

Dr. Fawcett Reports on the Avocado Situation in Brazil

Dr. J. E. Coit

Vista, California

On Board Reine del Paciflco, Pacific Coast of Peru, May 15, 1937

Dear Dr. Coit:

I intended many months ago to answer your letter of November 8, 1936 as to the avocado development in Brazil, State of Sao Paulo. Going over my notes I find part of the information at least which you and the Association wish.

Dierberger and Company at Limeira and elsewhere, is a large, reliable, well-run company; one of whose activities is an up-to-date nursery at Limeira with a seed house and distribution center for all sorts of plants at Sao Paulo. I have met Mr. Dierberger and he is a very fine, straightforward business man—young and active, of German origin, his father having also been in the business at Sao Paulo. He has been to Florida, has shipped in many Florida and California varieties of avocados, citrus, mangoes, tung oil and other fruits and trees. Dierberger has sold 10,000 avocado trees in one year and expects to sell as many more the coming year. He is planting for his company 12,000 avocado trees to be producing, he says, in 5 years. He is planting 2,000 of these as Fuertes destined for future source of fruit for export. The Brazilians, he says, prefer a round type of avocado rather than the long, pear-shaped type. He thinks there will not be any great export of avocados from Brazil for 10 years or so.

Scab, similar to citrus scab of Florida, is at Limeira and elsewhere in Brazil and is one of the worst troubles of avocado fruits, but can be prevented by Bordeaux spraying. By use of an isolated lath-house, Dierberger grows his plants for sale to other sections of Brazil free from scab, as required by government officials there.

A BIG FUTURE INDUSTRY

This is not a real estate promotion scheme but a legitimate development that is likely to increase. Avocados grow fine in many parts of Brazil and are seldom, if ever, hurt by frosts. Mangoes also grow well.

I visited a number of experiment stations with test orchards of many varieties of avocados and mangoes and other tropical and subtropical fruits often too numerous to mention. Of these were test plots at Deodora near Rio de Janeiro, at an agricultural school, at Vicosa, which Prof. Rolfs of Florida developed at Belle Horizonte (the last two are in States of Mines Geraes), at Sorocaba, at Limeira, at the agricultural school at Piracicafa (the last three in State of Sao Paulo). I was told at Belle Horizonte that the varieties of avocados considered best there were Nimlioh, Fuerte, Gottfried, and Gloria.

At Dierberger's place, Limeira, the best commercial varieties were considered to be: (1) Collinson (a West Indian Guatemalan), most important; (2) Pollock; (3) Waldin; (4) Wagner; (5) Linda.

This company also has 160,000 orange trees both large and small in orchard form from which they expect to export 160,000 cases of oranges—one case per tree. A block, 9 years old, is estimated to yield 3 cases per tree, varying from 1 to 7 cases in individual trees. I trust this will be of interest.

Very truly,

(signed) H. S. FAWCETT