here in Washn.

Herb and I had to wash up big lot of dishes before coming down this morning. Had G Darrow out for dinner last night; fed him on salmon steaks (my favorite dish when I want to splurge) mashed spuds, rye bread and jam, and preserved litchis for dessert.

I recall that both times after coming back from a long sojourn in Fla I was somewhat bloth to tackle the culinary end of housekeeping, but I find now, after a year and a half away from it that I enjoy it very much, so far. Probably it would pall upon me after a time. But we are getting things in good running order now, and I can turn out a genuine meal on short notice.

This morning H finished up 1 quart of mashed spuds, cold, with cold milk on em. I ate apricots and bread and jam.

Mother, we thank you for your offer of mo' jam. Our stock is still extensive, as we dont go thru it very fast, but should we run out I would be glad to have some more sent on at my expense. It goes well with out rye bread, wh is all we eat nowadays.

G Darrow is now Supt of the SS at the 1st Congl, and I promised to go down tomorrow to see him perform, and incidentally to look over a half dozen young ladies that Geo says are peaches.

matters, and wont believe until I see. I am as yet girlless for the big botanical dinner early in Feb. I suppose I could run in Marguerite Neale if no one else shows up.

People are quite excited here today over Chamberlain's big exposé of the administration. DMV takes the war very seriously, and seems more run down than I have seen him in a long time.

H heard from Mendy, and I guess the latter wont be back here for some time yet.

I tell you, Washington is a great old place, and no mistake. If times were only normal, I would like nothing better than to spend six months here, but doubtless the time will come when I will get all I want of it.

Tomorrow H and I expect to take in G Barrow's SS, Doc Gates class, and then in the p m call on Ma Browne. Ma called up the other night and offered us tickets to another lecture by Parsons on art, but it happened to be the night we had a guest for dinner. H answered the phone, and didnt assure Ma quite strongly enough of our appreciation of the opportunity, as he doesnt like lectures of that kind, but I guess I can square it with Ma allright.

H is all excited this morning because Mrs Simonds told him Terman would probably address the class today. He had me call him early, and put in much time on his toilette. Thats the sort of thing that will make him more careful of his personal appearance, better than any amount of reminders from me.

Lovingly,

But

Washington, Sunday eve, Jan 27th [1918?]

Dear Folks:

Cant go to bed for a little while, as Ma Browne's big supper hasn't thoroly settled ~~in~~. So I will write you ~~and~~ now and save that much time in the morning.

Last night we brot Bob Jones home for supper, --big bowl of mashed spuds and another of bacon gravy, waldorf salad, rye bread, butter and jelly, followed by one half hr of walnuts, --and then all of us, Sewall included, went down to Biological Soc meeting, where we learned that fishes swim 7 to 9 miles an hr, more or less, and heard Safford lecture on Paradise Key, one of my old stamping grounds in the Everglades below Miami. Saf used about 20 of my best photos and if I do say it as shouldnt, they showed up beautifully. This morning while I was out Saf called up, and I can only assume that he wanted to invite H and me out for dinner (purely gratuitous as umption) but nothing came of it. Just our luck.

I took a full course of religion this morning. Went down to the 1st Congl SS, to see Geo Darrow officiate, and lemme tell you, that affair is not only dead, but all the flesh is picked off and the skeleton disarticulated. Whew! I never saw anything quite so amateurish. At 10 I went down stairs to Dr Gates class, where I heard a fine, 45 caliber talk, wh paid me for the rest of the suffering wh I went thru. I stayed for church, in order to hear dr Gordon once. I wont need to do it again. He announced that in accordance with order from Fuel Administration the church would be closed for the next two Sundays. Said they complied with this order gladly, but he wanted to say personally that he thought the order was a very unwise one and poor politics, whereupon most of the audience clapped. It made me so mad I wanted to get up and leave, but didnt. I didnt care for the sermon, as it was the regular old style, orthodox no account type that doesnt get you anywhere. Hereafter I shall probably go to Gates class and then out to hear Mrogan at Mt Pleasant if I want to go any farther.

We dined chez nous, big lima bean curry and ice cream for dessert. Then at 3.30 we struck out for Ma Browne's. Oh, but we had a great time out there. At 7 ma set up a scrumptious supper, --Chicken a la King prepared at the tabel in a chafing dish, cocoa, brown bread, butter and jam, and cookies. By Jove, but that Ma is a daisy. I am just about convinced that it is up to Paul to marry Kitty, for I cant bear to see this generation of Popences pass by without an alliance with Ma Browne. And I know Ma would approve of it, as she always talks a lot about Paul, just like Kitty does.

On the way home we called on Geo Calvin, young highschooler, son of Henrietta W, who lives in the Ontario Apts. Geo is a regular guy of the true Calvin type, good fellow and all that, but not an intellectual highbrow. Those Calvins have always been a puzzle to me, anyway. They seem possessed of a remarkable ability to make money, but I dont thing Geo, at least, is going to set the world on fire intellectually, altho he appears to think he is. We will probably invite him down for dinner some time, just to show him there aint no hard feeling.

Paul, I have droped a note to Marg Neale, asking if I can call. Meniv isnt back yet, and no signs of his coming. I dont know when the Bot Soc banquet comes off, but I will probably book Marguerite for it, if I find upon a trial at the Powhatan that she can dance and is as simpatica as you state. Ma B asked today if I had done much dancing recently, and I told her none ~~xxxx~~ since Katherine left (with slight waver in voice at this point), because I didnt know any girls in Washn.

DF is certainly worried over the war, and he is beginning to get me to feeling a bit nervous at times. I tell him right along that he must expect me to be in some sort of war work by summer at the latest, and if he doesnt find me something I will find it myself, or words to that effect. I suppose if he can ship me off abroad somewhere I will forget about it and be allright, but I couldnt stay here in Washn very long without making a move. I learned yesterday that it will be a week or ten days before I am classified under the draft.

Mother, that huipil from San Antonio Aguas Calientes, the big fine one I told you to keep, would make two fine shopping bags, one out of each half. I saw one down at the Quirigua hospital, wh one of the nurses made, and it was something swell. I told Ma B about it today, and she says she is going to make one. She still has that huipil on the table in the front room, where she can show it to all her visitors. Ma lets us come out in the kitchen and help her get supper now, and doesnt allow us to come out for a call without staying for a meal, so I think the psychological moment for Paul to propose to Katherine is at hand. Strike, while the iron is hot, boy!

Wristwatch says 9.30, so must go forth and hit the hay. More snow here now, and pretty cold again. It is now more than 60 days since the snow has been entirely off the ground.

Everything lovely here. Big bowl of stewed apricots on the kitchen sink for the morgan, and lots of good ole hominy grits in the kettle. War rations for us!

Lovingly,

January 29 1918

Mr. F.O. Popenoe,
Altadena, California.

Dear Father:

I am giving this note to Cyril Taylor, a young man who has been with some friends of mine near Mexico City and who is planning to go up to California for a stay on considerable length. He wants to get in some sort of outdoor work up there, and I have told him that you will be very glad to discuss his plans with him and give him any assistance you can. I think he would fit very well in horticultural work and for this reason you may know of a place for him.

Always yours

Washington, January 29th 1918

Dear Folks:

Well, well, well! Tomorrow's pay day again.

Pretty dreary here yesterday; heatless monday, and nearly a foot of snow on all the streets. As the shops warent open, they didnt clear off much of the snow, and it looked as tho Washington had been evacuated. This morning this are livening up a bit.

First you must know, father, that the Fuerte got here, rotten around the lower end but still good above, and I got a good chance to sample its quality. It is very good indeed. It strikes me that its flavor partakes strongly of the Mexican race, there being, to my mind, a subtle difference in the flavors of the Mex and Guata races. I would even go so far as to say definitely that Fuerte is not a Guatemalan. It may have Guata blood, but the character of the tree, the flesh, and the seed coats are distinctly not Guatemalan, but Mex. I wonder if there are any more like it in Mexico? Probably, and perhaps even better ones than Fuerte. Dawgone it, I wish I could get down into that country to take a look see. Maybe I will do it yet.

I have been trying to get hold of Kellerman for several days to show him the avocado bulletin and get his permission to publish it in California, but so far I havent got an appointment with him. He is doing some sort of war work. Everybody is. It is practically useless to attempt to put thru any more

the publication of the Inventory until after the ~~xxx~~ war, and you cant talk to anybody, not even DF, about anything but war matters. I think it is the right thing to do. It makes me feel, however, that the only thing for me is to let go of tropical fruit work until things become normal again, and get into something where I can get more action.

Peter Bisset and PHD think DF is badly overworked and in danger of a breakdown if he doesnt knock off pretty soon and go down to Coconut Grove. I think he is rather run down, and tired, but I dont see any danger of a breakdown. Silent Conrad Stuntz is sick with pneumonia at his residence in vienna, Virginia.

Nathan menderson is back, and called on us last night. Just about the same old boy. He likes his new job immensely. Paul, he doesnt recommend ~~xx~~ Marguerite Neale quite as strongly as you do; says she wears her hair bobbed, and isnt quite a good enough mixer to take to banquets, etc. However, on your recommendation I am going to book her for the Bot Soc banquet if I decide to go, and she is bookable. I defer to your superior judgement in this and all other matters. Probably she has snubbed Mendy, or something of that sort. Mendy, by the way, is going to take MARG CONNOR. O tempora, O Moses. I am awaiting a reply to my note, and will probably call on M Neale tomorrow or next day.

G ot a letter from Kitty Browne last night, after unduly long silence. I guess she thinks she O 2 keep on the good side of me, so I will put in a good word for her with Paul at the psychological moment.

Letters from PP and MBP yesterday both contain instructions as to how and how not to handle Herb. Gratefully recd. I think I have already awakened to a realization of my mistakes along this line, or part of them, at least, and had commenced to follow a policy more or less such as that outlined by PP in his letter. I shall now follow it more closely than ever, as it is, sans doute, the right and only policy to pursue. Mother, I dont you think you need~~nt~~ to worry verrH's working himself too hard, any more. While he had the annual meeting on his mind he certainly got pretty tired, but since then I notice he has plenty of time to ramble around the City in the a m, and can usually go out to I H S in the p m if he wants to, and I dont believe there is the least danger now of his over-working himself.

Again I rise to reply, Pablo, that we dont want no nigger wench; the housework isnt the least bit onerous, and in fact I almost enjoy it, after such a long vacation in Guatemala. By the way, a man who comes from down that way, and should know, says there are just 12 houses standing in Guatemala City today.

Paul, I havent recd the check to wh you refer, either indorsed or unindorsed. Maybe it will show up today. I just notify you in case you sent it several days ago and it should be here.

Guess I wont hunt up Mildred Rider, as I am not anxious to know many girls here. I'll see first if Neale pans out. I wish Gretch would show up; she is so very simpatica. Ma Browne offers to take us to a dance at her Parish House sometime next week; Guess I'll go, but H thinks he wont.

Lovingly,

Washington, DC, January 31st 1918.

Dear Folks:

Eight o'clock, and H and I have just come down to our respectivas oficinas. it snowed a lot more yesterday and there is about 1 ft on the ground now. Traffic has been tied up considerably. Last night Sewall and I went out to see Belling, and waded thru snow nearly up to our knees. I am hoping to get Belling out of the sanitarium within a week and into a private home, but the deal may fall thru. Belling has agreed to move, but the folks that are talking of taking him wont promise to do so until they look him over, and when he gives em that hand of his wh feels like a dead mackerel they may back out.

Got a letter from Herb Austin yesterday, giving full account of Guatemala quakes. He says they were in a movie the-ayter, at 10.30 p m, Christmas night, when they had a severe shock and everybody piled out and went home. They were about half way to the Guarda, in front of a two story house, when another shock came that fairly threw you off your feet. The house in front of them tumbled to the ground, and they could hear behind them the crashing of the buildings in the city. A cloud of dust arose over the city, the lights went out; they got home and found the second story of La Colina in ruins, but the first more or less intact, and the kitchen, a built-on affair, quite intact. They moved out into the yard and have been there ever since. Later quakes cracked the kitchen. The Am Legation is practically the only bldg in town wh is still fairly sound. Postoffice, cathedral, and most of the other big buildings too

badly damaged to be used without complete rebuilding. Herb

says it looks just like Antigua with the debris still on the ground. Herb is coming home in Feb, probably leaving Mrs A at Chejel until the weather is warm up here. Apparently the loss of life was insignificant. José Cabnal and his two kids have gone to Chejel. Dr Struse is at San Jose, and most of the Americans have gone out to fincas or else gotten out of the country.

Paul, I am going out to call on Marguerite Neale tonight. We had lunch with Mendy yesterday at the Canton. What kind of a gun have you?

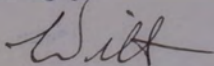
S C Stuntz is very sick. I guess he will pull thru, but they seem much concerned about him.

