

Figure 70: GRAZING LAND. Grazing land to the south of Nuevo Casas Grandes. Very little grass is available.

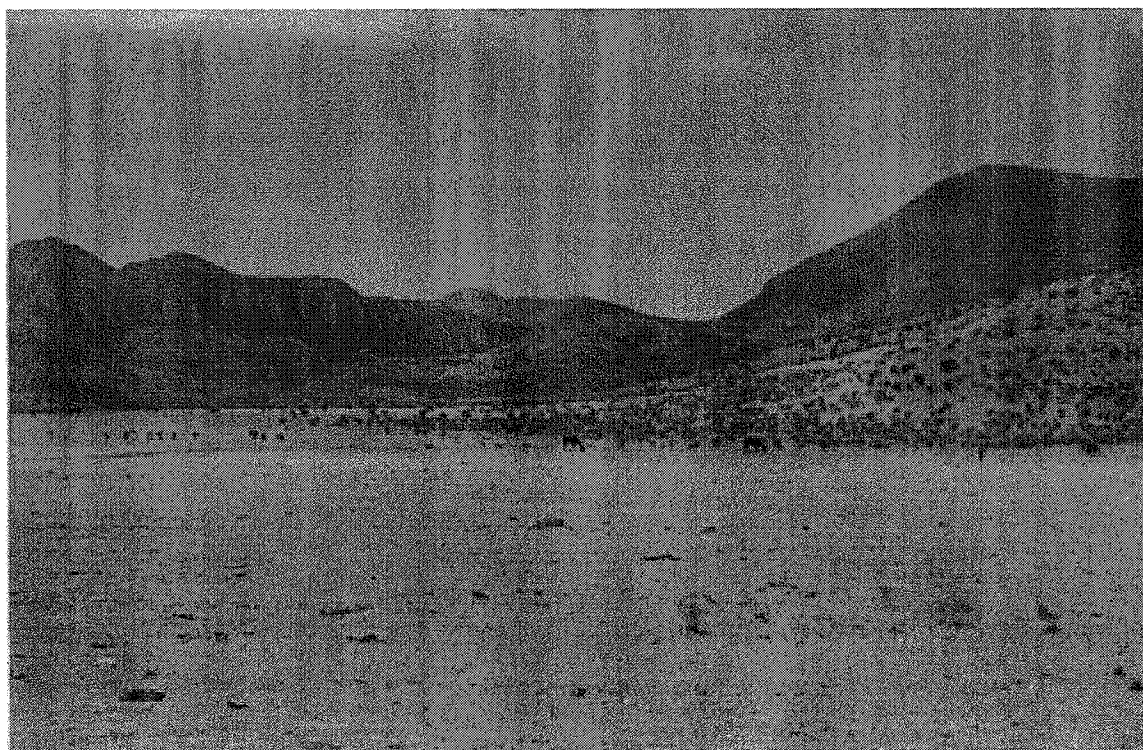


Figure 71: GRAZING LAND. Grazing land at the foot of the Sierra Madre mountains. The oak and juniper begin in the center of the picture.

