



Figure 61: COLONIA JUAREA SCHOOLS. Juarez Stake Academy - a rear view. The front of the grounds are covers with grass and trees. Here the high school students form Colonia Juarez and Colonia Dublán are taught.

The total egg sales amounts to about 3,000,000 pesos a year. Until the first part of 1951 the association was producing about 600 cases a week, with a boxcar load being shipped about every 15 to 20 days. This large quantity of eggs was suddenly reduced near the end of the first quarter of 1951, when an epidemic of Newcastle attacked the flocks. Some owners lost as much as 50 percent of their flocks. Within a few weeks, production in most flocks was almost zero. After all the stock had been vaccinated for Newcastle, egg production started to rise again.

Feed for the 60,000 chickens has been the greatest problem. For the past year, corn has been hard to buy and the price has been very high. All of the feed is mixed in the hammer mill and batch mill in Colonia Dublán, though 60 percent of the poultry is in Colonia Juárez.

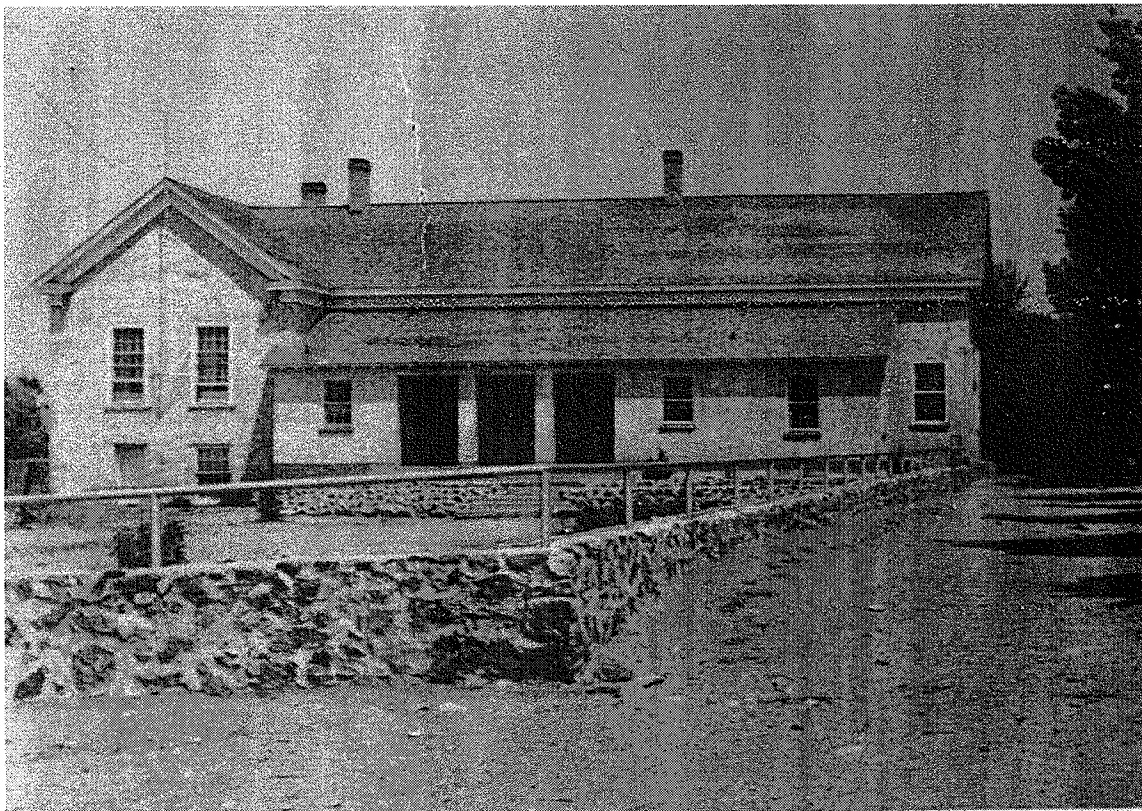


Figure 62: COLONIA JUAREZ SCHOOLS. Present day grammar school.

This business venture of the Mormon Colonists seems to have been one of the greatest successes, despite the recent effect of Newcastle on the flocks. Many of the owners of the flocks have been able to pay off their investment in the first year of operation, besides having enough left for their living expenses. The markets have not been supplied to the height of the demand, nor has more than one market, Ciudad Juárez been exploited to any extent. The limiting factor in further expansion at the present time is lack of available corn, the main ingredient of the feed.