Yesterday I sent the Florida Grower the MS on "How and Where to Grow Avocados", 39pp, wh Simmonds and I prepared a couple of yrs ago. Simmonds wanted to see it in print. The MS for the larger bulletin I still have, and am going to use it for the avocado chapter of my book, with certain modifications and additions.

Since I got home I have put 5 things in course of publication, and have the big Guatemalan bulletin still on my hands. I am trying to get it put thru so I can send it out to Calif, but am still tied up. I expect to have it in two weeks at the outside. If you get a chance, father, warn Webber that it is likely coming, and that he cant afford to leave it out of the proceedings.

Gotta getta work. Goo by.

Lovingly



Washington Jan 31 1918

Madre mia:

Yours of Friday, saying the Guatemala blanket had arrived, just now showed up in my basket, along with a letter from José Cabnal telling me he was up at Chejel.

I am glad you liked the Guatemalan souvenirs. I didn't send you a very complete set, as I have rather wanted to keep a sample of each type of work in my collection here; probably I will want to show it off at a lecture or two later on. And I rather thought that I would keep my collection and present it to her to start in housekeeping, but as that does not seem to be a possibility in the very near future I can easily send or bring you some more things if you have any use for them. Have you a place where you could use to advantage another blanket or some more huipiles? And I have a corte of 6 yards of that heavy homespun overcoat cloth, dark brown color, which I am holding to dispose of as seems most desirable. I had rather thought of keeping it make an overcoat for Paul, but the moths may get in and corrupt it before he comes back. If you could make any good use of it I would be glad to bring it out to you.

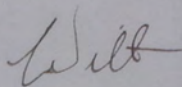
Of course I want you to do what you please, but if I had a vote I would vote for no service flag on our house. It has always seemed a bit cheap to me, especially under certain circumstances, and when you put on stars for cousins and all that sort of thing,--whew! I think the Popenoe's record has better stand or fall by itself, without the apoyo, as we say, of a service flag. What we are after is hechos, not dichos. NO?

You can depend upon it that I am going to get into some

sort of war work by summer. I think there are plenty of openings here, and if I dont get drafted I will feel very much inclined to take up something a little different from S P I work for the duration of the war, in spite of Paul's advice to keep scientific work coming strong. I believe there are other lines where I could do more than right here in this Office, especially if I cant get abroad again during the war.

Stacks of love from

votre



Washington

Sunday afternoon, Feb 3rd 1913

Dear folks:

I had intended to go out and call on the Brownes this p m, taking Herb with me, but I decided I better wait and go some evening early this week. I dont like to get in the habit of going Sunday afternoons, for fear they will expect me regularly and feel obliged to stay at home. We went last Sunday, but this time will change over and make it a week day.

Besides, I have decided to marry Kitty Keizer in place of Kitty Browne. Ernest Chamberlain, whom I happened to meet in the street Friday, came around for dinner last night, by request, and I asked him if he knew Kitty K. "Know her?" says he, "Why, she's the finest girl in Kansas". Go on, says I, so he dilated upon her virtues and attainments, and as a result I have decided to go ahead with my original intention and marry the girl.

Ernest has developed from a high-brow Bohemian to a full fledged soap box socialist. Wow! But that boy has a head full of radical ideas. He knows just what is wrong with our government, and how to remedy it. He is not in sympathy with the war, says he is an internationalist and has just as much sympathy for Germany as he has for his own country, and wants to get a bullet proof job in the war; as a matter of fact he is already signed up as an army field clerk, and starts next week for N Y, to go to France very shortly, at \$100 per mo. Perhaps Erny is right, and I am wrong, but I still am proud of the fact that I am an American and willing to go into the trenches when my turn comes. You cant accuse a fellow like that of being unpatriotic, for he thinks he has something higher and bigger than your sort of patriotism, but a good many fellows who have gone just a little bit farther than Erny have been shot at sunrise.

However, I rather felt on the whole that Erny had developed a lot since I last saw him two years ago, and he surely is pretty well read along political subjects and current events. He can quote you the words of Senator Sobkins, who spoke on the single tax before the Foreign Affairs Committee on August 6th, last, etc. In fact, he seems to be an A No 1 legal light. He graduated last week and could now appear before the bar if he werent going into the army.

I heeded Paul's warning, and laid out to provide a liberal, but not varied, menu; I cooked up a half bushel of R A Young's dasheens, and made a quart of bacon gravy; also two ~~hand~~ pans of corn bread after Hoover's recipe. The

boys waded thru things in pretty good shape. I finished up with a quart of ice cream, wh we had to divide with Sewall and Bill Wiley, both of them having a habit of dropping in just about the time the ice cream is due.

I am now boiling some wheat that I ground in my new Sears Roebuck Premium Food chopper, size 110, and am going to try my hand at some new dishes. That corn bread turned out so well that I would fain try my hand at other and more pretentious dishes.

Lucky here, Pablo: You say come by the SP or Rock Island. Now I know the SP doesnt come thru Kansas City, but I dont know about the CRI and P; tell me, how can I come west and strike both Kansas and your zone? I might go one way and come back another, in case I cant take in everything on the way out. Anyway, I shant stop off in KC unless mother can reassure me that I am urgently invited by Mrs Keizer. I dont want to do anything that is too visibly staged. It rather looks to me as tho it would be possible to avoid it in this case. Lets have the opinion of the family in toto on this subject.

Tomorrow afternoon all of the Office force goes out to Vienna to attend Stuntz' funeral. He died yesterday morning of typhoid-pneumonia. He leaves a wife and 5 children, the oldest 9 years, and so far as I know they have no money. Pretty tough, I tell you. I dont know just how they will handle his work in SPI, but in view of the fact that we are having to suspend the publication of our inventories until after the war there really wont be much to look after, as the editing and composing of the inventories was his principal work. I have tho perhaps they might suggest that I step in and take over his and other rather neglected work, such as the foreign correspondence, for the duration of the war, since I cant get abroad again, but I doubt if they will, and I dont think I want to be tied down here.

Sewall has been classified in Class III, so I guess I will be too, in allm-probability, as he was supported by the same affidavit I am. I ought to get mine by the end of this week.

There is a bill up in Congress for \$250,000 to establish government plants for dessicating or dehydrating vegetables, and PHD says if it goes thru he thinks DF will be put in charge of the work. No use talking about it yet, however. DF certainly seems used up these days.

Well; this morning Sewall and I transferred J Belling from Dr Logie's nut house to Robert A Young's residence in Takoma Park. Logie was charging \$25 per week, or about \$110 per month; Young is going to charge \$50 per month. The doctor says he thinks Belling is in shape to do some work, and I am going to try to find him a gardening job of some sort. We dont think he ought to get into genetics yet, altho

I think Belling will be quite comfortable at Young's, and I only hope he will buck up and take hold of things, and wont have another breakdown. If he does have another breakdown, I will consider him pretty narly hopeless. This morning one of the old ladies who is an inmate of the sanitarium remarked, as he was waiting to come out, "Well, Professor Billings, I suppose we will see you back here again soon?" Bellingm looked a bit embarrassed, and remarked "er, ah--perhaps so". Then he grabbed his suit case and as he started for the door turned back and spit out "I HOPE NOT".

Paul, as I told you, Edith Spofford was happily married the other night at the palatial residence of her uncle, Lt. W E Safford. I dont yet know who the man was. Saff said he was sorry they didnt sent me an invitation. Saff, like the Good, is troubled at times by his memory failing him, but he means well, and certainly acts as tho he was fond of me.

Gotta have Paul's dress suit pressed tomorrow night to take Marguerite Neale to the Botanical Society dance. Mendy, who told me to take her as he didnt want to, is now sore because Byers beat him to Margaret Connor. He calked on M Neale the other night and when she told him she was going to the dance with me, he expressed great chagrin and angrily remarked that I had bat him to it, etc. Great boy, that Mendy. Herb and I lunched with him yesterday at the Old Dutch, his treat.

Mother, you neednt worry a bit about Herb overworking himself now. I dont think he is going a bit too strong. He had an earache one day last week, and I kept him sort of quiet for a day, but he wasnt laid up at all, -went down to his ofs about noon. He is doing very well, is getting much improved in some of his habits, and may yet come to understand that it isnt necessary to take a bath in order to wash behind his ears. When I tell him DF will go up in the air if he sees that dirty collar he rushes out and buys himself a clean one. Thats the way to get him, allright. He has great respect for DF's good opinion. We are getting along beautifully now, and having a good time. I have to let him take his own path sometimes, but of course that is what he should do.

Billy Hampstead says there were just 300 killed in the Guatemala quake. I had another letter from Austin, and he wants badly to come home this month. Probably will do so.

Met Doc Galloway rambling along the road out in Takoma Park this morning, with a big sweater and a reefer on. The Doc certainly is one of the masses when it comes to appearance and habits, but when it comes to brains, -whew! He is right there. He lectured to the horticultural seminar on Friday, and was excellent. They have me booked for a stereo lecture there the end of this month? I am now getting my 102 slides colored.

Lots of love

Will

Washington, Monday morning Feb 4th [1918]

Dear Folks, no carbon:

I just send this note to say that I wrote you a long letter from the house last night and left it there when I came down to the office this morning, so it will not go out until a day after this. As I have not written for several days I thought I might better send a short note today.

We spent yesterday very quietly, moving Belling to new quarters in Lakoma Park in the morning, and loafing around the house in the afternoon. I wanted to make a call or two but felt sort of tired and thought I would loaf. It was quite a job to move Belling,--Both Sewall and I had to lug two suitcases a couple of miles across the snow, But now it's done, and I hope it will last a while, though I don't know just how it is going to turn out. He is certainly as well as he is likely to get.

I am going out to Vienna this afternoon to Stuntz' funeral. He died of typhoid-pneumonia.

Herb is stuck on his new boots, which I got from Sears Roebuck and swapped him. They cost 3.85, and are the heavy outing kind. He likes to wear them in the snow, and it is probably much better for him to do it than to wear the flimsy things he has been used to.

Tomorrow night I go to the Bot Soc dance, with Paul's friend Marguerite Neale. Somehow or other I don't think I am going to like her so awfully well; she has too many radical views. A girl should not be too intelligent, anyway.

As I am stating fully in my letter wh goes tomorrow, we had Erny Chamberlain out for supper Sat evening, and he recommends Katherine Keizer very highly. Ma, you better fix it up for me to stop off there on my way to California, but I dont want to do it if it looks too pointed. Girls dont like to have anybody stage an affair of this kind for em. It kills the romance of it.

Dorsett has just come in, so I am going to set to work.

Lovingly,

Washington Feb 5 1918

Dear Folks:

I am officially notified that I am placed in Class III under the draft.

NOW: it is allright for Paul to say that scientific work should be carried on during the war, and that I ought to stay by it; but it is going to be mighty hard to get anything done in this offs from now on. DP is tied up with war work, and expenses are going to be held down. What I would like to do would be to get a war job that would carry me abroad somewhere. In any event, I am going to look about at once to see what are the prospects of getting something worth while, and if Paul thinks he can help me to get a good place I wish he would speak up, before it is too late. I would like mighty well to be in uniform, and there were any possibility of getting a 2nd lts commission in the S C I would jump at it. I have a couple of jobs in view but it doesnt look as tho either of them would materialise.

I went out to call on the Brownes last night. Mother B chided me for not coming out Sunday, saying that they had creamed oysters in the evening. I told her I'd never do it again. She fed me some cake and apples. She knows the road to a man's heart allright.

AWFUL cold this morning, and last night. Tonight I have to take Marguerite Heale to the Bot Soc dance, and it is going to be cold work. I wish Kitty B were here, but I guess I am going to like Marguerite allright. Those socialistic, agnostic, suffragic ideas bore me a bit at times, however. Erny filled me so full of em last week that I dont feel I can stand much more.

Herb is waiting to take this down to the mail box as he goes across to his offs, so

ADIOS

W

Washington, Feb 7th Thursday

[1918]

Dear Folks:

I suppose I must begin by stating that it has at last turned warmer here, and the streets are slushy. Anything is better than the frightful cold of two days ago. This is a pretty tough climate,--has been especially so this winter,-- and in spite of the fact that FCP and Paul lay my recent cold to over eating and other errors of judgement, I notice most everybody else has had one too.

Night before last I took M Neale to the Bot Soc dance, wh was a very agreeable affair. Mendy and Fred Miller and Byers with their respective señoritas made up the rest of our gang. G Darrow was also there, with one of the most perfect 120-150, Eureka brights I have ever seen. My goodness, but that boy does lack taste! This poor girl couldnt dance very well, and was physically very unattractive. Marguerite is surely a peach of a dancer, and so were 4 or 5 other girls that I danced with in the course of the evening. I enjoyed it, but it is so long since I have been to an affair of that kind that I had almost forgotten how to act, and I suspect Marguerite thinks that I wasnt quite onto the job.