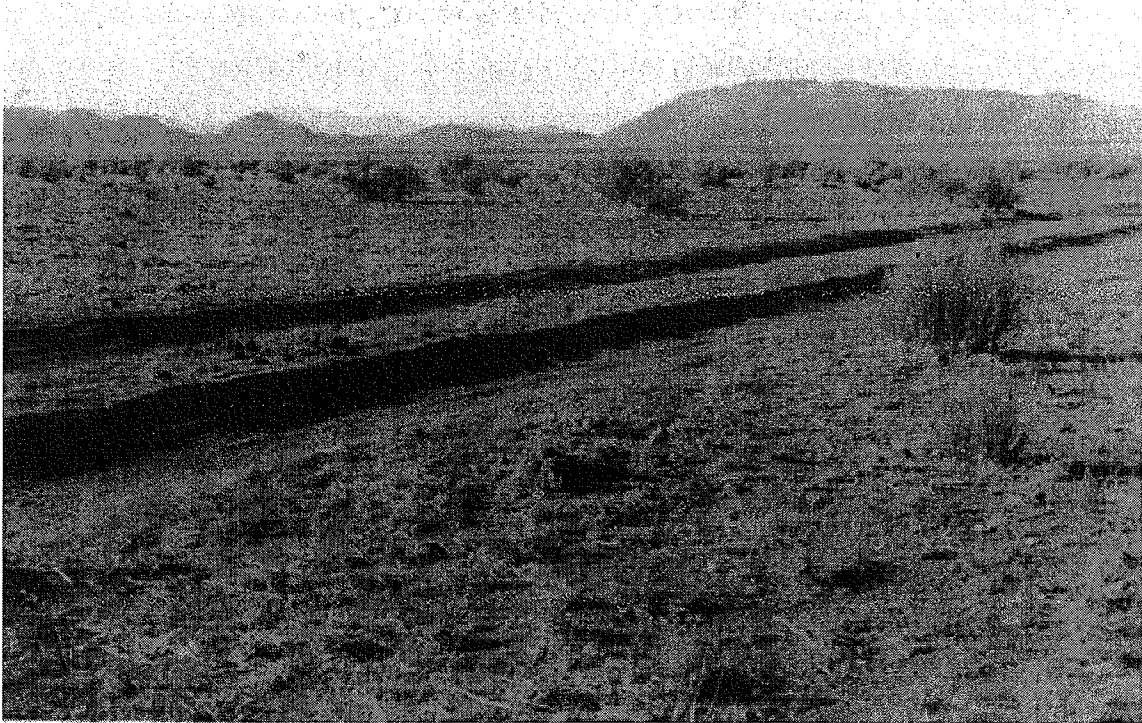


Figure 72: GRAZING LAND. Some grama grass and Mormon tea on the "flats" just east of Colonia Dublán.

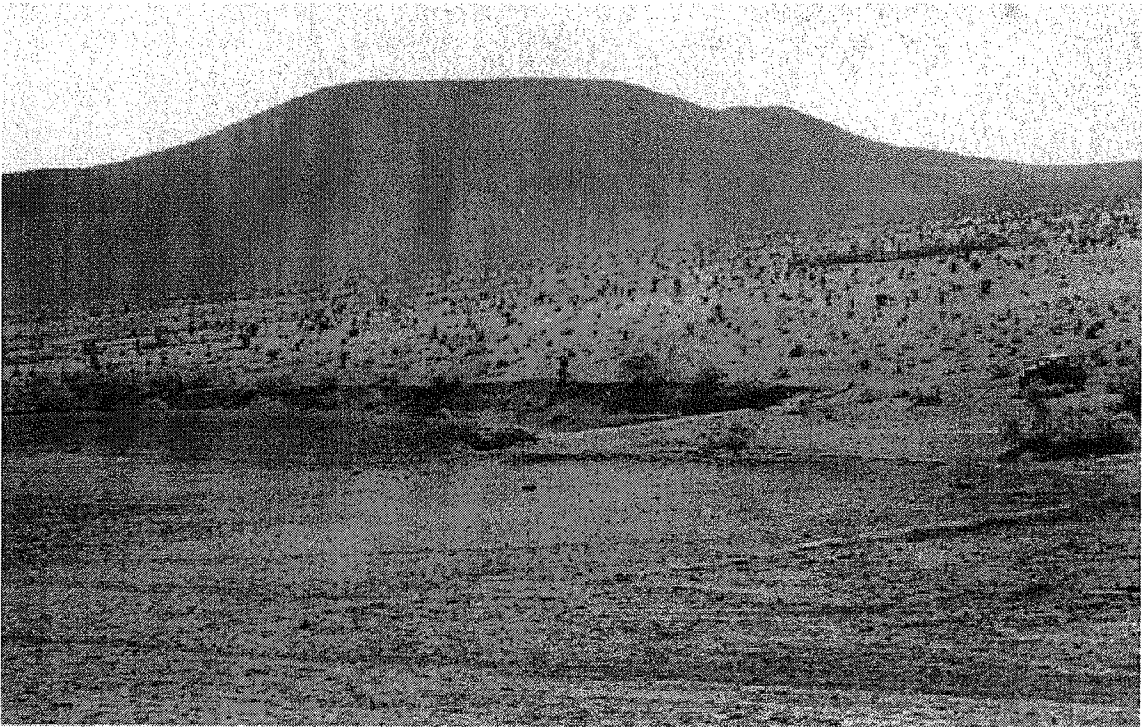


Figure 73: GRAZING LAND. North of Corralitos this soil conservation dam and reservoir are found. The dam was built to prevent further erosion by the water. The gully is much deeper and larger away from the dam.

When there is water in the river, the town ditches have preference over the field ditches. There are 300 water rights in town, with one hour allotted each right. The water is expected in town at least once a week, whether it comes from the river or from the lake. For the fields, the river water is allotted to 59½ field rights, each field right equaling 12 hours of water.

