

Notes from Agricultural Explorers in the Field.

Wilson Popenoe writes from Guayaquil, Ecuador, December 18, 1920:

"I have just returned from a three days' trip to see a very remarkable collection of plants some 25 miles from here. It appears that a certain Señor Madinyá developed a magnificent cacao estate called Payo, and when he got established and was receiving a large income, he started a collection of palms and fruit trees. He went to Paris several times, and brought back seeds and plants from Vilmorin Andrieux and Co., and on the way home he evidently stopped in Jamaica and added to his collection by buying a lot of grafted mango trees, etc., at Hope Gardens.

"We found at Payo a great many rare and interesting things. There are a number of oil palms (*Elaeis*) in bearing, and a lot of rare ornamental plants. There are Peters and Gordon mangos from Jamaica, with the fruit falling on the ground and going to waste; rambutan, in bearing, and what I am sure is a grafted tree of the litchi, several *Rheedias*, *Eugenias*, the carambola, and others.

"But the most interesting of all is a group of about ten mangosteen trees, (*Garcinia mangostana*) the ground beneath them covered with dry, hard fruits which have been allowed to rot untouched. These trees are said to be about 15 years old. They range from 10 to 20 feet in height, and all look exceedingly healthy and vigorous. The past crop must have fallen to the ground four or five months ago; and the new crop, which is going to be a good one, is coming on well.

"Nothing I have ever seen has so greatly encouraged me in the belief that we can produce mangosteens commercially in our tropical American dependencies as these trees at Payo. They may have been well cared for the first few years of their existence but they get no care whatever at present, -and still they are in excellent condition and fruiting heavily. They are on level ground about 100 feet distant from a small river, and about 20 feet above the level of the water. The trees never receive any irrigation, yet there has been no rain for about seven months. Doubtless the subsoil is fairly moist, for this region is about 50 feet above sea level. But it seems to me that, once the mangosteen is past its infancy, it is as easy to grow as any other tree."