

MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

P. O. BOX 1729

SAN JUAN, P. R.

March 31 1943.

Dear Mrs. Gray:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 23rd inquiring about our work at Quebrada Limon and the need of preparing the land which your Diocesan Auxiliary has so kindly promised to assist in.

Quebrada Limon has quite a history. A Bishop Ferrando, who had been a Roman priest until some time prior to 1898, came to Puerto Rico with his wife that year as an independent Christian missionary. He established a large work in the country, gradually bought up some 250 acres of land and built some mission buildings. He was finally consecrated a Bishop by the Reformed Episcopal Church but was not considered a Bishop in that Church nor connected with them as a missionary. His health failed and he returned to the States to live. When I came here in 1914 we soon came in contact with his people who were largely unsheltered and I called on him and the outcome was that we made him a Bishop in this Church and took in all his people and clergy. He turned over his farm to us in 1925. He and his wife died some years ago. This gives you the historical background. We have worked the land there barely paying expenses each year, but now we feel a big opportunity has presented itself to us. The population of Puerto Rico is dense as you probably know, some 550 to the square mile. There are few if any industries here so the only basis for livelihood for our nearly 2,000,000 inhabitants is agriculture. The government has some vocational schools for children in the first eight grades. Also they have an Agricultural College where men learn to be engineers and agronomists but no one is teaching boys of high-school age to be real dirt farmers. We have a young clergyman especially interested in this line who is now taking special instruction at Cornell. We expect to take in high-school students from our different missions in the Island, give them four years of High-school and a good practical education in actual farming. I believe this is the most useful work we can do. Quebrada Limon is a dry area and the only way to succeed there is to utilize the methods of soil-conservation, i.e. building dams in the streams, ditch the land so that the rainfall may be conserved, and build terraces like the rice paddies of China and the Philippines. I wanted to make a beginning in the preparation of the land before the school begins operations, so as to have it in some shape to grow food for the boys. This work is now in progress in a preliminary way and it was for this Dr. Addison appealed for the \$600 for 1943.

The Birthday Thank Offering of 1942-43 will be given to us for a building. We already have a large mission building including Church, Parish House and some rooms which can be used temporarily for the boys. Some instructors will be Con-

Quebrada Limon 5.000.000

tinentials, others Puerto Ricans. Only high-school or possibly 8th grade students also will be admitted, but I trust the farm will be a model for the people round about. The Rev. Lauro Bauza is in charge of the two missions there and is most actively interested in the farm. We are now raising a very fine grade of Sea Island cotton and Puerto Rico has the reputation of growing the best in the world. Quebrada Limon is classified as A1. It is being all used in the war effort.

Please let me know if this letter gives you the information you want and if not, other questions will be very gladly answered. Please express my deep appreciation to all the branches of the Auxiliary who will help with this project. Hope you will give my regards to Bishop Walker and to Dean and Mrs. Deovies.

Again thanking you for you letter and your interest in our project, believe me,

Ever very gratefully and sincerely yours,

CBC/D