A great many families in Colonia Dublán depend upon the surface water for culinary and domestic purposes. In the last several years, the surface water, which is usually from 10 to 15 feet below the surface, has been disappearing during the summer season before the rains begin, and when the large irrigation pumps are running night and day. More and more electric pressure pumps are being installed in deep wells in place of the shallow wells which usually use windmills as the power for the pumps.



Figure 74: IRRIGATION WATER. This flume is built across the Río Casas Grandes during the spring to bring irrigation water from the lakes to the San Jose tract. It is made from oil drums. When the rainy season begins and water begins to come down the river the flume is dismantled.



Figure 75: IRRIGATION WATER. A dam to divert the river water into the pipes in the center of the picture. The water flows to the San Jose tract, which is just across the river from Dublán.

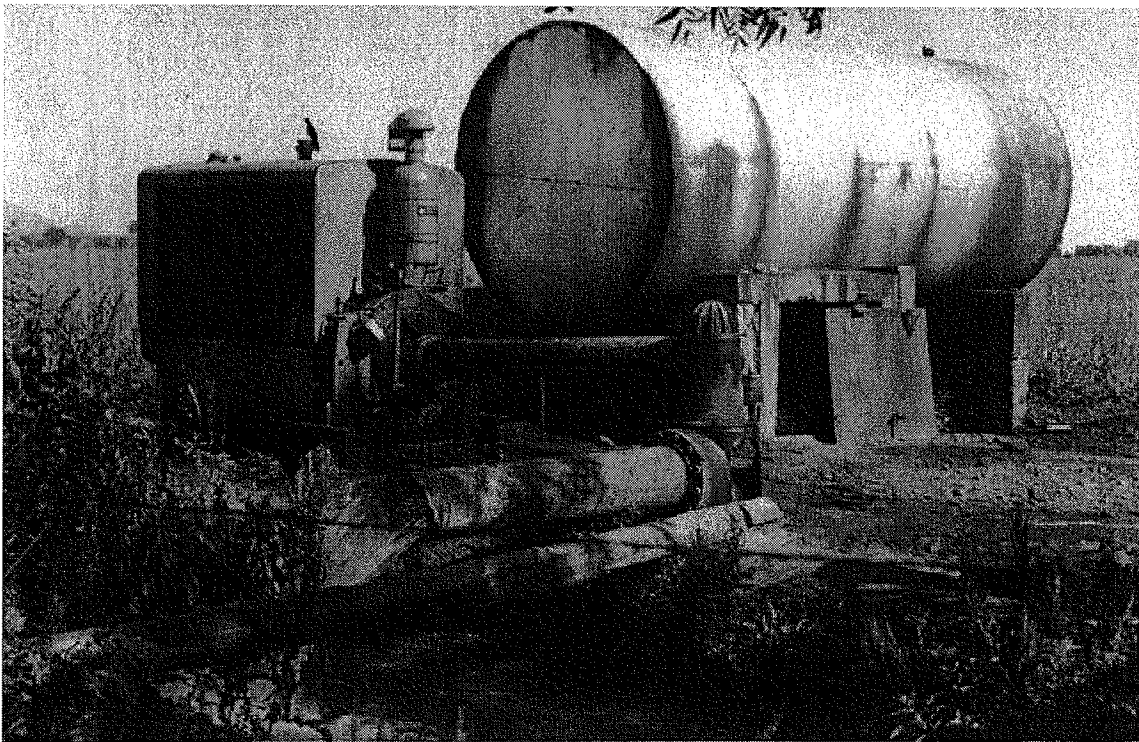


Figure 76: IRRIGATION WATER. Deep Well pump. A year's supply of fuel is stored in the tank.

Industrially, Colonia Dublán has changed little in the past ten years. There is still the tannery, which turns out shoes, harnesses and saddles; the Mormon's general store and several Mexican grocery stores; a gasoline station and auto repair shop; the two flour mills (the Mormon mill burned down in late 1951, but is being rebuilt); a farm implement business; a dairy; a nursery; and chicken hatchery and chicken feed facilities. The two industries which deserve some comment are the dairy and the nursery. In the past several years, the dairy herds have been decreasing because of the high price of alfalfa. Yet the amount of trade for the dairy has increased with the rapid increase in population at Nuevo Casas Grandes. The dairy received milk from 31 farms, many of them having only four or less cows. Seven hundred litros of milk are pasteurized and bottled each day; about 650 litros of this milk are sold on a milk route in Nuevo Casas Grandes. The dairy also makes cheese, butter, and leche or agua paletas (milk or water popsicles).