Last night we downed about 2 quarts of curried rice per each, and went to bed. Tonight we are talking of going to Keiths to see the views of the Guatemala quake wh they claim to be showing. I am anxious, of course, to view them.

nothing very exciting going on here these days. I have just worked over my article on the uses of cacao in Guatemala and am going to try it on the American museum Journal or some other

publication of that nature. I have made it more serious than it was previously.

Paul, I have gone over our library at home, and don't find the report I asked you about, Anthropology of the Pan-Am Sc Cong. The thing you have appears to be something different. I haven't yet located my 8 or 19 years' numbers of the Revue Horticole de l'Algerie, which I left at my office. I am afraid they are lost.

They have ~~me~~ booked for a talk before the horticultural seminar two weeks from tomorrow, with my Guatemala slides. First Tuesday in March the Bot Sc. Am going to invite ma and pa Browne to the latter, as ma is much interested in seeing the pictures.

Absolutely cannot think of anything more, so
with stacks of love,

Witt

Washington, Friday Feb 8th [1918]

Dear Folks:

Its time for me to get out of town. Gee! But I fell hard last night! You see, it happened thusly: Safford invited me to dine with ^{him} he and Mrs S at the weekly supper of the Arts Club, wh Paul probably knows well, our friend Dr Gates delivered a fine lecture on Greek art. I sat ~~at~~ the speakers' table, Saf being chairman for the evening. Mrs S was on my left, and the Bush Browns at the same table. Altogether a great affair. But afterwards, know, O my bréthren, that I spotted a stunning young lady in the rear of the room, and asked Mrs S who she was; she said her name was Pugh, and she promptly took me back and introduced me. A fine robust damsel, with lots of vigor and always laughing. Mrs S says to me says she, Now if you dont go ahead and make progress, I'll have to get in and help you myself. Dr Gates talk was fine. Saf then got up and told about his experiences in various parts, describing how he used to sing little ditties to the Samoans and they would say Alekele homamai kakui o kinamu, meaning O Chief, give us another order of that. Mr Bush Brown spoke, and a few others. Then we went up stairs and danced a bit. Swell. They are going to give a dance next Tuesday evehing, and I bot two tickets upon Mrs Bush Browns promise that Lydia would fix me up with a partner, and I am going around tonight to call. The BB's seemed tickled to see a Popenoe again, and inquired anxiously about Paul. They didnt even know what rank he held.

Recd long letters from mother last night, via Paul. I see it will be inadvisable to stop off at KC. Somebody spilled

Mrs Safford spent a goodly part of the dinner hour telling me what an iniquitous state of mind Ernie Chamberlain has fallen into. Says she hopes he will out grow it, but he is positively disgusting just now, and men have been put in jail for saying very little more than he says. And she doesn't like his attitude toward the war, trying to get a "bullet proof" job, etc. I guess Ernie leaves here today, for his field clerkship.

Yesterday noon Ma & I, lunched chez the merchants, and I came back to the Ofs. Dropped in on H suddenly half an hour later and found him just finishing a 1 1/2 lb box of Reeves' chocolate creams. This morning he says he doesn't know what's the matter with him but his gut's out of whack. Aint it funny?

All quiet along the Potomac. Hoping you are the same,

Loveingly

Will

Washington, Sunday February 10th [1918]

Dear Folks:

Just our luck. While we were at the meeting of the Biological Society last night, somebody called up to invite us out for dinner today. We are hanging around this morning in the hope that he will call again, but as he called twice last evening and seemed rather peeved the last time (according to Sewall) I suppose there isn't much chance of it.

Herb and I dined at the Powhatan last night,--Herb's first appearance. He always objected to going; but as usual, he came away convinced, and now plans to take one of his scientific friends there once in a while. But I regret to report that the Powhatan has printed a new menu, with a 50% increase of prices all around, and a charge of 10 cents for bread and butter. We didn't get as good a meal as usual last night, the oysters being very small and very poor, but as Herb says, it is worth \$1 just to sit there for two hours and listen to the music.

We expect to go out to Brownes this afternoon; this morning down to hear Dr Gates at the 1st Congl. Both of us like his talks very much, but I can't stand Doc Gordon, nor G. Darrow's moribund SS.

NOW for the BIG NEWS. I will start for California in just about a week. I can't state the exact day as yet, but I hope and plan to leave here about the 17th or 18th. And I am going by SP, in order to stop off and see Paul.

I don't know how long I will be able to stay at Pasadena. I think two weeks will be the maximum, probably. An important matter has arisen, and I am making some radical changes in my plans, all of which I can explain to you when I see you, as they are not perfected as yet. But I must see Paul on the way out. I would respectfully beg that he wire me at once on receipt of this letter, stating where I shall get off down in his territory. Then I will make my plans accordingly. I will not leave here until I get his wire, unless it should come within a reasonable time. I think I can spend two days with him all right. When you wire me, Paul, tell me if you want me to advise you by wire of the date of my arrival, or whether it will do if I write you about two or three days in advance of my departure from Washington.

I thought I would have my lantern slides all ready to bring with me, but Mrs Hodge is sick and isn't getting them colored as yet. If she doesn't finish them this week I will bring them along and use them black and white. But as I have not a great deal of time out there I think we had better plan to hold down the lectures to those who are really worth while. I might plan to give one at the Citrus Expt Station at Riverside, and another to the avocado growers in the vicinity of Los Angeles. FOP can make such plans as he desires.

I am going to bring the MS of the avocado bulletin with me, even if I have to wait for Kellerman's permission. I

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dont dare leave it here, for it would never get any farther. I think perhaps DF can get the matter arranged this week, but if he doesnt I will just tell him to go ahead and arrange it, and I'll look after the matter in Calif, see?

NOW, FOLKS: Dont you plan on many stunts for me while I am home. It is not going to be so long a stay as I would like, and I want to spend most of the time right at home. We will have to run over to Riverside for a day, but beyond that I think I will stick pretty close to hum. I dont intend to call on anybody except a very few of my best friends; dont think you can drag me into Bartlett's or out to see Mary Musser, or anything of that sort, cause its NIX. You know what I mean. Just wanta loaf around Pine Lodge and inhale a little California dust once more.

Mother: I am not ignorant of the proximity of your birthday. I have a little present here for you, but in view of the fact that I am going to get out there about a week later, and express is slow these days, I will bring it with me.

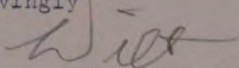
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I forgot to say that the moths have gotten into my Tux while I was away and eaten out most of the front of the trousers. I got it mended and it looks fairly well, but Paul me lad, we ought to put more moth balls in the stuff we leave here. I am going to buy some and see that your Dress suit is put away properly when I leave.

Must clean up the house now, and get dressed to go down town. This is going to be a very busy week for me. I will keep you informed as to the date of my departure, and PAUL:

Dont forget to wire me at once, telling me where to get off the train, and how to advise you of my coming, whether by wire and where, or by letter to Deming. Direct the telegram to Bureau of Plant Industry, 329 Homer Bldg.

Lovingly



I am going to have my mail sent to Altadena. Pls advise the postmaster there, so that he will put everything in our box. It wont come in your care, but simply addressed to Altadena.

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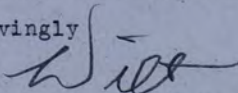
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Washington, Feb 13th 1918'

Dear Folks:

Everything going with a rush, preparatory to the big getaway. Monday evening H and I called on the Saffords (not for dinner), and had a very enjoyable evening, only Mrs S and Mrs Spofford being at home. Last night I went to big fancy dress dance chez the Arts Club. I wore my full Baghdad regalia, wh I have never had an opportunity to wear until now. And let me say this: that in spite of Paul's strenuous objections when I bot these garments, they are certainly great stuff and I am glad I got em. My costume attracted more attention that any other on the floor, save one; this was a beaufiful Japanese outfit worn by Miss Rice, who thinks a lot of Paul. It was recently brot from Tokyo, and had the right flavor,--magnificent obi, and all that, and as Miss Rice is short, and has dark hair and eyes, and good features for a Japanese, she carried it off wonderfully. I danced with her several times and rather enjoyed her. I took Margater Merrill, whom Lydia dressed up in Italian peasant style. She looked pretty good, and is a very easy girl to go with, as she is not formal or stiff. She talked a lot about Paul and Ned Hamilton and Rito Stockdale. In fact, most all the girl talk a lot about Paul.

The Saffords werent there, but the pretty girl who

promised me the dance was, and I had a couple with her. It was altogether the best dance I have attended this year, and I came home feeling that I had finished up my dancing career in Washington in good shape.

It looks as tho I would get out of here next Monday, the 18th. I am awaiting Paul's telegram as to where I shall drop off to see him.

Tonight I dine with the Morgans, of Mt Pleasant Congl Church. I wonder if I told you that I gave a short talk on the Guatemalan Indians at the church last Sunday evening. It went off without a hitch. Friday afternoon I talk to the horticultural seminar of the Dept on my Guatemalan explorations. Mrs Hodge, who was to color my slides, is still sick, and I am having to take the slides in black and white. Tough luck.

Lovngly,



Washington, February 14th 1918.

Dear Folks:

Postman has just inserted under our door a very plump parcel, scarcely to be called a letter, due to its unusual size. I note it is marked "T M Barton" etc, in one corner. O Tempora! If I sent it on down to Paul I suppose it would bankrupt me to pay the postage on it, so I will just hold it and bring it with me.

I had expected to get away from here next Monday, the 18th, but as usual I am being held up by various persons and things, and I guess I cant leave before Wednesday the 20th. I hope it will not inconvenience Paul to meet me somewhere along the line.

I have completed my arrangements here for going down to southern Mexico. It seems to be the only possibility of going abroad again until the end of the war, and the only way to avoid being tied up here for a long time. It is next to impossible to get any work done here in Washington these days. Our Ofs force is being cut down and out work is being sidetracked more and more; in another six months there will be little left of it. As far as I can determine, southern Mexico is not very much disturbed and it should be possible to carry on work in some regions at least. I can watch my chances and get up to such places as Atlixco when there is an opportunity.

I will come out home and spend a week or two, and then sail down the West coast when I can catch a boat. I dont know just how they are running these days, and the SS agent here doesnt either.

Yesterday I went out to the Marine Hospital and let 'em give me all three kinds, just like Paul; typhoid, paratyphoid, and smallpox. That's why I am at home this afternoon. I went down to work this morning, but I felt pretty rotten and came home after lunch.

Last night I dined chez the Morgans. One of the old Prof's from Wellesley was there, and we got up a big arguamant on how to raise children.

Swiped a quart of dehydrated apples down at the Ofs this morning, and am making a big bait of apple sauce. H and I can walk thru 2 quarts of stewed fruit just about as fast as any two men alive, barring Paul and Ernst Chamberlain.

We each put up 20 cents at the Old Dutch inn yesterday noon for the first strawberry shortcake of the season, and

tasted mighty good. Mother, if you can scare up any strawberries while I am home, I want em.

But OH MY, I hate to think what this home will be like after I have been gone a few weeks. Herb promises that he will try to turn over a new leaf and keep things in better shape than he did before, but I doubt if he will do a whole lot better, and it certainly was terrible when I blew in here in December.

I got a letter from Kitty Browne this morning. The more I investigate the matter, the more do I become convinced that Kitty isn't yet booked, but I told mother B last Sunday that I wasn't going to think of marrying until the war was over, so no baseless hopes will be raised. Kitty B is not an intellectual at all; her letters are not clever, nor does she say very much, but when it comes to housekeeping, that girl has few equals and no superiors, I'll bet. As I have said before, she is going to be a dead ringer for her mother. Herb and I are still talking about the roast lamb with brown gravy and mashed spuds we had out there last Sunday. And I think on the whole, if I have to choose between a girl who can keep house and one who can stimulate me intellectually, I will take the former.

Tomorrow I speak to the horticultural seminar on Guatemala. My lantern slides are good, but I wish they were colored.

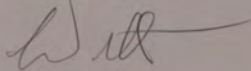
I took my bulletin MS out to Kellerman the other day and had a talk with him about it. He was very decent and I think he is being fair. He said that he would like to see the bulletin published by the Dept, but that in case we couldn't get it out by the middle of this yr he would personally be willing to let it go outside, but that the Secy was opposed to publication of Dept material ix outside. He was going to take the matter up with the Asst Secy and let me know on Friday, which is tomorrow, so I hope I will soon learn my fate. It will be a shame if that bulletin is pigeonholed.

Gee, but I will be glad when the war is over. I don't suppose you folks out in Calif see so much of it, but here in Washn it is everywhere, and it is no use trying to do a thing along other lines.

Paul, we sent off "My Lady of the Chinese Courtyard" today as instructed. Pero cuidado, hombre!

This letter will probably appear to lack life, but you will understand that it is due to three hands, count m 3, two in one arm and one in the other.

