

THE AVOCADO IN VENEZUELA

Letter from Homer Brett

American Consul to Venezuela, AMERICAN CONSULATE, La Guaira, Venezuela,

August 5, 1916.

California Avocado Association, Gentlemen:

I have to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your letter of July 25 and of the invitation to prepare a paper on the growing of avocados in Venezuela. I regret exceedingly that my knowledge of the subject is too small to permit me to write anything worth while on the subject and I know of no one to whom I can go in search of authoritative information.

A great many avocados are produced here but growing them is nowhere reduced to a science or even to a business; the fruit that appears in the market is the product of scattered trees that are planted by twos or threes near every cabin in the country.

Some of these avocados nearly approach perfection and others are of poor quality but there appears to be no local distinction of varieties. There is no export market and, in the season, the fruit is so abundant as to be almost worthless. After being transported seven or eight miles on burro back a perfect avocado sells for two cents at retail and the inferior ones six for five cents.

Regretting that I know of no way to obtain more valuable information, I am, Gentlemen,

Very respectfully yours,

HOMER BRETT,

American Consul.