Colonia Dublán

The population in Colonia Dublán dropped from 355 people in 1930 to 204 in 1950. The greatest loss came during the early 1930's, when many left for the United States because the continued depression kept crop prices too low for the farmers to continue to operate. And, unlike Colonia Juárez, there were only a few members of the

Mountain Colonias that moved to Colonia Dublán. From 1950 to 1951 there has been an increase of the population of over 10 per cent.

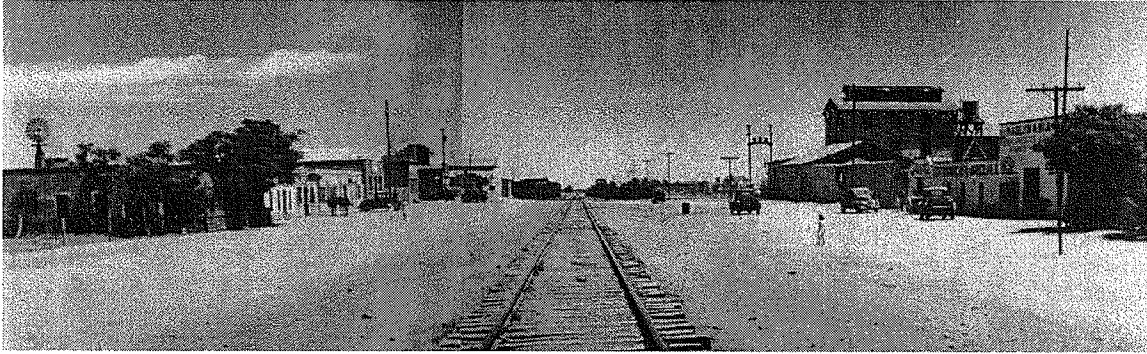


Figure 63: COLONIA DUBLAN. The business street of Colonia Dublán. Also the entire business section of town can be seen.

The agriculture of the Colonia has greatly expanded in the last ten years, and good prices have helped bring greater prosperity. The major crop for the past ten years has been wheat. The increase in the price of wheat has far exceeded the increase in the cost of labor and other operating expenses. Wheat in 1940 was selling for 150 pesos a ton, and in 1951 it had increased to 750 pesos a ton. As the profit increased, so machinery to handle the wheat increased. In 1940, some of the farmers went back to using combines. Through the middle of the 1940's, more and more six-foot combines were imported from the United States. Many of those who had not bought combines were now having custom threshing done, the Mormons and Mexicans alike. In 1947 a 12 foot, self propelled combine was brought to the Colonia by a Mormon farmer. By 1950, there were five large combines in the valley, two owned by Mormons, and three by Mexicans. One combine has a 14 foot reel, the largest that can be used in this country, as the lanes into the fields are not wide enough for the larger machines. Most of the wheat is custom threshed by these combines. During harvest these machines are operated all day, and into the night, until too much dampness keeps the wheat from being completely threshed.

