

being disturbed. There is no plowing. Old machete blades are used for weeding.

Corn is the staple crop, and to it the larger part of every field is given over. With it are planted beans, melons, papaya, pineapples, and sweet potatoes. Gourd trees are cultivated, and a bush with a red fruit called in Spanish *ajon*, used for flavouring meats. Two crops of corn a year are raised except at Piedra Labrada where three are usual.

Small coffee plantations are made in jungle or woods handy to the town, the underbrush being cleared out.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

Pigs are kept by all families for food, and also serve as scavengers. Poultry provide both meat and eggs. Keeping cattle is rare if not unknown.

Besides cultivated plants and flocks, many wild fruits are eaten, and game, especially birds and wild pig, are important. The Indians hunt fish with spears, arrows, and traps in the many rivers of the country.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

The general governmental system is that of a Mexican district, with its center at Pajápan itself. The individual villages have each their *Presidente Municipal* and *Secretario*, elected as in any Mexican town. The feeling, however, is not that of belonging to the district as a whole, but of independent villages related to each other only in so far as their interests join, and as the local officials at Pajápan can make their influence felt.

INTER-VILLAGE RELATIONS.

The local native garrisons, or "Guardias Municipales," maintained by the government to suppress banditry, occasionally serve also as the nucleus for village war parties, in the occasional disputes over lands or rights. Thus Tatahuicápa, a town of some four hundred families, is sometimes



FIG. 50—Piedra Labrada, Ver. Indian boy with bow and arrow.