

The Leading Coffee Cities of Brazil

A Discussion of Their Relative Importance With Brief Descriptions of Their Natural Beauties and Commercial Resources—All About Rio, São Paulo, and Santos in a Nutshell

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AMERICANS are beginning to understand something of the vastness of Brazil. If all Brazil's twenty-one states were fitted into the United States there would be enough left over for a state larger than Texas. In area it is several hundred thousand square miles larger than the United States, without Alaska and the Philippines. Brazil's coastline is so long it would take more than the distance between New York and Liverpool to cover it from south to north.

Seventeen of Brazil's states are bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, including the Federal District in which lies Rio de Janeiro, the smallest of these states being greater than Holland and the largest of the four inland states being three times the size of France.

Brazil has an estimated population of nearly 45,000,000 and is growing at the rate of a million a year. It has more than half of all the people in South America. It has nearly one-half of the whole Latin population in the Western Hemisphere, from the Straits of Magellan to the Rio Grande.

THE COUNTRY'S RESOURCES

Brazil has three climates, tropical, sub-tropical, and temperate. The death rate per thousand in Rio is 20.8 and in São Paulo 20.7, lower than Leningrad and Rome.

Brazil's natural resources are so huge that she supplies two-thirds of the coffee of the world and ranks among the leaders for the production of cacao, cotton, timber, sugar, rubber, manganese, hides, etc. Her exports in 1932 amounted to \$180,583,898.42, nearly half of which came to the United States. How important the coffee industry is to Brazil may be deduced from the fact that about 70 per cent or more of the country's exports are of coffee. The value of the coffee exports alone in 1928 was \$346,756,415.91; but by 1932 this figure was considerably reduced owing to overproduction and lower prices.

Brazil not only produces coffee but can and does produce several other important alkaloidal beverages; e. g., tea, cocoa, maté, and guarana, the latter a fine tonic and digestive stimulant with a caffeine content of 5.07 as compared with 2.13 for black tea and 1 per cent for roasted coffee.

Brazil's most important coffee cities are Santos, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Victoria, Paranagua,

Bahia and Campinas. All of these are ports except São Paulo and Campinas. Bello Horizonte, Curitiba, Ribeirão Preto, Marília, Lins, Franca, and São Sebastião do Paraizo are also important coffee centres. While Santos is the most important coffee port, Rio is the most beautiful city, so we will describe it first.

BEAUTIFUL RIO, PEARL CITY OF BRAZIL

Ver Rio e morrer! See Rio and die! Rio de Janeiro is the city of the greatest natural beauty in the world. Mark you, I did not say "the most beautiful city," else were I faithless to my early love: not that I love Rio less, but Paris more!

Where is there a city so blessed by nature as this fair capital of Brazil? Man's genius has done much to beautify it as a place for human habitation, but were all its fine buildings, its avenues, and its quays to be swept into the discard tomorrow, there would still remain the solemn grandeur of the eternal hills that form such an awe-inspiring and truly majestic setting for its dazzling blue-green bay, as it shimmers in the sun of noonday or sleeps in the moonlight under the mystical guardianship of the Southern Cross.

Nowhere else in the world, except perhaps before the glory of the snows at Darjeeling, does mere man appear so little, so futile, as in Rio, where mountain peaks of granite crowd one another to the water's edge and seem to view with proud disdain and haughty aloofness the swarm of humans running hither and yon among their wooded cloves in the soon-to-be-ended pursuit of the vanities that make up the sum total of the activities of most playground cities. For Rio is gay, frivolous, like Paris, and here too are to be found all the follies of the Old World and the New—if you care to seek them. Peerless, bright-shining, careless, free, always; serious, never! But, I warn you, Rio is not Brazil, any more than Paris is France or New York, America.

Well, our mission was twofold,—to see Rio and to learn how to know Brazil. First, then, to meet the *Carioca*, native of the Federal District, and the *Fluminense*, those born in the state of Rio. They were at the quay to greet us and soon on board after the gangway was lowered. Our first impressions of Rio de Janeiro were the pleasantest imaginable, as, once through the customs, our hosts of the DNC bundled us into waiting motors