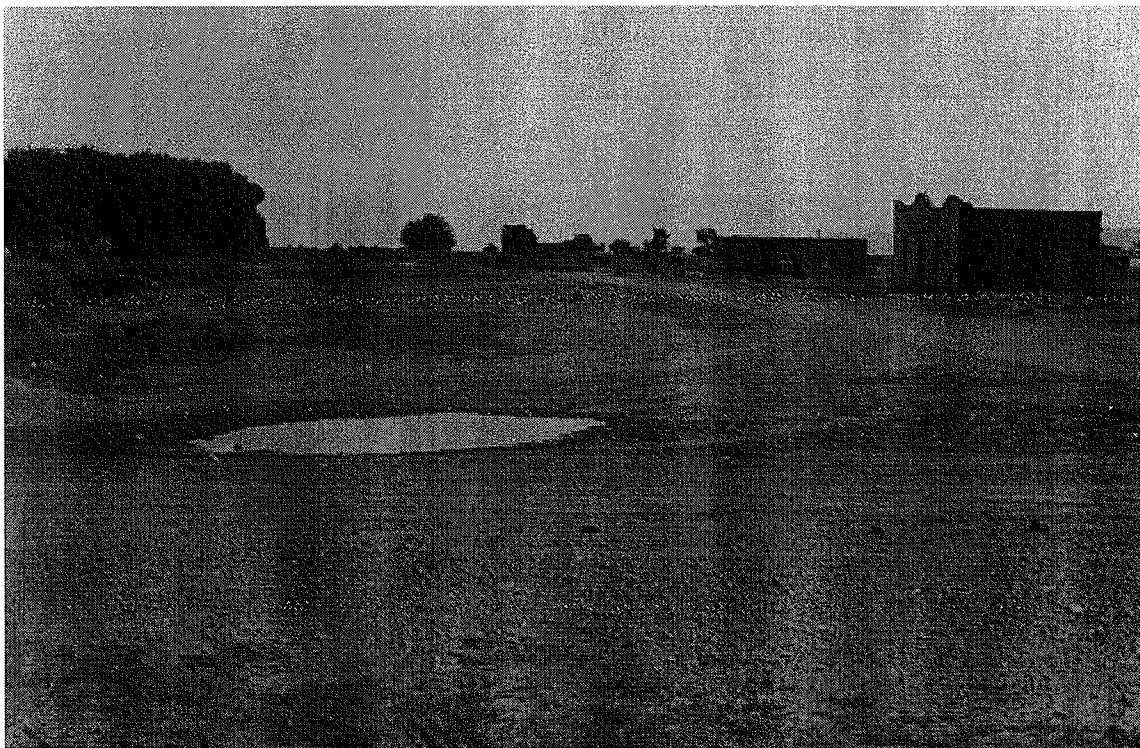


Figure 64: COLONIA DUBLAN. "Main" street. This street is just east of the preceding street. When the town was laid out this was called "Main" street. It is wider than the other streets.

The yield for an acre of wheat in the Dublán area varies from three hec per acre to eighteen hec.⁶² In most cases the Mexicans have the lower yields, but there are some of the Mormon farmers who, due to lack of care, obtain low yields. One of the reasons for poorer quality of wheat among the Mexican farmers is their lack of belief in controlling smut. Most of the Mormons use blue vitriol, formaldehyde, and copper carbonate on the seed wheat in an attempt to control smut. The Mexicans say "Sí Dios quiera que tenga chapete lo va a tener" (If the Lord wants you to have smut you will have it). Another wheat disease the Mexicans have when there is a rainy season is red rust. It occurs on the Chihuahua red variety of wheat, which is generally the type the Mexicans plant. The Canadian club or "white top club" variety used by many Mormons is not affected by red rust.

