

[22 July 1918; typed letter which has been opened and passed by the censor; envelope had return address "J. H. Anderson, Cañete, Peru," addressed to "Mr Joe Sears, c/o The American Cotton Oil Co., Guttenberg, New Jersey, E.U.A."; postmarks illegible; letter with stamped letterhead "Larrabure Hnos., Cañete: San Vicente, Lima: Apartado 343.":] Cañete, Peru. July. 22nd, 1918.

My dear Mr. Sears:-

It has been some two months since I left N.Y. and it will be another one before you get this letter. I dont think I would have come down here if I had realized how long it takes for mail to get home, my letters from Mrs. A. read like ancient history. And this is some fine place to spent your time in, though I suppose there are parts of the U.S. which would compare favorably. This valley is nice enough except that the roads are rather dusty as it never rains, but there is plenty of water for irrigation, plenty of vegetation for cotton, cane, all kinds of vegetables like we have in the States, to apples and bananas. The bananas are not as good as we get at home, but the sweet corn, lima beans, etc. are right in line. Our main article of diet however is rice, noon and night in large quantity. Would be mighty glad to eat at home again; but have been gaining weight during the past month.

Have the high mountains at the back to gaze upon, and the blue sea in front, but have very few white people to associate with, and these Im not able to talk with yet. and these dirty Indians I very soon got disgusted with, in fact up in Panama.

Had a very pleasant trip down to Panama, the weather was fine, the steamer and service very good. Had to stop in Colon for four days. The trip through the canal was interesting, but can hardly add anything descriptive to what you already have read concerning it. The trip down the Pacific was uneventful, boat not as good nor the eating. Then the sight of the coast line was rather discouraging, only high sand banks and barren mountains. The few ports passed were open, landing made in small boats, and the houses few and rude in structure. Callao and Lima were somewhat better, but I certainly prefer living in any of our American cities. Had to stop in Lima for a week, then came on to this port in a small boat with a lot of the mill machinery.

The weather has been very quiet, very little wind. Mornings usually cloudy with occasional mist and the afternoons usually bright. It is now winter but not cold enough for medium weight underware.

The mill construction is getting on rather slowly. not enough men to push it rapidly, but walls and foundations are mostly all up an din and we are setting crushing machines now. Placed the two press cylinders to-day and tried to get up the second ring of the cooker, but it was badly started so will have to try it another way in the morning. The plant will be pretty nice when finished as the owners are giving considerable attention to appearances, and going to rather unnecessary expense. For instance all the walls of these one and two story buildings are 30" thick, adobe brick and concrete reinforcements. They have a gin operating day and night and of

course are in a hurry to get the mill going. Hulls dont seem to be appreciated here, as we expect to furnish the steam with hulls for fuel.

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Havnt heard from my little auto yet, guess it must have been submarined. Rather wished I hadn't tried to have it shipped, the chances of getting much benefit from it here are rather poor though there are quite a few machines in the valley, and some good ones. Also there are several trucks working between the port and the haciendas. Then I dont think I wont to stay here any longer than necessary to get things going, though these people have been trying to persuade me to bring the family down and stay for a few years. But it is a pretty poor place to raise a boy, and if I've got to get along on a salary would rather do it in the States. The cost of living is as high here, and the living not near as good.

The seed here seem to be pretty good so dont expect to have very much [sic, much] refining loss or very much soap to make. But we are going to use soda ash and soda crystals, crutching the solutions into the soap. This is something that I have never had to do and if you can give me any advise as to strength of soda solutions and percentage of same to mix with the soap think it would be quite a benefit to me though I remember some of the details from my reading on the matter. Possibly you can get hold of one of those booklets published by the soda and silicate people on formulas. Give my regards to Laver and the boys, and know that I'll be glad to here from you. Would certainly like to get hold of a modern N.Y. paper, these we occasionally get from Lima dont do me much good.

Yours very sincerely,
J. H. Anderson

[Following not typed, in ink:]

Please excuse typographical errors, this is the first letter I have written, and am not used to this Corona.

We also have outfit for can making and lithographing, as all the oil will be shipped in tins.



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