mendous population gain. The population of the three southeast coast counties is expected to reach 2,000,000 by 1965.

If the predicted population growth of Dade County is realized, just about all of the land areas suitable for fruit culture will be subdivided within the next 10 years. By that time it would be difficult to find land in Dade County suitable for fruit culture that could be bought for under $10,000 an acre.

Even then, there will be considerable marginal land remaining for winter vegetable production, including large areas of marl glades and low pineland. But even these areas, now subject to flooding during the rainy season, are expected eventually to be filled and made available for residences.

Even when Dade County's population tops 2,000,000, as it may do by 1970, there will be a great amount of fruit produced in dooryard groves. But whether this supply could be utilized to form a commercial fruit industry is doubtful. Experiences with present acre-size groves of mangos, avocados or limes do not point to this possibility.

It is very doubtful that the average dooryard fruit grower could produce fruit cheaply enough to make a profit, even if he used his own labor for spraying, fertilizing and picking. In some years he might do well, but to get fancy prices he still would have to depend on a very select market. It doesn't seem likely that thousands of dooryard groves would be able to produce a uniform, high quality fruit suitable for shipping to Northern fresh fruit markets. Cuba, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands would be more favorably situated for growing tropical fruits and shipping them to Northern markets. It seems likely that the mango could be produced in Cuba, shipped to New York by air, and be sold at a price below the cost of producing the fruit in Florida on $10,000-an-acre land.

But even if Southeast Florida does not develop the rich tropical fruit industry once hoped for, there is no reason to consider tropical fruit horticulture dead in the area. The popularity of tropical dooryard fruits is likely to continue, if the Mediterranean fruit fly is eradicated, and, eventually, there may be almost as many dooryard fruit trees as we could have hoped to see in commercial plantings. The need to learn more about how to make tropical fruit trees productive, to select improved varieties, and to learn how to do a better job of controlling insects and diseases will continue to exist. But the research will be done for the dooryard horticulturist rather than for the commercial horticulturist.

So, for most phases of tropical horticulture, opportunities still exist. There is a great need for the training of students in tropical horticulture; and, likewise, there should be an increasing demand for trained students in this field, both in tropical fruit production and tropical ornamental production.

KROME MEMORIAL AVOCADO VARIETY COMMITTEE REPORT

F. B. Lincoln, Chairman

Homestead

The work of this committee is to register the names of seedling avocados. That is, it makes official the name selected by the owner for a seedling avocado that he desires to have recognized. Your committee writes a description of the fruit registered along with what knowledge there is of the tree. This year no seedlings have been submitted for registration.

At present the number of avocado varieties grown in Florida for marketing are too numerous for orderly marketing. Yet none of these named varieties are perfect in all respects. Variety improvement can only come through the discovery of new seedlings. Before these new ones are acceptable they must be proven by test planting of trees to know the tree and fruit behavior over a number of years.

The avocado industry of Dade County will decrease in acreage because of the rapid growth of local population and the avid demand for land for houses. This leaves little time for the development of new avocado varieties, although they can be top-worked into old trees for rather immediate relief where it becomes necessary.