Figure 77: MORMON BUSINESS. General Store on left and gasoline station on right.



Figure 78: MORMON BUSINESS. Dairy. Milk, cheese, ice cream, butter and paletas are sold.

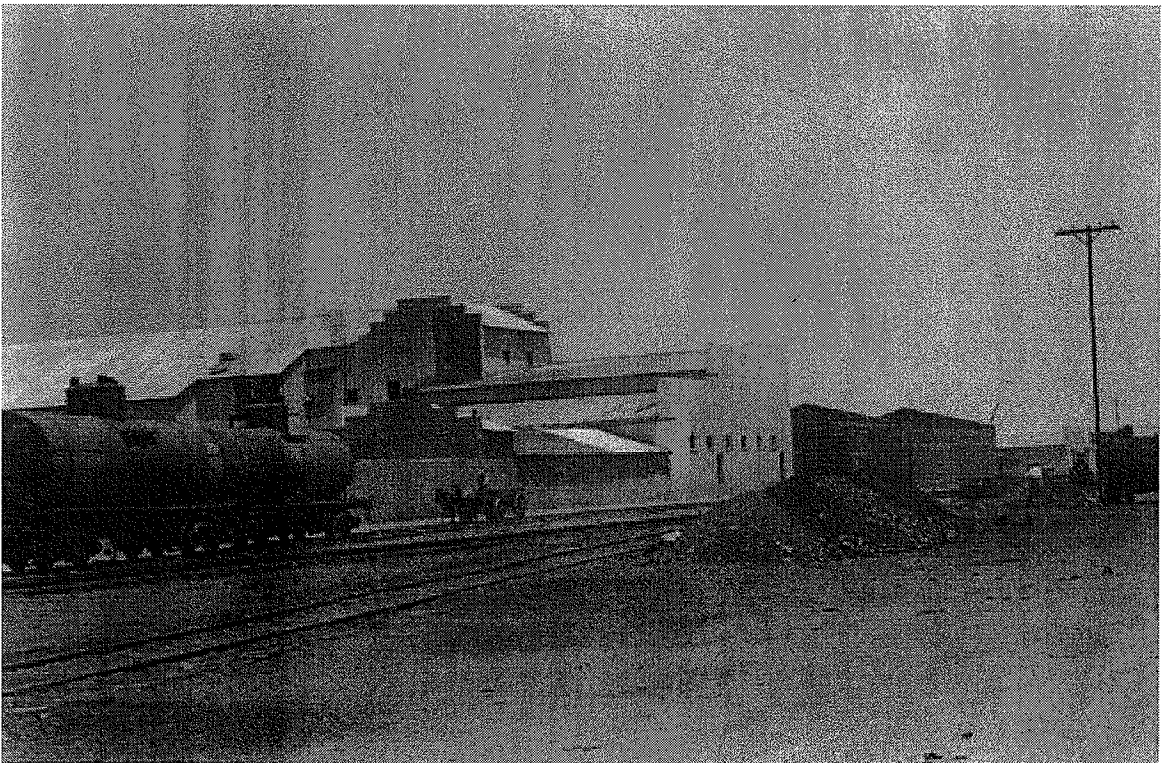


Figure 79: MORMON BUSINESS. The Mormon flour mill. The mounds in the right foreground are manganese ore. It is brought in by truck from the mines near Janos for shipment to the United States. The trucks are loaded and unloaded by hand, and the gondola cars are loaded by hand.

