

## **The Avocado Institute**

La Habra, October 21, 1938

The ninth annual Avocado Institute was held in the Washington Grammar School of La Habra under the auspices of the Avocado Departments of the Los Angeles and Orange County Farm Bureaus and the Agricultural Extension Service. Over two hundred growers were in attendance and by their close attention, and questioning of the speakers, showed that the interest of past years had not slackened.

The meeting was accompanied this year, for the first time, by a worthwhile exhibit of fruits of varieties maturing during the fall season. This fruit was exhibited the following two days at the Vista Show.

The program, as printed, was followed very closely and was generally well received. More than half the growers present adjourned in the afternoon to the Hodson orchard, nearby, for the pruning demonstration.

The morning program was presided over by H. H. Gardner of Orange County, and began at 9:45 A.M. with the very interesting account of A. D. Shamel's experiences in Mexico, illustrated by lantern slides.

At the conclusion of his talk, Mr. Shamel presented a portion of the limb of the parent Fuerte tree of Mexico to the two departments for use in making gavel.

### **FUERTE PROVES HARDY AND QUICK TO RECOVER**

In Dr. Coit's explanation of conditions following the freeze, he showed, by means of a chart, that the percent of Fuerte production has remained fairly constant in spite of the freeze. The estimate of Calavo for the 1938-9 season is for 400,000 field boxes or fifty thousand in excess of the previous high year which was 1935.

The Fuerte was less damaged by the freeze and has made the most rapid recovery. That has demonstrated two things—first that a substantial portion of the acreage is beyond the reach of a freeze as severe as any yet experienced. Secondly that this acreage when injured recovers very rapidly. On his own property, Dr. Coit lost two complete crops, but the trees are now carrying more fruit than ever. Little acreage has been abandoned solely from the results of the freeze. The combination of unsuitable soil and frost injury has accounted for most of the lost acreage. The Puebla jumped back to second place in production because the summer varieties have taken longer to recover but will be in stride again next year.

In searching for new varieties to help the situation in the Fuerte season, hardiness should be one of the paramount considerations.

Many questions were asked just before the noon recess and some were answered. Luncheon was enjoyed in the school cafeteria.

The afternoon session opened at 1:50 P.M. with Chairman W. Guy Steele of Los Angeles County presiding and Mr. Logan Jackson, Sheriff of Orange County, told about the efficient work of the theft patrol built up under his administration. In 1928 over twenty-five tons were stolen. In 1938 about 1000 pounds.

Following Professor Hodgson's talk, Dr. W. H. Chandler, Assistant Dean of the College of Agriculture was introduced, who spoke very briefly expressing the hope of the administration of the College to make it more useful to the growers in general.

Announcements were made and the meeting adjourned to the orchards of Mrs. Rosa Hodson for a pruning demonstration and a discussion of the thinning of trees in overcrowded orchards.