⁶² Approximately 8 bushels to 50 bushels

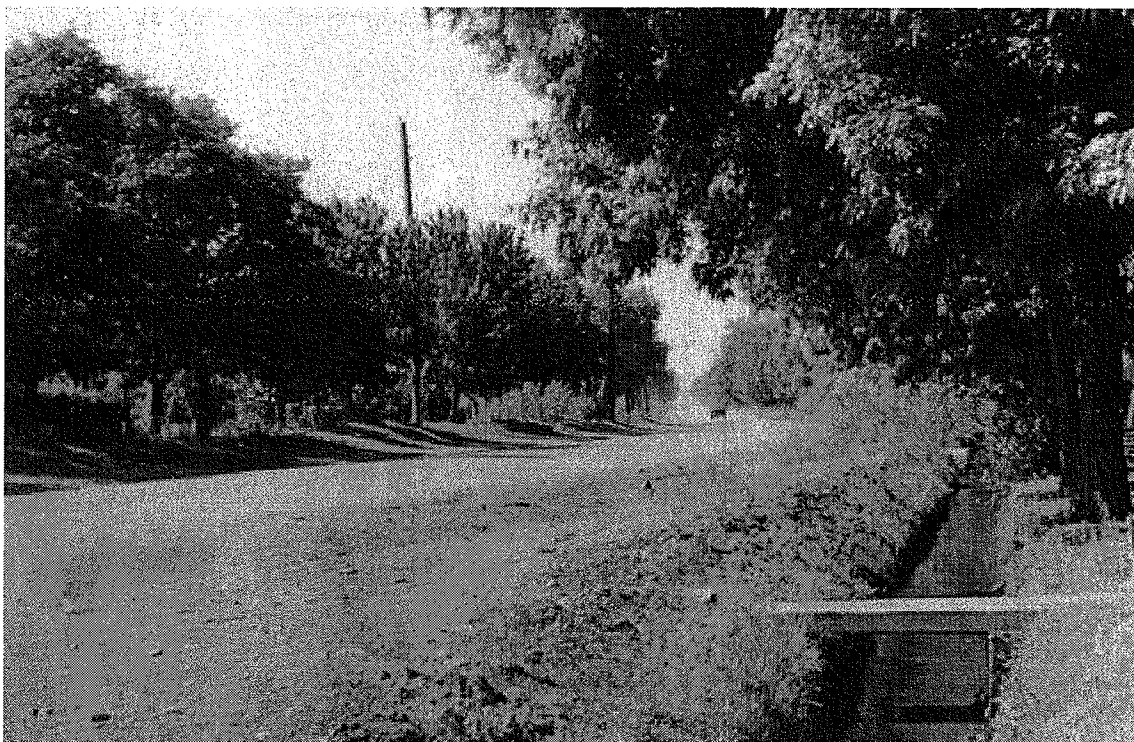


Figure 65: COLONIA DUBLAN. "Terrano" street. The western most street. Also the original street of Colonia Dublán.

Another important crop, which is rapidly taking the place of wheat as a major crop, is alfalfa. The price has been going up since 1940, but has gone up most rapidly in the last two years to a record 400 to 440 pesos a ton, FOB Colonia Dublán. This price is approximately \$51.00 United States currency at the present rate of exchange, or about \$6.00 more than is being paid in El Paso for baled alfalfa. Most of the alfalfa is sold to the dairy concerns in Ciudad Juárez. The alfalfa seed used by the Mormons, and some Mexicans, is imported from Imperial Valley, California, and is the common Chilean variety. There are usually five cuttings, with an average yield of a ton to the acre per cutting. All the latest equipment is used in handling the crop. There are, though, a few Mexican farmers who still use the horse powered baler.

Cotton was not an important crop in the economy of the Colonia, up to the latter part of the 1940's. The farmers who plant today are never assured a full crop, because of early frost and incomplete opening of the bolls. Within the past two years, the price per bale has gone up so high that if only a fair crop is raised, there is a net return of about

one-third more than from any other crop. This has increased the acreage greatly, the chance being worth a gamble on late frosts. The hand-picked cotton must be taken to La Ascención to be ginned.