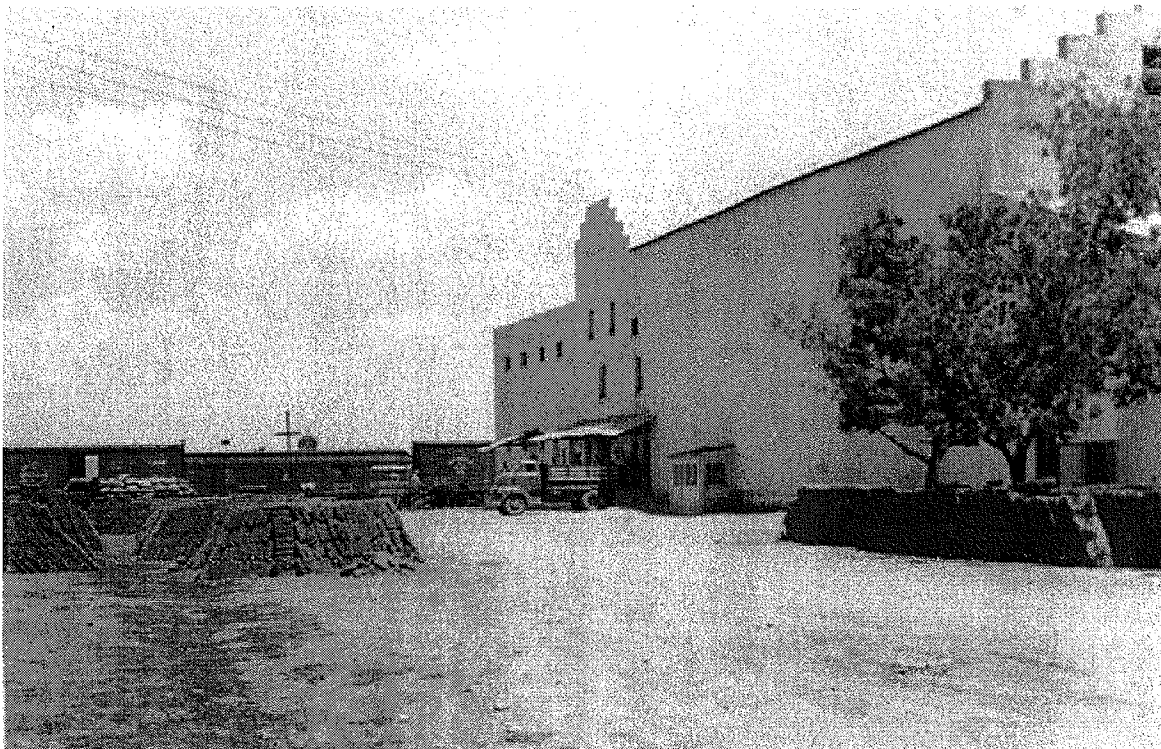
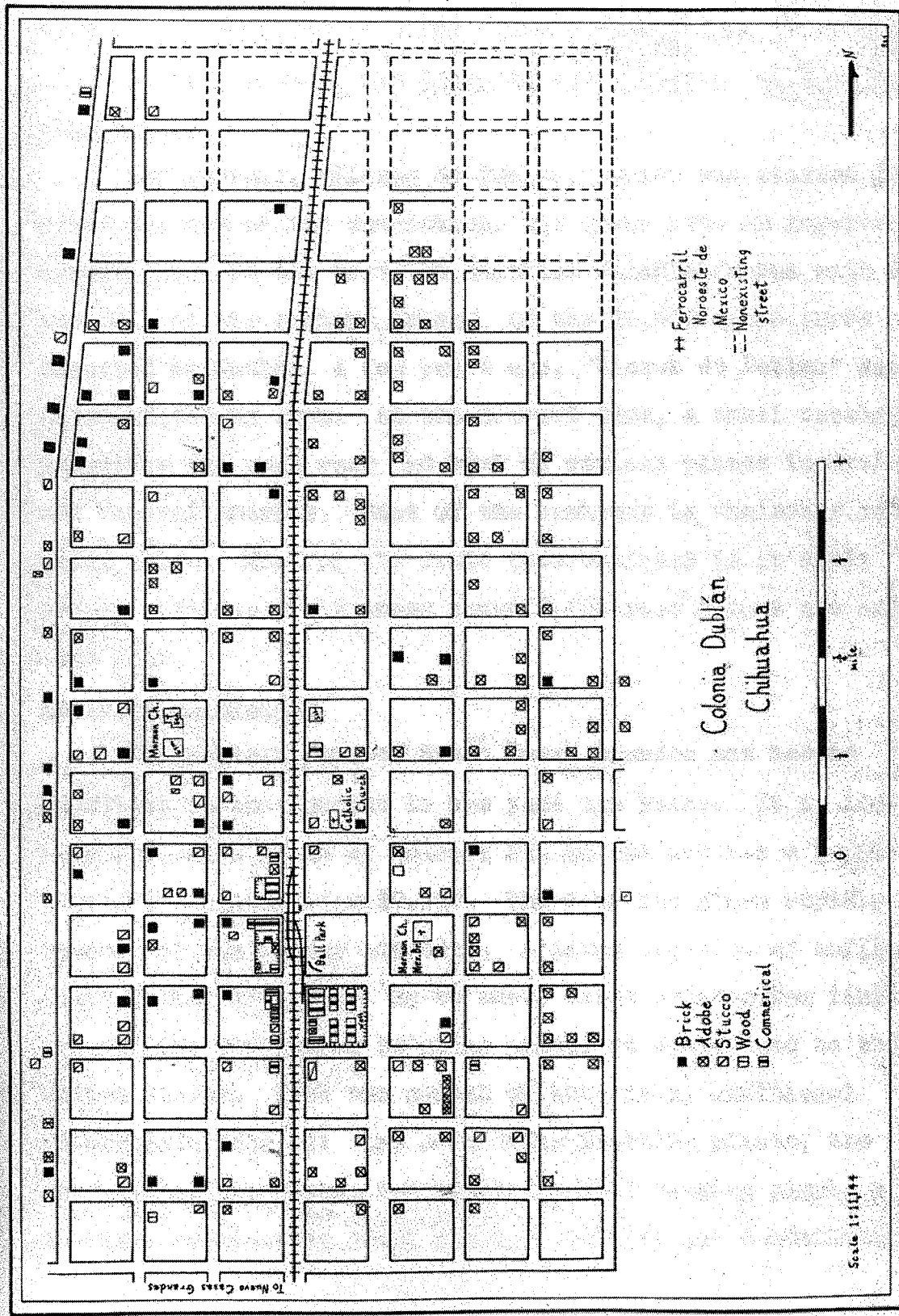


