sector, unlike the banana industry, relied on native Central American labor from the start. And their enterprises spurred migration within the isthmus as early as the 1880s. While they regularly tapped workers from the United States and Great Britain for highly skilled positions (e.g., furnace technicians), Central Americans made up the majority of the labor force. The New York and Honduras Rosario Mining Company, popularly known as La Rosario, began its operations in 1880 near a village some 45 kilometers/30 miles northeast of Tegucigalpa. It expected and pledged to hire Hondurans, which company officials identified as both “native Indians” and Spanish Americans.\(^{23}\) The prospect of lucrative returns combined with a labor shortage led the company to recruit workers from other parts of Central America by the end of the decade. Its counterparts soon followed suit. By the early 1890s, Salvadorans and other Central Americans who had previously lived outside Honduras traveled as far as Copán, on the western border with Guatemala, to work in the mines.\(^{24}\) They did so because they needed employment or sought a means for improved livelihoods. Once the labor pool stabilized, companies seized on the availability of foreign workers to limit the scope of labor mobilizations and reject workers’ aims. In the early 1900s, as labor organizing mounted at La Rosario, management refused to consider demands for wage increases by “threatening to soon contract Salvadoran miners” if existing employees did not return to work.\(^{25}\) In so doing, mining executives began to experiment with a common tactic used by banana companies. The latter had regularly pitted West Indian workers against Central American ones; mining companies now began to alter that framework by stirring up national antagonisms and turning Central American laborers against each other.