Lovingly,



Washington, February 16th 1918.

Dear Folks:

Still tied up, hoping to get away soon. No word from Paul as yet, so I couldn't leave anyway, but if I hear from him today or Monday I will probably be able to get away from here by Wednesday, the 20th. Of course a few days delay don't matter much, but I want all the time possible in California. I am going to need a little time out there for outfitting for the Mexican trip. I am pretty well fixed up already but there are a few things wh I can get to better advantage out there than there. Prices are up in the sky back here. For example, I had two of my little army trunks overhauled, a new lock put on one, and some minor repairs made,--\$8 please. Those trunks now costs \$15.50 each, and four years ago they were \$6.50.

Well, I had the pleasure of seeing my Guatemalan slides on the screen yesterday afternoon when I talked to the horticultural seminar for an hour, and they are fine. I wish they were colored, but they are good as they are. D F paid me the compliment of knocking off work to go out to my talk. I tell you D F treats me square, and no mistake. I hope nothing will interfere with my staying by him and his work.

After we got back from my lecture, DF took me to the National Geographic lecture by Henry Van Dyke, on why Germany must be licked. Van Dyke is one of the most perfect

Van Dyke, by the way, is now in uniform, a chaplain of the U S Navy; I believe he is to do war propaganda work.

Have recovered from the first round of vaccinations, and ready for the second round tomorrow, after which we will call on mother Browne.

I guess D F isnt going down to Florida, as least not in the near future. He doesnt feel that he can leave his work here.

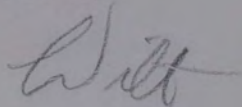
Paul, I wish you had been back here with us these past two months. We have been living high. By that I mean that we ~~have~~ had oodles of stewed fruit, good spuds and gravy, corn meal mush, milk toast, hominy grits, and such like.

Herb was never so excited in his life as he was yesterday over his cat article in the Times. Probably he has sent you a copy and will write all about it, but I can say that he has thot of little else for 36 hrs.

Father, you better fix it up so I can address the avocado growers in some convenient place, such as Los Angeles. All those that really want to hear about the work can come, and the others dont matter. I havent got anything out of Kellerman re the bulletin yet, but am going after him again this morning. I have fears.

Well, its time to begin work.

Lovingly,



Washington, Sunday 17th Feb 1918.

Dear Folks:

MBP, I repeat my salutations of yesterday's nightletter,--Many happy returns of the day!

I wanted to go to church this morning but was prevented from doing so by an engagement to take a shot of anti-typhoid dops at 10.30 a m. Now I am back at the Of's, where Herb will meet me at 12 and we will dine a la chincis at the Asia. This evening we sup chez my mother-in-law.

I got a telegram from Paul last night, just after I had dispatched a night letter to him for fear he hadnt recd my letter; he said he would be in Tucson until the 23rd. As I dont believe I can get away from here until the 20th, I guess I had better postpone it a day more, perhaps, and meet Paul at El Paso instead. I will advise him by wire in a day or two. Now that he knows I am coming there is no danger of our not meeting. My delay here is due to a combination of causes, but is convenient for the reason given in detal in the following paragraph, to wit:

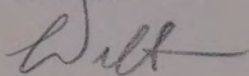
Kellerman wrote a note yesterday saying that they had decided to publish my avocado bulletin in the Dept. He didnt say when, but I assume it will be as soon as possible, and possible is most likely a long ways off. However, I am resigned. I just went in to see DF about the matter, and asked his permission to write a shorter and more popular account of the Guatemalan explorations

for the California Avocado Assn; after considering arguing back and forth, about what I dont exactly know, since we both took the same side alternately, he finally said to go ahead. So I will spend the next several evenings, my vaccination permitting, working up another paper, wh I will bring with me, along with a bunch of photographs, to show to webber and the boys. I think I can bring out all the interesting points in this paper, with less detail than the bulletin contains, and unless something comes up to stop me I will have her ready for publication when I show up at home.

Father, the enc memorandum, made out for Herb's guidance, may be of interest to you. Keep it.

The Mexican trip looks pretty good to me. I have just been talking with Collins and he says the Tehuantepec-Chiapas region is beautiful. But dont say anything about this trip in California until I get out there. I want to keep it rather quiet for the present. I feel that the opportunity to get out again during the war, even tho it may be under conditions not as favorable as desirable, is too good to overlook. It would be firece to hang around here many months with things tied up the way they now are, and the only alternative is to enlist in the Medical Corps and get a sergeancy, whch Bob Jones is now trying to do, H and I having put him up to it.

Lovingly,



Washington, Feb 19th 1918. Tuesday

Dear Folks:

Charles has arrived in town and is coming out for dinner tonight, bringing his grub with him. Guess it will be a big affair, but I doubt if we get seated at the table before 8.45.

I wont get away from here before Friday and perhaps not until Saturday, but I feel confident of doing so by the latter day. I am working hard now trying to finish up a paper on the Guatemalan explorations for the Calif Avocado Assn, acct Kellerman's decision to hold the big bulletin for publication here. I immediately went to DF with a request to be permitted to write a brifer paper for the Avocado Assn, and after arguing a while, both ways, he consented, so I am trying to work up the most interesting data in a paper about 35 pp long, and will bring a bunch of photos to go with it. We will have to go over the thing in Calif and get it in final shape. I am rather disappointed that Kellerman would not agree to the publication of the bulletin outside the Dept, but I take such things philosophically.

Paul, I am going to the bank today and will inquire about our liberty bonds. I will also get the necessary affidavit for the pine lodge deed. The latter I will bring with me when I come.

I will today look up the trains over Rock Island and see when I can leave here, and tomorrow I will probably telegraph Paul at Tucson when I will be able to meet him at El Paso.

Father, I wish you would look up the boats to Salina Cruz

if you have an opportunity, and see if anything is running now.

I hear rumors to the effect that they are taking off all the American boats, but someone says there is a Japanese line. If I cant get a boat promptly I will have to come back part way and go down to Mexico by a different route.

The more I think of the Mexican propn the more I am glad it has come up. It may be the best opportunity to get into that country wh I will have for a long time, and I am going to have a pretty free hand to do things as I please. I wont go into any regions which seem dangerous, and will at least be able to get a lot of data re Mexican avocados. I am anxious now to go on with the avocado work and clean up the whole of tropical American just as fast as possible. It would be a monumental piece of work.

E E Knight writes me a very friendly letter, in reply to mine of same tenor, and our future relations are assured. I suspect he was afraid we might take an attitude toward his avocados wh would be somewhat unfavorable, but I wrote him so that he would see we werent out to knock anybody's else product, but simply to boost Guatemalan avocados in general and get the best the market affords.

No, Paul, I dont allow any girl to talk agnosticism and suffragism to me, but when you call on Marguerite Neale and her mother sits in the room the while, discharging great cargoes of utterly wild ideas, what's a feller to do? I dont like these ultra-radicals like Mrs Neale and Ernest Chamberlain. They dont help win the war.

Well, sir, I have at last got Kitty Browne's status definitely fixed. We called on the Browne's Sunday afternoon, finding little

John Burleson and Miss Burchell there (little John, by the way,

has got good blood in him and is an attractive little fellow, but dreadfully spoiled in small ways) and Mrs Browne and I at last got started upon the subject of matrimony. I learned that Katherine refuses to go after the young men, like Helen does, and therefore has never interested any of them; but that she is, when all is said and done, the kind of a girl that will make a better wife than Helen (hear, hear) and in fact will be a prize for some nice young feller. She has nobody on the string at present. I admitted to Ma that Katherine was just the kind of a girl Paul and I had always said would make an ideal wife, she being so competent to make a home. But Ma made it plain that the man what wants Katherine must go after her, because she wont give him any encouragement. I had just about reached this conclusion myself. Ma bewailed the fact that nicest girls were usually left for inferior men because the good men were all grabbed up by ambitious maidens who werent afraid to push their claims. I seconded the bewailing.

Ma Browne says she is going to miss me more'n tongue can tell, and I guess she means it. That woman's going to make a swell mother-in-law for Somebody. Chorus: Was that somebody you?

I will certainly be glad to get out'n Washington until some future time when things are more nearly normal here. BF's state of mind reacts upon me pretty strongly, and you cant get anything at all done these days, so me for other parts. If I dont stay down in Mexico long (I am to stay as long as I want) I will come back and hang around Calif until they call me up for service.

Lovingly,

Walt

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

HORTICULTURAL AND POMOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATIONS.

IN REPLYING, REFER TO: HP-

Riverside, Cal., Feb. 23, 1918.

Mr. F. O. Popenoe,
Pres. and Mgr., West India Gardens,
Altadena, Los Angeles County,
Calif.

Dear Mr. Popenoe: --

I have your very kind letter of February 21st, today. In reply will say that I have made arrangements with Mr. Frank Miller, master of the Mission Inn, for a lecture by Wilson Popenoe on the experiences of an agricultural explorer in Guatemala for Friday evening March 8th at 8 P. M. in the music room of the Glenwood Mission Inn. Mr. Miller and Mr. Hutchings are both delighted with the opportunity of hearing Wilson and seeing his views of Guatemala life, and assure me that their guests together with any other visitors from Riverside and all other districts of California will be very welcome at the meeting. I have telephoned Dr. Webber regarding the sending out of notices to members of the California Avocado Growers Association and find that he is out of town. As soon as he returns I will take this matter up with him and no doubt arrangements will be made to notify the members as to this talk. I myself think that a nice little invitation or notice on a suitable card should be sent to the members of the Avocado Growers Association announcing this illustrated lecture, and will suggest this to Dr. Webber. I will also see that adequate notices of it are put in the Riverside papers. It seems to me that it would be desirable

Mr. F. O. Popenoe, p. 2.

to have similar notices in other papers but do not know exactly how to accomplish this end.

We are very much disappointed in that Wilson will not be able to stay here longer than will be the case, but if he can take a few days off from his friends while here I feel sure that we can get the matter of our Navel Book in shape. We will do our share during the succeeding months so that it can be in fairly good shape when he returns from Mexico.

With best regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

AH Shamel

Physiologist.

Vera Cruz, April 11 1918

Dear Folks:

Well, here I be. And the voyage from Tampico down was not half bad, so that I did not suffer as I did from New Orleans to Tampico. We came into Vera Cruz this morning at eleven, and I got ashore for lunch at the Hotel Diligencias. As I sat at a table on the edge of the sidewalk, just across from the plaza, and a girl inside the hotel banged out some swell Spanish dances, I felt like I was back in the harness again. I am ruined for life, I fear. Never again will I be satisfied to stay up in the States, where you have to take your meals inside a building. And after finishing lunch, I strolled across so the plaza, and sat under a tree and watched the frangipani in bloom while a boy shined my shoes. Oh I tell you, there is noahing quite equal to the tropics! Vera Cruz strikes me as very Spanish, but of course my ideas of things Spanish are based upon La Habana. In any event, Vera Cruz reminds me very strongly of Habana, and has a much older look than Tampico, and more picturesque, it has more flavor

I found no mail here, but expected none, as it is soon for any thing to reach me from California. I hope my two letters from Tampico have gone thru to you all right. The one thing I don't like about this trip is the long time that my little mother may have to go without hearing from me, but she will know, if nothing comes for a week or two longer than ordinarily, that the mails are delayed somewhere along the line. I suspect when I get down in Tehuantepec it may be next to impossible to send out anything with any feeling of assurance that it will reach its destination.

I think I will leave one of my trunks here until I come back, leaving it with the Consul probably, and leaving in it my overcoat, Tuxedo, and heavy suits, since I won't need any of them south of here. I think likely it will be about two months before I get back up here again. When I return and want to go to the capital I can dig out my heavy clothes.

I ran across a likely looking young American here today, and am talking about taking him on as an assistant. I don't feel it is compatible with my dignity to travel without an assistant. I will look into the matter farther tomorrow, and I hope to employ him. If I don't get him I will get someone else. There are quite a few Americans here, rather more than I had expected to find. I don't just know how I am going to get Mr Hotchkiss's clothes up to him, but tomorrow I will find a way.

I used my first cake of hote. soap coming down on the boat. That only leaves me 76, and 41 papers of matches. I am likely to run out of stock before I know it.

Maybe I will get a victory over this Blick some day, but I doubt it. Think how good I will feel when somebody strals it! I will let this letter lie now, until I finish my business tomorrow, and then I will add a final note.

Vera Cruz, April 12 1918

Dear Folks:

I met a fellow this noon just up from Tehuantepec, 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

Witt

Puerto Mexico (née Coatacoalcas)
May 8, 1918

Dear Folks:

I didn't come down on the Breakwater after all. They double crossed me, and I found the passenger lists already closed when I went to get my passage.