Figure 80: MORMON BUSINESS. Mormon flour mill (recently burned). The truck is unloading wheat. The adobe bricks are for an addition to the back of the mill for the Chicken feed business.



The nursery, "Viveros de Dublán," which was started just after the end of the revolution, has grown into an important enterprise. In the past, it supplied Colonia Juárez with 80 per cent of its orchard trees. Of the 60,000 apple trees reported in Mexico, a few years ago, "Viveros de Dublán" supplied 40,000 of them. At the present time, a small catalog is gotten out each year and sent to various places in Mexico and Central America. Most of the business is wholesale mail order sales. Most of the fruit tree business is in apple trees. Beside fruit trees about 2,000 rose bushes are sold each year.

Nuevo Casas Grandes

The Mexican town of Nuevo Casas Grandes has become important to the Mormons in the past ten years. It is located two miles south of Colonia Dublán and now has a population of slightly over 10,000. The town has grown rapidly because of the lumber industry. A large quantity of unfinished lumber is brought in to Nuevo Casas Grandes for finishing and for reshipment to other points in Mexico and to the United States. With the growth of this town, additional enterprises such as: two soft drink bottling plants, two ice plants; two banks, two hotels, a meat packing plant, a theater, an electric power plant, a bottled gas distributor, numerous automobile garages, gas stations, and numerous stores have been established. Besides electric power, the town people are supplied water from a central water system. An airport is located to the east of town; daily flights are made to Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua.

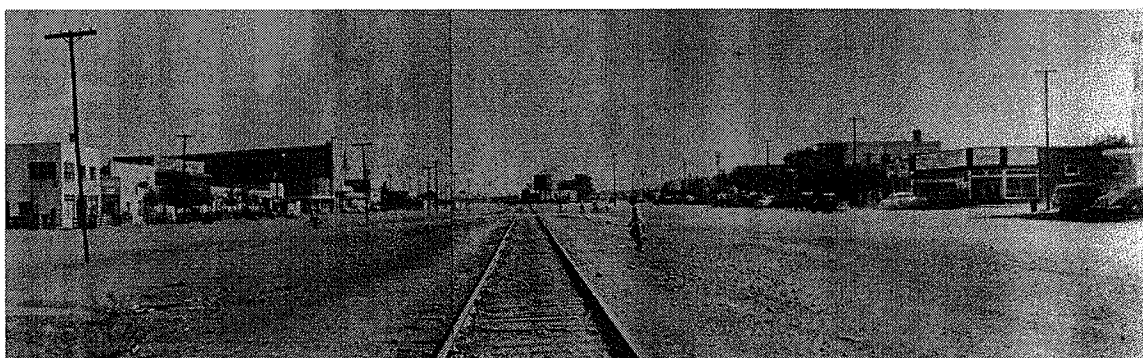


Figure 81: NUEVO CASA GRANDES. Main business district of Nuevo Casas Grandes, looking south. The theater is the large building on the left. The railroad station is seen in the center.