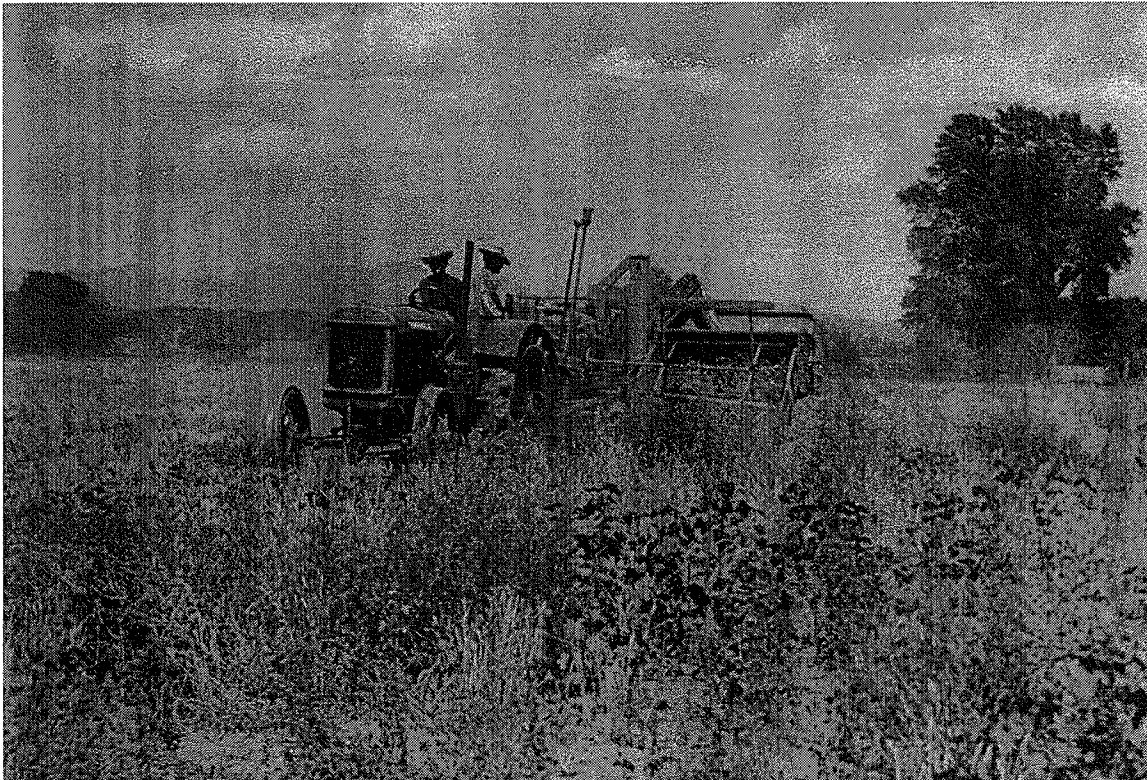


Figure 66: COMBINES. Six foot combine still used by a few Mormons and some Mexicans.

Cattle ranching has never been carried on by more than a very few Mormons from Colonia Dublán. Most of the range is to the east of town. The cattle are nearly all Herefords, which are left on the range the year round, with no supplementary feeding. Up to 1947, most of the cattle were exported to the United States, and sold FOB El Paso. At this time hoof and mouth disease broke out in Mexico, and the United States immediately closed its borders to Mexican beef. The next year after the border was closed, the cattle men in the Colonia Dublán - Nueva Casas Grandes area got together and built a meat packing plant, the Empacadora, with a capacity of about 200 head a day. Of the beef killed, 80 percent goes to the United States in cans as beef and gravy, and the remaining 20 percent goes to Mexico City as carcasses. The canning department has a capacity of about 60,000 cans a day.



Figure 67: COMBINES. Fourteen foot combine which is owned by J. F. Memmott. Last year nearly 1,000 acres were threshed by this machine in the area of Colonia Dublán. This is the largest combine in the valley.

Water is of prime importance to the farmers of Colonia Dublán. In the last ten years a drought has been severe. During the winter and spring, the surplus river water has been barely enough to fill the two lakes. The drought, and the increased use of water for irrigating alfalfa, has increased the number of deep wells which have been drilled.

The use of a watermaster for distributing irrigation water is nothing new to the people of the Southwestern United States, but the method in Colonia Dublán area is complicated by having a river that does not flow all the time, and a town that must be supplied with water.



Figure 68: HAY BALING. Horse drawn baler still used by some Mexicans in the Casas Grandes Valley.

Each year there is a meeting of those who own water rights, to conduct the business pertaining to the river water and the ditches, plus electing a watermaster for one year. Anyone who wishes may volunteer for the job. Each one who wishes the job sets a price for the one year period. The stockholders then vote for the one who will do the job for the least amount of money, provided he is a reliable person. Usually someone must be asked to take the job, inasmuch as it takes a great deal of time, with a salary that does not cover the job adequately. In addition to his duties as watermaster the man usually must run his farm. In the Colonia Dublán area, the watermaster must also collect his salary twice a year from each member of the association. For the past several years the price has been 7.50 pesos a town right, and 25 pesos a field right. In other localities the watermaster is paid in wheat, as in Ojo, which is adjacent to the San Jose farming district.



Figure 69: A MORMON BALER. Almost the entire Mormon hay is baled with machines of this type.

The watermaster must see that each ditch is cleaned. Each owner is to keep the ditch in front of his land clean and each share owner is to keep a certain part of the ditches clean, leading from the river and lakes to the fields. The amount of work depends on how many water rights are held. If these ditches are not kept clean, it is within the power of the watermaster to keep the water from the persons who have not cleaned their share of the ditches.

In the Colonia Dublán area, the watermaster must also distribute water from the lake when there is no water in the river. For this additional work he is given a yearly salary. The water from the lake is charged to the user by the hour; for the town lots the price is two pesos an hour, and six pesos and hour for field water. Each person who wants water from the lake must pay the secretary of the Lake Company, who in turn notifies the watermaster.