But by waiting over a day longer, I got three letters from Altadena, so I felt well repaid. But I had to come down on the Roberto Neñez, a tug which makes the trip twice a week, and which handles nearly all the travel between Veracruz and Puerto Mexico. She is small, of course, and has nothing but deck passage, so early in the game I propped out a soft spot on top of some bales of freight just abaft the funnel, and spread out my big canons to lie on. We left Veracruz at 5.30 pm and got here at 8.30 am, so it was principally a night run.

2

It would be hard to stand otherwise, as it is hot these days. I slept well but had to take to the rail once during the night and felt pretty badly from daylight on. I feel it yet. There isn't a meaner body of water anywhere than the Gulf.

While I was asleep someone extracted 3 large Manila mangoes from my basket of provisions. I had it right beside me for safe keeping, at that.

I am now stopping at Quong Lai's Paris (Maine) hotel. It isn't any worse than the other, and a little cheaper. Tomorrow I think I will go on to Tehuantepec City as a young American is going over and I will have company. And when I get there I will find the son of J. C. Harvey who planted the Harvey white sapote at Sierra Madre. J. C. used to have a magnificent collection of plants on his hacienda north of Santa Lucrécia, but J. C. died, likewise the collection.

3.

Now to come down to your letters:

How thankful I am that Effie hasn't my address! She's a nice girl, and all that, but just a little too demonstrative. I suspect if I would agree to marry her the old man would get me an honorary Ph. D. from University of Florida, but I don't want a degree bad enough to swap my life for it.

Glad to know C. H. Gable is at Tempe. I guess he will enjoy seeing his name in that *Cherimoya* article you sent him.

Hope Webber got the aguacate cane. He ought to carry it to the meeting of the Assn. Thanks, Herb, for attending to this and other matters for me.

I ought to have been in on Shirley's wedding present. If Paul didn't include me in the \$25 he sent her, he might forward a like amount on my acct.

I note Allan Burdison is in the States, as I had begun to suspect. I hope he is here long enough. I'm thinking about

going up to the City in July. Will ship Mr
Holtkins his thing from Oracuary when I get
back there about June 1.

The Mexico City papers say the reported
epidemic in Guatemala is not yellow fever,
but, according to an "eminent Japanese medic",
it is "Espiroquetosis icterohemorragia".
I don't exactly know whether I'm afraid
of that or not.

We get much better war news in the Mex
City papers than we used to get in Guatemala
City, - both sides of the case.

Herb, when I get home I will lend you
my 2 cameras to practice with, - if I
still have them. Go to it, old boy, but
calculate your exposures with care. For
close ups and weak light the Wynne
Infallible Meter is a great thing. Borrow
one and try it.

Lots of love

Witt

Altadena - May 13 - 1918.

Dear Auntie Downer:-

It's just a month ago to-day since you wrote me that snow flakes were flying! Well - I'm sure they're long since flown and that spring is now with you. I was just thinking of how we used to hunt for anemones at this time of year in the woods near J.C.W.S. in the days of long ago - and that made me want to talk to you -

Before I forget it - I have some lovely neighbors, well - Mr. + Mrs. J.R. Luff - He is a cousin of the Cobbs of Canton, and I well remember how much they used to talk of "Aunt Luff" his mother. Another nice new neighbor - Mrs. March - is from Jamaica Plain and known a lot of the Canton people - but considerably younger than I. Mrs. Luff is from Brookline.

We have joined the Altadena League for National Service, which includes Red Cross work and Army & Navy League both. And we all get so well acquainted it is better than parties, besides accomplishing so much more.

Thank you for the letter from my dear Aunt Lizzie. That household is sadly broken up since her death. Uela Will is an invalid with a housekeeper - a cook and a man attendant and we have heard nothing from him for a month. Minnie is in the hospital following a paralytic stroke that has affected both mind and body.

I long for news from them - but no one answers my letters to them.

My dear cousin May Boulton died a month ago from pernicious anaemia. I realize more and more how much the ranks are thinning out.

I'm so glad Eliph Morris sons are so fine. Also to have word of Mrs. Mr. Howard whom I remember so well & pleasantly.

Our boys are all well as far as heard from -
and we have had letters from all of them in
the past few days. They each write twice a week
but Holman's letters are uncertain as to timing of
reaching us. He is in Tehuantepec - Mex. doing
some plant research work for the University of
Edif. He was put in Class III - Technical Officer
to wait to be called right away - and his chief
urged him to keep on with his plant work
rather to enlist. If he is needed he can
course return at any time and would probably
enlist in air photography - as he is an ex-
pert photographer and knows the business in
every department and in varying climates.
Herbert is still in Wash. Has just passed
O'Leary and will doubtless enlist in another
year if the war isn't ended. Paul has
been promoted to District Supervisor of Law
Enforcements in course adjoining training

Camps. His field is Ariz. New
Mex. Texas & Oklahoma. He
has headquarters at Fort Huachuca
with various field men
under him and spends a good
deal of time travelling
over this territory. The busi-
ness of his Dept. is to keep
"men & women" out of each
of the soldiers. He would like
to go to France as he thinks his
knowledge of the language would
add to his usefulness. He
had five years of it in school.
Besides all the time he has spent
abroad. Personally - I'm willing
for the boys to go wherever they
are needed - but thankful for every
day they can spend in their
country. Of course we don't
feel any too comfortable about
Wilson - but he naturally doesn't
want to sit around his office
in Washington. He thought he
should either carry on his usual
work or enlist.

Fred and I are both better
than usual at present.

Mother Burman is now
keeping house at 835 Topeka
Ave - Cor. of 9th - Two blocks
East of Bethany College - so not

far from her old home she
is very content and I think
quite happy. Miss Schuch
had a dreadful time getting
her to move and said she
feared she would be in the
asylum herself before she got
her out. She - Miss S. is very
nice about writing me and
telling me the things she
thinks I ought to know. She
says mother now thinks she is
a reincarnation of the Virgin
Mary and is only waiting for
their way to be over to start
on her long-deferred world
mission. Fortunately, she
is very happy in her delusions
and I hope we will be able
to continue to pay her bills
and that her delusions will
continue harmless - It's
all very sad.

Now - my dear - good friend -
I must close. We always
love to hear from you and
to know that all is well
with you and your little
household - I hope you
may be spared to them and

to us - and to all your friends -
for many happy years -
With kindest regards to
all - I am

Devotedly yours
Maxim B. Popov.

H. Veracruz, May 25 198

Dear Folks:

Well, well, well; here I am, back at the Castoria Garden, and forced once again to use this Blickensderfer that Paul insisted upon my buying. Paul, I should think after your previous experience with the Blick, that you would know better than to force me to do such a thing. However, I have it, and I must use it, I suppose; I will confess that it is a rather pretty little instrument, with its aluminium base, but when it comes to writing, give me the Corona.

Or if you don't want to buy this machine as a whole, I will sell you the tabulating apparatus at a big discount over the list price, as I find I do not need it a great deal.

Paul, my lad, it is impossible for you to get too much hotel toilet soap. Next time I go abroad I want a bigger supply. I am going to run out of stock in another month or so. A cake only lasts me about two days down here, as I have to wash more than at home. But say, I am sore at that Park Hotel of Deming. They put out a green soap made to imitate Jergens Violet Glycerine, and it isn't any good; the Glenwood has the only original. Don't scoff at the small size Palmolive as it ranks just a shade below Violet Glycerine. In passing, I may remark that I am rapidly becoming an expert in toilet soaps.

Sorry to hear Don Fox was gassed. That boy has seen some pretty hard service. I hope he comes thru it all. It would be pretty hard on his parents to lose their only son.

Father, I like your program for the meeting of the Avocado Assn immensely. There is some good practical stuff in it, if the folks who handled the topics knew how to get it out. I note by the letter from Webber that you have sent him some lantern slides; I presume and hope they were the Guatemalans I left with you. If I had that I might have left some notes on each slide so anybody could have used them and made a pretty fair talk. I bet old Knight had a good time telling you why are the Guatemalan avocados best.

About the loquat proposition: I am glad to see the thing panned out so well, and would have done better under proper management. We have there at Vista a planting which is coming into productive condition and it does seem as though it would be foolish to let it go if we can find any way to hang onto it. My principal objection is that we have so many other irons in the fire. If we could get rid of WIG I would be glad to back anybody to go down there and run that loquat orchard, but I suppose that is out of the question. You folks can thrash the matter out, and count on me to join you in whatever you decide to do. If you want Paul and me to take some stock, I am willing, or will do anything else that seems desirable. I leave all my interests in the hands of my attorney, and will abide by anything he does, - cause I can not do otherwise.

Incidentally, if you folks ever want to sell any of your Liberty bonds, you have only to ask Paul for a check on my bank. You need not worry about transferring the bonds until I come home. I will trust you.

I knew Van Eseltine would be disappointed to find I was not there, but I think he would be disappointed just as well as I could, which was naturally to be expected.

Digitized by Paul Isidorovich, BANCAL Education Foundation
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

When my avocado paper comes out, clip out the halftones and stick in a letter to me. I hope you have been or will be very careful to see they get the proper and variety names spelled correctly. Nothing worries me more than an error of that sort.

No doubt you folks will derive much satisfaction from the forthcoming write up in Sunset. I only hope she doesn't put in on too thick. It will be the first time a photo of me has been published, so far as known to the writer. I suppose MBP will mark the date as a landmark in my history.

Paul, I wouldn't mind that dietitian stuff about bananas, were it not that the chump says "substitute bananas for strawberries"; No thank you. And say, you tell your friend Doc Tabor, formerly of Coatzacoalcos, that he is one tremendous liar. Tell him that for me, will you please?

Mother, I am going down to see Weems this morning and will tell him about Mrs Weyland. He wants me to go to San Andres Tuxtla with him about June 5 and I plan to do it. If I get down to Tabasco I will look up the Mansau property, but I doubt if I get there.

It is very evident that the mail service in Mexico is better than that in King Manuel Estrada C's dominions, hence I will hereafter mail you letters frequently when I am in the country. But Dad, it probably won't be any use to try to catch me anywhere except here at Veracruz until I go up in the highlands and give you a new address.

Glad to see the fotos of Bob Jones looking north, east and south. Herb, pls send one of Bob looking west to complete my collection. The one of H is good, or would be with proper retouching, for those close-ups always make your face look like a piece of raw beefsteak. Herb doesn't want an 8x10 camera yet, it is better to practice on something not larger than 4x5 as the expense is so much less. Herb, tell Bob I will write him one of these days; I am sorry he doesn't make up his mind on something. When I get him out exploring I will make it up for him for a while, and then begin to stick him in places where he will make it up for himself. Bob is a hard worker and will make a fine assistant, but he has had too much of "tomorrow you will recite on pages 34 to 43 inclusive". I hope for Herb's sake that Bob will stay in W indefinitely, as he is as good a companion as H could have there. H gets plenty of opportunity to hobnob with the scientists and needs a young fellow for company once in a while, and Bob is the boy.

Mother, you better find out whether Amelia got the letter I sent her. I think I am receiving all your mail here, and it all comes opened by censor, so the boys up home are on the job. On arriving here May 25 I got your letters up to May 12. I also got one from Rev A H Mellen in Mexico saying cousin Allan would probably be back by the end of this month. And I got one from Charley Doerr asking me when I would be up. I plan now to go up in July and get him to make a big avocado excursion to Querétaro with me, and if possible, one to Atlixco. My one great desire is to visit Atlixco and see the parent Fuerte tree. Probably when I get there I will find it has been cut down. I don't believe it is worth while to go up to Mexico until July as the Querétaro aguacates are not ripe until that month.

I found a place here where I can get good hot cakes in the morning with plenty of butter for em, so no more do I bkfst on piña and pan dulce. Ask Mrs Weyland if she knows the New York restaurant. That is the place.

I brot my trunks up from Coatzacoalcos and now have a white collar on for the first time in about six weeks. I tell you, I am going to save my good clothes as long as I can. I am going to start right in buying the moment

I have discovered that the only trouble with this Blick is that I hadn't learned the keyboard. From now on you will notice that it works allright.

Veracruz comes the nearest to being a one-price town of any place I have seen in tropical America. Pretty hard to beat er down a centavo.

I haven't taken many fotos yet, as I am saving my films until the aguacates get ripe. I can't buy films here, tho I expect to find them in Mejico. I took half a dozen and found that the machine was working allright.

I think I am thru with the Isthmus for a while. I have canvassed the region pretty thoroly and do not think there are any aguacates of importance in it. I do want to go to Tapachula, however, and may go back that way later on in the summer; I have talked wiah several people who have come up from there and they say everything is OK; at Pto Mexico I met a Robt Davies from Oakland, Cal, who was on his way down to look over his rubber plantation at Tapachula, and I came near going down wiah him. He couldn't speak any Spanish, and at Pto Mexico I took care of him, going so far as to get up at 5 and put him on the train, for all of wh he was duly grateful; I know from xperience that it worries a fellow a lot to transact business and check baggage when he doesn't know the language.