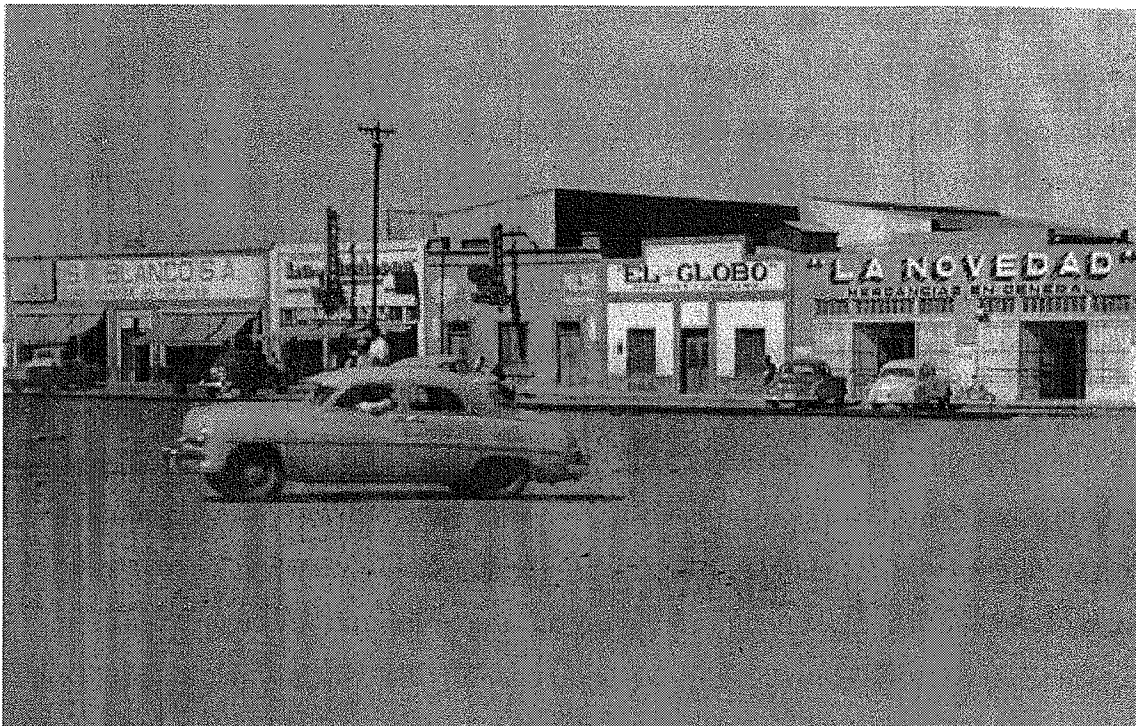


Figure 82: NUEVO CASAS GRANDES. Several of the store on main street.



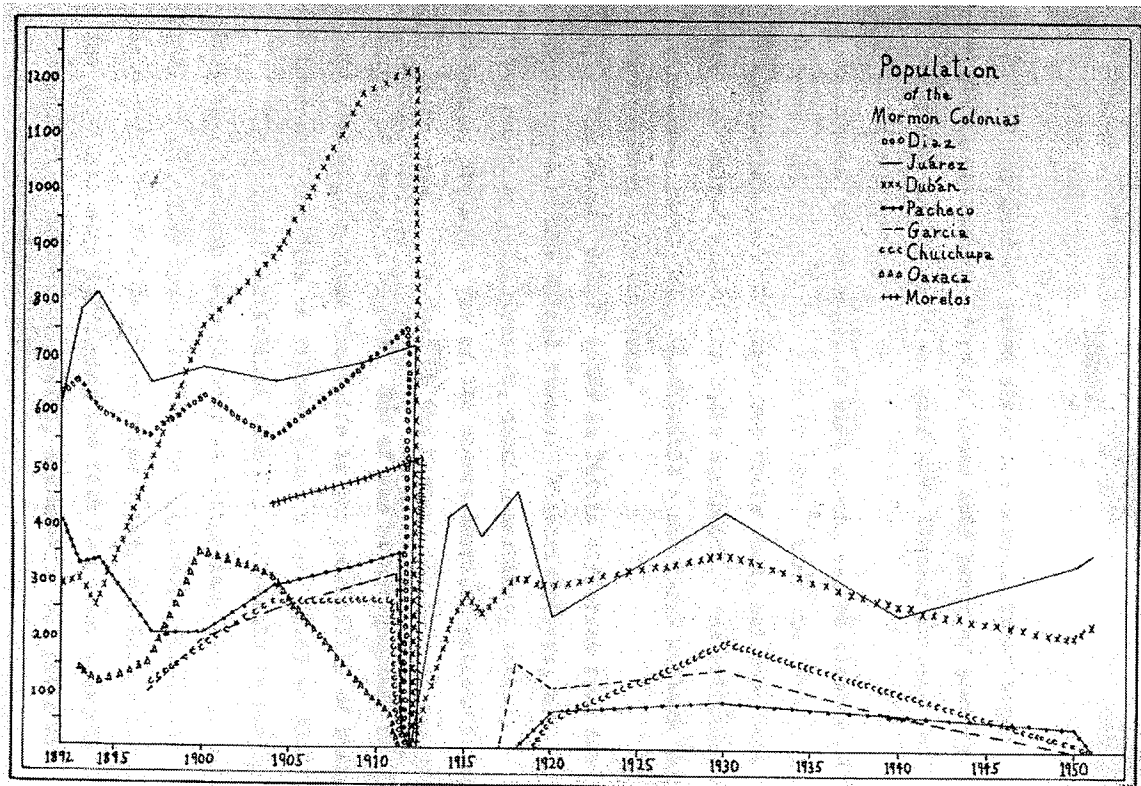
Figure 83: NUEVO CASAS GRANDES. The new and modern Catholic church.

