

It was, on motion,

MEXICAN  
AGRICULTURAL  
PROGRAM

RESOLVED that Dr. J. George Harrar be, and he hereby is, appointed  
Director for Agriculture in Mexico, effective on or about  
November 1, 1942, to serve until the stated meeting of  
the Board of Trustees in April, 1943, with salary as set  
forth in D.R. 598, with the understanding that his par-  
ticipation in the retirement plan of the Foundation shall  
commence on the date his appointment becomes effective.

RESOLVED that the sum of Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), or as  
RF 42082 much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it hereby is,  
appropriated for the expenses of putting into effect an  
agricultural program in Mexico during the period ending  
December 31, 1943.

The following were the considerations presented:

Informal approval of these actions has been secured from  
members of the Executive Committee.

Natural Sciences: Mexican Agriculture

Previous Interest: At the meeting of the Trustees held on May 16,  
1941, consideration was given to developing a program in agricul-  
ture in Mexico, and \$10,000 was appropriated for a survey to be  
made by a group of American agricultural experts. Professors E. C.  
Stakman, Plant Pathology, Minnesota, Richard Bradfield, Agronomy,  
Cornell, and P. C. Mangelsdorf, Plant Breeding, Harvard, were  
appointed members of the Commission to make this study. This group,  
accompanied by Dr. Richard E. Schultes, an economic botanist, spent  
the summer of 1941 in Mexico. The substance of their report, with  
its recommendations for setting up a program in Mexico, was pre-  
sented to the Trustees meeting in December, 1941, and the officers  
were authorized to put the program into operation.

General Description: Owing to previous commitments and duties in  
connection with the national emergency, unavoidable delays have  
been encountered by the officers in securing agricultural staff  
members. However, Dr. J. George Harrar of the State College of



Washington is willing to accept the post of head of the staff in Mexico and will take up his work there not later than this November. Dr. Harrar is 35 years old and speaks fluent Spanish. He took his doctorate in plant pathology under Professor Stakman at the University of Minnesota, spent four years in the Agricultural Experiment Station in Puerto Rico, and for the past year has been head of the Department of Plant Pathology at Washington State College. He comes to his new work with the very highest recommendations. Excellent personnel now seems to be available; and Dr. Harrar and the officers will be actively engaged in assembling staff during the coming months.

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(Continued)

An unusually promising aspect of the project is that the three members of the Survey Commission for Mexican Agriculture have consented to act as a permanent Committee of Scientific Advisers on Mexican Agriculture. This group is now taking an active part in the selection of personnel and will render the Foundation exceptionally valuable service in the formulation and prosecution of the program.

Finances: The proposed appropriation is for initiating the agricultural project in Mexico and includes provision for research and clerical assistance; travel in Mexico; equipment and supplies; rent for space available in the International Health Division offices in Mexico City; and certain minor expenses, such as those for the recent meeting of the Scientific Advisers in New York.

The program will be administered by the officers of the Natural Sciences Division, the cost to be charged against the general fund.

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