I tell you, travel down in the Isthmus is pretty hard, and I am not sorry to be out of it. I will be much better off up here, I plan to run up to Orizaba and Córdoba for a few days, as they are both great places for fruits, Córdoba being especisly famed for Manila mangos. I think I will write an article on the Manila mango before long; it ought to take well in Cuba.

Mother, I am afraid Kitty Browne isn't coming across. And I haven't had a letter from Mrs B since I came down here; I must write to her, I guess, even tho I don't owe her a letter. I will just bet you a peso fuerte that Lucia Bowen won't be so remiss when she gets started.

Wish I could have been at that avocado meeting. Probably I will get a report of it from you in another week or so.

Stacks of love

Wilt

H. Veracruz, May 25 198

Dear Folks:

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Mother, I am going down to see Veems this morning and will tell him about Mrs Weyland. He wants me to go to San Andres Tuxtla with him about June 5 and I plan to do it. If I get down to Tabasco I will look up the Mansaw property, but I doubt if I get there.

It is very evident that the mail service in Mexico is better than that in Kind Manuel Estrada C's dominions, hence I will hereafter mail you letters frequently when I am in the country. But Dad, is probably wont be any use to try to catch me anywhere except here at Veracruz until I go up in the highlands and give you a new address.

Glad to see the fotos of Bob Jones looking north, east and south. Herb, pls send one of Bob looking west to complet my collection. The one of H is good, or would be with proper retouching, for those close-ups always make your face look like a piece of raw beefsteak. Herb doesn't want an 8x10 camera yet; it is better to practice on something not larger than 4x5 as the expense is so much less. Herb, tell Bob I will write him one of these days; I am sorry he doesn't make up his mind on something. When I get him out exploring I will make it up for him for a while, and then begin to stick him in places where he will make it up for himself. Bob is a hard worker and will make a fine assistant, but he has had too much of "tomorrow you will recite on pages 34 to 43 inclusive". I hope for Herb's sake that Bob will stay in W indefinitely, as he is as good a companion as H could have there. H gets plenty of opportunity to hobnob with the scientists and needs a young fellow for company once in a while, and Bob is the boy.

Mother, you better find out whether Amelia got the letter I sent her. I think I am receiving all your mail here, and it all comes opened by censor, so the boys up home are on the job. On arriving here May 25 I got your letters up to May 12. I also got one from Rev A H Meilen in Mexico saying a cousin Allan would probably be back by the end of this month. And I got one from Charley Doerr asking me when I would be up. I plan now to go up in July and get him to make a big avocado excursion to Querétaro with me, and if possible, one to Atlixco. My one great desire is to visit Atlixco and see the parent Fuerte tree. Probably when I get there I will find it has been cut down. I don't believe it is worth while to go up to Mexico until July as the Querétaro aguacates are not ripe until that month.

I found a place here where I can get good hot cakes in the morning with plenty of butter for em, so no more do I bkfst on pifa and pan dulce. Ask Mrs Weyland if she knows the New York restaurant. That is the place.

I brot my trunks up from Coatzacoalcas and now have a white collar on for the first time in about six weeks. I tell you, I digressed pretty badly, when traveling. I am going to save my good clothes as much as I can. I have to start right in buying the moment I get home.

I have discovered that the only trouble with this Blick is that I hadn't learned the keyboard. From now on you will notice that it works allright.

Veracruz comes the nearest to being a one-price town of any place I have seen in tropical America. Pretty hard to beat em down a centavo.

I havent taken many fotos yet, as I am saving my films until the aguacates get ripe. I cant buy films here, tho I expect to find them in Mejico. I took half a dozen and found that the machine was working allright.

I think I am thru with the Isthmus for a while. I have canvassed the region pretty thoroly and do not think there are any aguacates of importance in it. I do want to go to Tapachula, however, and may go back that way later on in the summer; I have talked wiah several people who have come up from there and they say everything is OK; at Pto Mexico I met a Robt Davies from Oakland, Cal, who was on his way down to look over his rubber plantation at Tapachula, and I came near going down wiah him. He couldnt speak any Spanish, and at Pto Mexico I took care of him, going so far as to get up at 5 and put him on the train, for all of wh he was duly grateful; I know from xperience that it worries a fellow a lot to transact business and check baggage when he doesnt know the labguage.

I tell you, travel down in the Isthmus is pretty hard, and I am not sorry to be out of it. I will be much better off up here, I plan to run up to Orizaba and Córdoba for a few days, as they are both great places for fruits, Córdoba being especisly famed for Manila mangos. I think I will write an article on the Manila mango before long; it ought to take well in Cuba.

Mother, I am afraid Kitty Browne isnt coming across. And I navent had a letter from Mrs B since I came down here; I must write to her, I guess, even tho I dont owe her a letter. I will just bet you a peso fuerte that Lucia Bowen wont be so remiss when she gets started.

Wish I could have been at that avocado meeting. Probably I will get a report of it from you in another week or so.

Stacks of love

Wilt

H. Veracruz, May 27 1918

Dear Folks:

I dont know anything quite so satisfying as the possession of a thoroughly good typewriter, like this one of mine. Of course, it takes one a few days to learn the keyboard, but after that it is a constant source of pleasure and delight.

This is Monday, and I found four letters at the Consulado this morning, one of them containing FOP's account of the avocado meeting. Needless to say, I am considerably tickled at the way they played me up. I guess it is well that I was not there, for I would have found it difficult to keep myself as inconspicuous as I like to be. Old Webber seems to be a genuine booster now, and as for Knight, f Wow! I guess in the next article I write on avocados, which will probably be soon, I will sort of hafter drag in Knight a bit, and show him that I am still with him. We might just as well get all the fun out of it that we can during the next couple of years, for when the Guat. emalan avocados actually come into bearing they may be no good and Knight and I may have to move to Florida. By the way, father, you better send Ed Simmonds half a dozen copies of my paper on Guatemalan avocados. He will have use for the drawings of the fruits.

Mother, I am glad you are enjoying Sister Ruby's company; I know a lot more about that son of hers in the army than you think for. The Arcpnsl told me that Ruby seemed to think he was the only man in our land forces. The folks here consider Ruby a pretty wild talker, so dont take things she tells you too seriously. As previously mentioned, the folks here dont think her present husband is anxious to have her come back any sooner than necessary.

California would be better off if A R Rideout would devote more time to budding avocados and less to writing so-called poetry.

Prof Condit never did know anything about tropical fruits and never will, hence I do not fear any competition from him. Anything he writes is bound to be second hand, as he is not an investigator and does not travel. In view of all this, we can afford to treat him a No 1, and I think during the last couple of years I have shown him that he had nothing to fear from us. I dont believe I know of a single man, in fact, that I am really afraid my cut into my field and steal my thunder, to use a mixed metaphor. There is room for everybody, and I have got the lurch on all of en in one thing,--a wider knowledge of the tropical world and its contents.

So Kinman is out there, is he? He w as horticulturist at the Mayaguez station. If you see him again, give him my warm regards. He is one of our committee on tropical fruits, Am Ponological Soc.

I am glad Sall on is going in as Pres of the Assn. I rather wish Webber could be kept in an active capacity, but maybe Hardin will be better as Sec and Treas; Webber never was much good on the makeup of the Report. It is rare to find a man that is.

Glad the Fla Grower at last came thru. They were pretty slow, or else Herb held the separates a long time. You can use some of ther if they fit your case.

We will be strong in this yr's report of the Assn, due to the talk made at the meeting, and furthermore I plan to write up a big paoer on avocados of Mexico in time for it.

Paul, when you think you are living on poor grub, think of me down in the issnuss. Oh man, but those folks down there do know how to make a fellow suffer agony!

Orizaba, 2 de Junio de 1918

Dear Folks:

Sunday morning; I have just made the rounds of the market, purchased some aguacates to photograph, and now I am ready to sit around my room until sometime toward 4 p.m., when I must go forth to make a few final notes before leaving here tomorrow.

En passant, let me remark that I don't see how the Orizabefios have time to eat their luncheon, as the stores only close from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. However, I believe Napoleon said that fifteen minutes was enough for anybody to spend at the table.

I have put in some pretty good looks here these last four days. I have made a critical study of 200 aguacate trees, taking data on the size and form of the tree, amount of the crop, etc. I want to get material so I can publish three or four nice long tables in my paper on Mexican avocados. Then I will feel as tho I am just as good a man as J. Arthur Harris.

But the avocados here, tho abundant, are a second rate lot. Those of the Mex race are no bigger than pigeon's eggs, and those of the W.I. about 3 ins long. In the market I have obtained a few good fruits from other localities. The material here is interesting and important for study, but I don't believe it is of much practical value.

Incidentally, Blick's only failings are that the m usually prints n, and he doesn't space very well. The other errors are due to my own failure to come down on the keys from the right angle.

I have been reading T. Philip Terry a good deal lately, and find him a decided help geographically. His dope on hotels is all out of date, but most of the towns are just about where he said they were. But poor old Terry, 'E didn't know; he says the drinking water is likely to give you malaria, and he recommends a kammerbami to keep off colera. Also, someone has told him the old story about every wooden cross along the roadside marking the spot where a poor inoffensive traveler has been murdered by brigands for the \$2.53 in paper which he carried, and Phil takes it all in as gospel. I heard this tale in Guatemala, but as a matter of fact the crosses are erected by pious natives on almost every eminence along the roadside. You nearly always find one at the top of every divide.

The wooden watches outside the jewelry stores here, instead of marking the classic hour of 8.24, point to 10.11.

I say Paul, old top: do me up twelve cakes of your best hotel soap, in two pkgs of six cakes each, and send them by sample post. If they don't get to me, no harm done, and if they do, it will save me buying inferior and very expensive soap down here. And put in nothing but the best brands; Coleo and Palmolive head the list, being made from vegetable fats only.

As we say in Guatemala, está bajando mucha gente hoy; in other words, lots of Indians are coming in to the market, and I like the Guatemaltecos in the streets. They look about like the Guatemaltecos in Panama, but don't dress quite so gaily. The

embroidered huipil is not used here, and the sarapes hardly take their place.

Lady out in the hall is playing O Sole Mio set to danzon time with variations. They are strong on Cuban danzones here, and the Cubans take most any old piece, tack on a lot of preliminaries (about the same in every case) and then play the thing in danzon time, rubbing two pieces of sandpaper together the nonce, and there you have your danzon. Pretty good stuff, too.

They have a good system here in the market. Everybody puts his fruit up in little piles (which they call montones) and then shouts out vociferously "Veintes de aguacates! Ya se estan acabando!" , or perhaps "Cincos de tomates! Se estan regalando los tomates!" As the price is fixed it saves lots of dickering.

The other afternoon I was coming down the Calle Francisco I-Madero (most of the principal streets now have this name) when the familiar notes of the marimba burst upon my year. I rode haste. In front of the Flores de Mayo, or maybe it was the Nuevo Leon Dorado, four chaps were beating away upon a genuine marimba in pretty good style. When they finished I asked the maestro where the instrument came from, and he said Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas. I sat down on the kerb to hear 'em play another. When they got to going, and the bass reached back to the second keyboard, wearing that same unconcerned look, just as tho it didnt matter to him if there were five keyboards, I felt myself at home. While I was listening, a young chap sitting next to me looked up with an expression of triumph on his countenance, as tho he had just solved the problem of a lifetime, and remarked "Ah! There is something inside that makes the music!" He didnt see how it could possibly come out of those wooden slats.

At night here, the cops stand on their respective street corners, with whistles in their hands, and when the big bell in the church tower strikes the quarter hour they all whistle to show they are on the job. And each cop, to show his individuality, I presume, tries to whistle in a different way from his neighbor, throwing in a few variations from time to time. They usually get thru whistling just about the time the next quarter hour strikes, when of course they have to begin again.

Well, I guess I will go back to Veracruz tomorrow, as I will have been gone a week, and Weems is probably ready to start. This has been a pleasant stay up here, and will carry me until I go up to Mexico City some time in July. I bet I am going to like it up there. I talked to a man yesterday who knows Querétaro, and he says the cañada is just a mass of aguscate trees, And I think I am going to get to Atlitxco too.

Listen, Herb: has a draft ever come for me from Bob Hempstead? And you better get my pass book balanced and let me know how much I have on tap.

Yassir, this is one good climate, Makes me think of dear old Antigua. And the Hotel Diligencias is strictly allright, too.

Lots of love from

H. Veracruz, June 5 1918

Dear Folks;

Well, I might a known it. You cant get ahead of FOP, at least not in some things. Just after I had written him from Orizaba to send me down proofs of the halftones which go with my Guatemalan avocado paper, here I come to Veracruz and find em waiting for me, with a sample of the text, too. You bet I am glad to see how the thing looks, and it looks pretty good to me I can tell you. Many thanks, FOP, come again. I also found copy of Gardchron here, with Moctezuma tree, and copy of Citro-graft, with my avocado article, and copy of Vanity Fair, which I will probably read from cover to cover, including ads, not less than three times during the next two weeks, probably four.