The great amount of Americanization, as shown by these businesses, does not generally come from their Mormon neighbors. It comes from the closeness of the border, and the American Businessmen, who in the past helped develop the lumber industry. It also comes from the many Mexicans who have learned English and been to the United States, and the many Mexicans who have lived in the border town of Ciudad Juárez.

For the Mormons, this town has become an important trading and business center. Many of their groceries, meats and vegetables are bought there. Many construction and automobile repair supplies can also be obtained in Nuevo Casas Grandes. Some stores sell American made merchandise. The theater shows American pictures once or twice each week. But this is not a tourist town as it is too far from the border, and over roads that most Americans would not travel for any distance. The trend of these Mexicans is more and more toward the American way, as shown especially in the architecture of the new Catholic Church, the more modern homes, and the dress of the people.

TRENDS

It has been 67 years since the Mormons first began to settle Chihuahua. Through these long years of poverty, revolution, and depression, many have finally reached the level of prosperity.



Today, the Mormons, in most cases, can be classed as farmers, but farmers who live in town.⁶³ They are farmers who are dependent upon the store for their food, and dependent upon the United States for their equipment. For craftsmen – carpenters, plasterers, blacksmiths, - and legal matters they are dependent upon Mexicans.

The Mormon family today is little different from its counterpart in the United States. Electric stoves, hot water heaters, refrigerators, washing machines, radios, plumbing, are but a few of the modern American gadgets found in their homes. The food

⁶³ All the farmers live in the town, going out each day to the farm land which is never more than eight miles away and generally is but one or two miles distant.

of the Mormons consists almost entirely of American dishes. One of the advantages they usually hold over the American housewife is the possibility of hiring a housegirl for five to fifteen pesos a week (\$.65 to 1.85).

The farmers' activities each day are mainly in seeing that their Mexican help is busy at irrigating, plowing, mowing, or any other operation that is required. The Mexican help works for five to twelve pesos a day, six days a week. The equipment used in running the farm is almost entirely imported from the United States, and usually the farms are well mechanized. Horses are being used very little by most of the Mormons, but a few are still kept and used occasionally.

The children spend their days going to school. The schools, grammar and high school, have up-to-date texts and facilities. They are privately supported by the Mormon communities. There is no restriction on Mexican children entering, nor do the Mexicans have to be of Mormon faith. The classes are entirely in English, except for a required number of hours in Spanish (about 2 hours) each day. The students who live in Colonia Dublán and attend Juárez Stake Academy use a school bus to travel the 18 miles between the Colonias. A large percentage of the Mormon children are sent to colleges in the United States upon completing their education in the Colonias.

The one thing which the Mormons have accepted from the Mexicans in all the years that they have lived in Mexico, is that of the Spanish language. Spanish has been necessary to conduct their business affairs, yet English is the language used among themselves. In the younger set there is sometimes a mixture of English and Spanish spoken, especially when games are played.

Social fraternization with the Mexicans is slight, most of it occurring among students. Most of the Mormon dealings with the Mexicans are for business purposes. There are some invitations from the Mormon Church to the Mexican branch of the Mormon Church, but in most cases their social and religious events are held separately.