

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN EXPLORATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING JUNE, 1955

Harlan B. Griswold
Chairman

No new explorations have been sponsored by the committee in the past year, nor have any been contemplated in the near future. We are continuing the evaluation of materials introduced from past trips. Dr. C. A. Schroeder has continued his personal explorations for the University and has made an additional trip to Mexico and Central America this year. He will be making a separate report soon. He has found many new avocado relatives or "wild avocados" which are to be tested for root stocks. The Society has encouraged these explorations and helped finance some of the work.

The older introductions (see past reports for details) have now largely fruited in California. The edible varieties among them have been of great interest but so far have not been up to the very high standard required for commercial consideration. It must be realized that the odds against any chance seedling whether here or in Mexico making the commercially recommended list is tremendous. It does happen however, as witness the finding of the Fuerte as a chance seedling in Atlixco, Mexico in 1911.

The more recent introductions were from the Victoria area of Northeastern Mexico where a new hybrid type has been found consisting of the Mexican avocado crossed on the West Indian avocado. These are natural crosses and recrosses and are numerous in this part of Mexico. One of these of special interest because the fruit was outstanding as grown in Mexico is setting fruit this season here in California. If it proves to be adapted to our climate we may have something of value for our fall season. If it is found we have sufficient warm weather to properly mature this rapidly growing type of fruit we will look further for additional specimens. Otherwise it appears that our best hunting ground for new varieties suited to our climate and market is here at home.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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