Yassir, I got a nice bunch of mail here this morning. Among other items, a letter from Raymond Bell in which he says he will start in this direction some time in June. I'll be glad to see him, if he ever gets here.

Came down on the train last night with a young Britisher from the city, and he tells me he thinks Rito Stockdale has gone up to the States. He says Rito used to wear his hair long, wear a beard and black rimmed glasses, and sandals on his feet, to give the proper expression to his emotions. This Johnny was bawn and raised in the City and knows Ned Hamilton too.

Think I will try marking some of my letters from Veracruz "via Laredo" and see if they reach you any better. The trouble with the sea route is that the boats make too many calls on the way to New York.

Yep, Dad, you are right again; I mean about the Blick type-writer. Only, dont blame it on Paul. He didnt agg me on a bit.

Not so cool here in H. Veracruz as it was up in Orizaba. Father, I note on one of your letters that I better take a week off and go up to 5000 or 6000 feet. You see I beat you to the punch. And Orizaba is a fine spot, too. Dont you forget it.

Dont lose any sleep about the Lucia Bowen matter. I am able to assure you that she is harmless. When it comes to flirting, she is the only person that can really run me offn my feet; I would like to see Paul have a chance at her. But she may not write to me again, anyway, except a polite note of thanks for the avocado paper.

Well, I gness I'll drop this in the mail, as there is a boat going out tomorrow, and the next one I will mark vi, Laredo. The next one will go fwd tomorrow.

Lots of love

Mother: As far as known, there is no yellow fever any where in Mexico at present. I am watching out for it and taking every precaution. You bet.

Veracruz, June 6 1918

Dear Folks:

The more I think about it, the more I am convinced of two things: first, that the common or garden hotcake, as dispensed by the New York Restaurant, is a great thing, and second, that I had a good idea when I gave all those Guatemalan aguacates Maya names. True, I would like to have named one for Doc Webber, but I couldn't break up my crowd, and then too, remember the Lathrop mango! But these Maya names are great, Everybody is going to kick about em, wherein lies part of their greatness, That is, folks are going to notice them. The names are all built on the same plan, and as soon as folks get used to seeing them a bit, why, whenever they run across the name Kekchi or Panchoy they are going to say "Oh yes, Sure, That must be one of them durned Guatemallian varieties that Popenoe got". I believe the idea is good, and I claim that DF is the only man in the SPI who could see it, too; not to mention yours truly, of course. It worried Peter Bisset an awful lot. B-a mango named Mulgoba or Totapari interests me more than one named Davy's Favorite or Kidney, and the same principle is going to hold with the gator pear.

But Paw, when you get a chanst, tell Doc Webber why I didn't name one for him; i e, because we wanted to keep the set uniform,

for a variety of the Fuerte class,--one of them--air hybrids,--to name after him. The only thing is, he wants to be sure the variety is a good one before he lets it bear his name. The safest thing would be to try it out first, and name it afterward. If I find anything on this trip that looks very promising, and am able to introduce it, lets hold it in reserve with this idea in view, calling it the U-44 or something of that sort for the time being. If it was me, I wouldnt want an avocadi to bear my name if folks were going to say about it three years from now "Oh, yes, the Webber is a good flavored fruit, but it has no commercial value".

I dined last night at the Colon, on venison steak and French Fried. How would that strike you Herb? I find the Colon serves bigger portions than other places and is a trifle lower in price. You get double the amount of fried spuds you do anywhere else, so far as known to the writer.

Who gave the Citrograph that picture of me? You folks up there are going to put me right in a class with Lil' Archie Sham-el. I only spent about 15 minutes admiring that article.

Paul, I see by El Universal that Art Young and two other men who came down at the time he did have finished their work chez the Govt and are returning to the States.

Pablo, you better be lining me up a job against my return to the States. I think I'll be home by early fall.

the Original, look the mesero straight in the eye, and say "Hay mole de guajolote?" If he says "Ah, señor, eso sí que no hay!" affect an air of utter disgust, take your hat, and as you leave remark within his hearing "Y esa gente sin vergüenza tiene el valor de llamarlo a este un Restaurant Mexicano". But if you get it,--but say, I forgot. Excuse me. Guajolote is turkey, and I suppose you don't want any. Now look at all the paper I've wasted. I guess the best thing for you is enchiladas.

No, Pablo, I never heard of your man Scaife. There are lots of things in this world that were never dreamt of in my filosofía.

But say Dad, what for you object to this Blick, when I can put the proper accent over señor and filosofía? Eh?

I found that when I wore my sombrero and gabardine suit the soldiers were saluting me in the belief that I was an ossifer, so I have just laid the old Stetson away and sunk \$18 Mex in a Panama worth \$5 gold, and about half as good as those I got in Guatemala for \$5 gold or \$240 paper. But I figured if I ever fell in with a bunch of zapatistas it would be embarrassing to be mistaken for a military man. Herb, when you are swanking it this summer with one of those Guata hats, remember it is worth not one cent less than \$25 gold. If you can duplicate it for less, I will make you a present of it (after you have worn it out).

Father, if those Guatemalan avocado separates come pretty high, as they doubtless will, don't give them away too liberally, but hold at least 200 for me. Hold 200 for me anyway. This paper has much more permanent value than most of those we have published, and the drawings and descriptions of varieties will always stand. You better hold back on em pretty hard. We will want a few of em on hand ten years from now, and don't you forget it. I fear the other and more exhaustive publication may never see the light of day. Better get Herbert to look into it, and see if anything at all has been done about it.

Do you suppose Lucille Bartlett will name her son Wilson?

It is rather odd, though isn't it, that all three girls should have offspring at approximately the same time, especially when Margaret has been married so these many years.

Regarding address of people I go to see, etc., as requested by FOP, about the only one so far that is worth while is C M Harvey, Apartado 6, Tehuantepec, Oax. He is interested in plants and is OK; I can't get in touch with Dr Purpus lately. Probably he hasn't been in from the hacienda for a month or so.

Those drawings of the aguacate fruits aren't up to Safford's standard, but if I had given Saf's artist the job they would have cost me about \$1 each, whereas Bob did it gratis and post free.

Second instalment, June 7th.

I have just been down to the New York and ingested my hot cakes, and now I am on the watch for the Roberto Mafiez, which ought to be in today but probably won't arrive until tomorrow. She is a tug which runs from here to Puerto Mejico twice a week, and I am going down on her as soon as she shows up. It's a pretty nasty trip, as there is always enough motion to make you groggy, and no passenger accommodations. I think I will buy a steamer chair before I start.

The kids down along the water front are on to their jobs. When you show up down there they ask you what steamer you are going on, and then where you are stopping. With this information it doesn't matter if your departure is delayed a week: on steamer day they will show up at your hotel and sit on the job until they get your baggage.

I have purchased Tartarín de Tarascón in Spanish, also a copy of Hojas Selectas, to take down to the Isthmus with me. You might send me the Citrograph right along, or at least whenever there is anything in it worth while. If it can hang on until after the war it will become the leading publication dealing with subtropical fruits in the U. S. It pretty nearly is that now. They ought to buck up a bit on their typography; they have too many typographical errors to suit me. Tell 'em about it, Dad. Their material is good,--I mean the quality of the paper,--but they do have a lot of errors.

Herb, I wish you would smoke out E. R. Lake and ask him how the printing of the Am Pom Soc proceedings is coming along. I have two papers in it, and they ought to be proofread very carefully. If

they have not gone thru, get him to let you see proof, and please go

names in it with which you are not familiar. If you can do this and succeed in getting the stuff in such good shape that there are no glaring errors in it I will present you with a new, crisp ten dollar check, signed by my Apoderado in person, PHD or any of his crowd can tell you where to find Lake; and remind the latter that I want 500 separates of the committee report on names of fruits and 200 of the mango paper. Give this matter your prompt attention, pls, and put it thru right; if you do I will see that you get the \$40. Of course, you can have it in U.S. Gold Coin in you prefer.

The size of my laundry bills here make me groan constantly. It is good to know that mail reaches you promptly from any part of Mexico, for I will be able to keep you pretty well up to date concerning my work, no matter where I am. You better not try to reach me anywhere but Veracruz, however; I move around too much. I can stand anything up to 4 weeks without mail, but beyond that I object. I'll never forget the time I got back to Guat City after 5 weeks in the Verapaz, my first trip up there, and found a bushel of mail awaiting me; and as it was already midnight I sat up to read it and finished at 7 a.m.

It seems strange that I haven't heard from Ma Browne since I came down here. Tell her about it, Herb. And tell Saf I have got specimens of the papauce for him, and it is an anona I have never seen before. From Tehuantepec. Probably it will not be new to him, but I told him about it last yr and he didn't know it by name.

Took lunch with Weems and Whianey yesterday. The former has decided he won't go down to San Andres Tuxtla now, hence my decision to go back to the Istmo. Maybe I will come up to San Andres from there, as I very much want to visit the region again.

Tomorrow I am going int to get my passport viséd and put it into the Guatemalan foreign office, for a visé there which permist me to leave the country. This necessitates a day or two, of course. Then on Tuesday I am going to Mixco tom get buis of No. 30, and ship them; on Wed and Thu I will pack, and on Friday I am going to Antigua for the last time, probably in company with Dr and Mrs Struse. I will stay there until Tuesday morning, when I will come back here early with a lot of budwood to carry home, and in the pm I will dispatch my trunks. On Wed I go down to Pto Barrios.

I have been taking a few photos in town this week, having some extra filma to use up. Got a view of Am Legation, Consulate, Gran Hotel, and all that sort of thing, to complete my set. I guess I have taken pretty nearly 800 photos in Guatemala. Meyer only takes 200 to 400 on a 3 yr trip. I cant pass by the opportunity to get a lot of miscellaneous views, as I always have the feeling that they will be useful some time. Several of my friends here are asking me to get them some lantern slides made later on. Allison wants a lot of them, but I am sort of dubious about letting him have them, as his son is going to use them for paid lectures in the States, and I think I better wait a while before letting them out for that sort of an object. Allison is just a little bit foxy, and I wouldnt feel the utmost confidence in his assertions as to what they would be used for, and what they wouldnt.

Last night I paid off Rafael, and he started for his tierra, - Tecpan, --in high glee. Probably he never struck such a good job before or since. I raised him to \$15 a day not long ago, and I have given him one suit of manta drill, one good khaki coat, and a full dress coat for formal occasions in Tecpan. I think José was pretty jealous of Rafael; he told me once that Rafael had stolen four or five pounds of corn; but Rafael was a good steady chap, very willing and plessant, if not overly fast, and when I find an Indian like that I try to treat him right. José is a mighty good servant, allright, but he has gotten so he isnt over careful about telling the truth.

Paul Burgess, the missionary at Quezaltenago, is with us today, having come out yesterday fternoon to spend the night. There has been a big missionary conference on in town this past week. Someway I dont feel that the missionary work in this country is quite up to the Standard of that in Arabia; the crowd out there was fine, but there are some of them here that are just about 22 cal smooth bore. Burgess is one of the few really big men among them. He is a corker.

Thanksgiving day we had the American Consul and his wife for dinner, and Mr Simmons and wife, the latter an American merchant here and a particularly fine fellow. It was a very pleasant day.

Herb, order up that Halibut steak at the Powhatan.

Lovingly,

Walt

Puebla, December 14/18

Dear Folks:

I am sitting here in my room in the Hotel del Jardin (with balcony overlooking the street, \$2.50) and feeling pretty well satisfied with things in general. This is a good town, but more than that, it is only two hours from Atlixco. It looks as tho I was going to get there at last, as Gen. Castro has driven the Zapatistas down the line to Cuautla, and I do not believe they are likely to return in time to interfere with my plans. Wont it be great if I can get 50 fotos and a good account of that region! Si señor.

To go back. Day before yesterday Allan, the Bishop, Mr. Mellen and your humble bookmaker went to Toluca as forecasted exclusively in my last letter. It was a beautiful and highly interesting ride. I found 6 Mex. ahmacates in the park, so can say that this race is found up to 8800 ft. But the best of the day - for me - happened at lunch. We ordered some stuffed

Chiles, and they were simply the hottest things I ever saw. After eating half of one and following it with several glasses of water we gave up.

Just then a little dog came up and sat down to await a hand out. It occurred to me to try those Chiles on him. Well sir, it wont seem funny in the telling, but if you could have watched that dog's face you would have laughed until it hurt. After he swallowed that chile he sat up bravely, indicating that he was game to try it again, but he extended his tongue to the fullest extent and licked alternately one side of his chops and then the other, the whole large tears coursed fitfully down the sides of his face and he quivered with agony. It lasted a long time, and Oh but it was great!

Yesterday noon I lunched with Ritz Stockdale and at 4 took the train for this town along with Mr Wolfe. Got over here at 9, when I promptly turned in and didnt wake up until 9.15 this morning. It was cold, but I donned my overcoat and ventured forth in search of cafe con leche. All the restaur-

about decided that the poblanos do not eat until noon, when I came upon a small tienda and obtained the needed fuel.

Then I went thru the Cathedral, which is very fine, and betook myself to the market, which is by far the finest I have seen in Mexico. I saw at least 100 things I wanted to buy, but limited myself to one advocate from Atlixco. There are plenty of them in market.

This pm I go out with Mr Wolfe to see the Mission School etc, and tomorrow I will probably loaf around town and take in a church service or two (I havent been to one in months - no opportunity): then on Monday I plan to go out to Cholula, and on Tuesday morning - primera Dios y la Virgen - Wolfe and I shall board the 6.10 local for Atlixco.

Always lovingly
Wilt

Atlixco, Dec 18 1918

Dear Folks:

Atlixco at last! Goodness knows I've had a hard enough time getting here - hard in the sense that I've had to wait an awfully long time.

Well, the ahvacates are here alright, - lots of them, but my goodness! This region has gone to seed! The town is down at the heel, and the orchards are not being cared for. As one old fellow said of them "todo el mundo es el dueño ahora" - "they belong to everybody or anybody now." However, I shall be able, I believe, to get an excellent account of the region, a classification of the ahvacates and a set of very interesting photos. I plan to stay here 5 days and get back to Mexico City the day before Christmas. I have hired Mrs Wolfe's

Indian boy to start out with me tomorrow morning and look up Fierle and some other of the important trees. I hope I shall find them, but it may not be possible.

Mr Wolfe returns to Puebla this pm and will take along this letter. I am stopping here in his mission school - it is not now in session and I brought down a cot from Puebla and eat with the family who runs the school - plenty of chile and frijoles.

This valley looks just like Southern Calif. Dry and brown except where irrigated. Old Popo towers up above it tremendously big. Elevation a little more than 6000 ft.

I'm well fixed here and feel sure of a very interesting stay. It is one of the red letter days of my career as an explorer, this. It's a beautiful big broad valley, and would grow some splendid crops if they would only let it. The avocates are right in the
later As always

Athysco, Puebla,
Dec: 22, 1918.

Dear Fols:

I expect to leave here tomorrow and return to Mexico City, carrying a basket of avocados with me for testing when they soften up. This will probably be my last, therefore, from Athysco.

I haven't been able to work this field at all thoroughly, of course, but 5 days is better than nothing. I know what there is here, in a general way, and have the data for a paper before the next mtg of the Avocado Assn. I feel that the principal thing I have done here is to see the parent Fuente, for I am confident that variety is going to stay in the lead. If my fotos turn out OK - I have 50 or more - I will have some interesting things to show you. The trip here has also helped me in my study of avocado classification, for I am satisfied that I know how to dispose of all those found here. Poco a poco I am going to get the whole subject straightened out.

I found yesterday what I believe to be another hybrid. It is of the same character as Puebla, but a considerably larger fruit. It would probably have been a more valuable introduction than Puebla. Maybe I can come back and get it some day.

I find it much more difficult to work here than it was in Guatemala. Many of the growers are suspicious and one in particular - Cruz Delasquez - has left orders with the family that whenever I call he is not at home. You see, they have had two or three visits from Americans in the past on this same sort of mission, and they think they must be sitting on a gold mine and we are trying to get into it. They don't just exactly know what is in the mine, but the moment we come in sight their impulse is to crawl into their shells. I am glad I am not trying to get any cedarwood out of here. It would be a hard job in some instances.

Carl did not plot the locations of his trees beyond No. 31, thus leaving 10 numbers which it would be pretty hard now to locate. In addition, several of the growers are now dead, and all who lived in the huerfano north of town, where many of his trees are, have had to move in to the center of town because of bandits, and no one is on the properties. One or two of the trees are gone. With all these circumstances you will see why I haven't been able to locate many of his trees. I have only seen 9 of them in fact.

I believe the only two which are hybrids between the Quat and Trip are Tueria and Puebla. As I wrote previously, the name abnicate de Chera means nothing, except that the fruit is of good size and the owner considers it of good quality. But I am satisfied there are other hybrids here which ought to be introduced. I have mentioned one which I found yesterday. I am much doubt, however, if there are any which are equal to Tueria. In fact I feel pretty sure there are not. I have made quite a number of fotos of Tueria, by the way and outline drawings of 10 fruits which Le Blanc gave me.

By the way, send a Tueria circular to Alejandro Le Blanc, Calle 5 de Febrero #14, Alhijes. I called on him the other afternoon. The boy played the piano for me and brought me out a plate of brandied peaches. I found them very good, and particularly appreciated the spirit in which they were presented. The French do have a way of getting together a few good things to eat, and extracting a little pleasure out of life, no matter where they may be. The Le Blanc hosted the Le Blanc house and almost everything they had - and

Comparing the Guatemalan avocados here with those of Guatemala, these will average quite a little larger, they are in most cases smoother on the outside, and they have smaller seeds. In quality I think probably they will average about the same, but I have seen no fruits here which I believe to be of such fine quality as some of those in my Guatemalan set. Some of Carl's introductions look to me to be pretty poor in quality, judging by the color of the flesh (I haven't been able to sample any of them so yet). Gordo (14) is not fruiting now, but Le Blanc says it is poor; Redondo (16) is unquestionably rather poor in quality, the owner himself admits it; Merito (18) has very white meat and a rather large seed. In fact none of the introductions I have seen have such yellow flesh as several fruits I have examined which were not in the set. And I believe the color of the flesh is a pretty reliable indication of richness.

I don't believe Carl laid much stress on quality, but he was not considering it so much in those days. He seemed to go in more for

very thick skins. We can't blame Carl for that, but the result is that I don't believe we have gotten the best out of Athyrs as yet. Perhaps now that we have the introductions from Guatemala we will not need to bother with the Guatemalans here, but I have seen enough to satisfy me that there is some mighty good stuff left here.

I can only estimate it, but I do not believe more than 20% of the avocados here are Guato. The rest are made the standard Mex. There are probably a few good things among the latter which we ought to have. The hybrids of the Puebla and Tuxte type, however, are going to eat in to the field which would otherwise belong to the Mex.

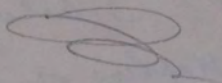
I wish you would get me up some data re the work which has been done in this region. When was Wm. D. Stephens here and did he get anything out? I believe Revent had some varieties Stephens or somebody got. And how long was Carl here? and when was Johnston here, and how long? No one else.

has been here for us, has he? Gooding? I want to include a brief account in my paper on this region.

I also wish you would check up some time and see just how many varieties from here are actually growing in Calif, and which ones they are. And do you know how many have fruited in Calif up to date? I doubt if you will be able to get up all this data, with your hands as full as they are. If you cant, I will do it when I come home and use it in a later publication.

Guess I'll quit and go down and buy 5¢ worth of peanuts. I don't think much of this town, but for climate and water it cant be spelled.

Always lovingly
Wilt



Mexico Dec 26 1918

Dear Folks:

The important news of the day is that out of 59 exposures made in Athens with my old Premo and its rotten rectilinear lens I got 59 pretty doggone good negatives - every one a match, all soft cork fine, even lengths. The photographs spotted 2 or 3 pretty badly in developing - it is pretty hard to get satisfactory work done here - but the rest will all make pictures. I did up Fierste-tree and fruit - pretty thoroly, nearly a dozen in all, so that we would probably have more use for fotos of this than anything else. I have picked out the 25 most interesting pictures and have ordered a set made wh I am going to send to FOP as my Xmas present to him; MBP's will be a zanafe, when I get home. I will probably get these prints day after tomorrow. I think it will give you a better idea of the Athens region than you have ever had before. Don't

ever or anybody that I am

sending you these; Webber might think I O2
have sent him a set, but they come too
high in view of the fact that I will be home
in a month and can get a set made free.

The other important news is that when I
came home from Ritos at 10 last night (Xmas)
Allan handed me your (MBP's) telegram. It
was a delightful surprise to me. I had no
idea an exchange could be made so quickly
at this distance. I'm glad to know of Herb's
decision to go in with Williams, I think
it is doubtless an excellent move, and as
previously stated, I believe it is better off
in Calif. for another year or so than in
Washington.

I think yesterday was the most enjoyable
Christmas I have spent abroad. I have
had four - Bucah, Bahia, Guatemala City
and here. I went to Church at 11 and heard
Mr. Mellon preach. We sang the old

and I went up town to Giacomini's, under the
 Sturbide, for dinner. It was simply delightful.
 Very European, good music, and an atmosphere
 which fairly enchanted me. After that we came
 home, and at 5:30 Rato came for me and I
 went home with him for a bachelor supper. He
 then read me extracts from 217 of Walt Whitman's
 poems, and I came home, found your telegram, and
 went to bed very happy.

I fairly love it here. It is going to be hard
 for me to leave. I expect, however, to catch
 a boat for Veracruz about Jan 15. You
 can be guided in sending mail accordingly.

I read the telegram from DT wh you forwarded,
 re ahuate seeds, and think I can get the
 good he wants. They are a bit scarce at
 this season and may cost me \$2.50 ^(max) per 100,
 but DT doesn't care much about that, what
 he wants is seeds.

Mellen took me to dance this noon at the
 Methodist school. Enormous feed, with 2
 ladies teachers. There is a nice young
 lady teacher this

mother - and I booked her for tomorrow afternoon to see the famous glass curtain by Tiffany's in the unfurnished National Theater. It cost \$25,000 gold.

It strikes me you folks are a trifle over solicitous when you express so much fear at having me return to the East in winter. I am having a month here in the highlands where it is cooler by considerable than in Guatemala City, and when I went home from there I didn't get pneumonia. If Dr wants to send me to Calif or Fla it suits me allright, but I'm not going to make any more plans until I get home. I've done too much of it the last few weeks. I just want to enjoy myself here while I am here, and when I get home I can settle in a very few hours what I want to do.

Pete is a mighty interesting fellow. Time isn't going to hang heavily on my hands here.

Always lovingly
Will

Mexico City, December 31 1918

Dear Father:

I am mailing you today the set of 25 views from Atlixco. On looking them over I note that I did not include some of my best views of the huertas, that is, views from the hill overlooking the huertas, but you will see these later on. I sent you a pretty complete set of Fuerte photos, as I knew these would be of greatest interest to you.

These photos are for your own private consumption, you understand. Later on, if you want to use any of them in print, please consult me before doing so, as I want to use a good many of them in my paper on Atlixco. It would not be fair to Dr Webber for us to use any of them which should appear in the paper, as they of course belong to him and his publications should have first whack at them.

After examining Puebla very carefully, I have reached the conclusion that it is not a hybrid, but merely a late fruiting variety of the Mexican race. There are others of the same nature in Atlixco, and I believe there may be several better than Puebla. These should be obtained some day, and I would like to do it, -but not now. I read in the paper yesterday that a man named Rodiles, who owns a big hacienda only a mile or so from Atlixco, where he has a large ahuate plantation, was caught by the Zaps, held for ransom, and when he didn't pay it was pretty generally ^a slashed and mauled about. I was invited out to his hacienda ^{at} ^{last} ^{night} ^{and} ^{spoke} ^{of} ^{these} ^{reasons} ^{best} ^{known} ^{to} ^{myself}. It wasn't safe to venture a mile out of Atlixco.

I have been sampling the various fruits which I brought from Atlixco, as they are now softening up. I only have 3 or 4 of Carl's introductions, and none of them is as good as some fruits I have which were not included in Carl's set. I suspect, however, as previously mentioned, that Carl's later numbers may have been much better than his early ones. In any event, the quality of some of them is quite allright, even tho the flavor is not as rich nor the flesh so yellow as in some other Atlixco fruits. I believe I could still get out of Atlixco,--if the growers would let me--some fruits which would be worth testing in California. The small seed which characterises many of the varieties there is a valuable characteristic.

There are, I believe, quite a number of late fruits of the Mexican race, such as Puebla, to be found in this country, and I believe many of them may be better than Puebla. Some day we will have to get them. The fact that Puebla proves to be a Mexican, and that it is probably going to be planted in Calif, makes it look as tho my belief in the future of the Mexican race might be well placed. Late fruits of this race, especially if we can get smallseeded ones, and even early ones, will have their role to play in California, or I am very much mistaken.

I suspect Paul is right about IF's attitude toward Shamel's book. I dont know how we are going to work it. And furthermore, I believe I can get higher up by sticking with IF and not settling down on a 'periment station in southern Calif, so I fo one dont intend to push very hard for that project. IF has his rights and his desires, of course, and I have mine. I want to fall in with both to the maximum extent possible.