

Among the Coffee Fazendas of Brazil

This Is the Third in the Series of Articles Dealing With the Editor's Recent Trip to Brazil. It Tells the Story of a Tour of Some of the Leading Coffee Fazendas in São Sebastião do Paraiso, and at Marilia, Franca, and the Famous Ribeirão Preto District of the State of São Paulo. Among the Notable Estates Visited Were Dumont and São Martinho, the Largest in the World.

By WILLIAM H. UKERS, M.A.

ALTHOUGH coffee is not indigenous to Brazil, the Fates have made it the world's greatest coffee-producing country. The area suitable for coffee cultivation covers 1,158,000 square miles, more than one-third the area of continental United States.

I wonder how many of us realize that the marvelous coffee industry of Brazil, which has furnished 70% of the world's coffee during the last 10 years, has developed in a century and a half? The thing was started with a few seeds brought from Cayenne to Pará in 1727. A small export trade to Europe had developed by 1770, the year when the first plantation was established in the state of Rio de Janeiro, from which the country's great industry really dates. However, it was not until 1835 that the cultivation of coffee became a factor in the development of the municipio of Campinas, where important crops were obtained in 1842 and 1843. The cultivation extended from Campinas to other parts of the state of São Paulo, which soon established itself as an ideal country for coffee growers. Today it alone supplies more than half of the world's annual coffee output.

According to the latest figures obtainable, the area devoted to the culture of coffee in the different states in Brazil is approximately 6,000,000 acres. The leading coffee growing states are São Paulo, Minas Geraes, Rio de Janeiro, and Espírito Santo.

Brazil's six million coffee acreage has produced nearly three billion coffee trees, 48 per cent being in the state of São Paulo and 28 per cent in the state of Minas Geraes. Fazendas having a million or more trees are not uncommon; one estate in São Paulo has 4,374,000 trees, another 4,200,000 trees, and still another 3,000,000 trees. However, the small coffee grower dominates the economic picture. In São Paulo alone, of a total of 81,321 properties 76,012 do not possess more than 50,000 trees, representing over 93 per cent of the total.

Brazil's billions of coffee trees have produced as many as 29,600,000 bags of 132 pounds each in a single year. This was one of several over-production years and the National Coffee Department (DNC), following out its program of destroying the low grades, has recently announced that 31,-

518,577 bags have been removed from the market since this enterprise was started four years ago by the São Paulo Coffee Institute.

The United States is Brazil's best coffee customer. On the average Brazil supplies over 66 per cent of our needs. Other large buyers of Brazil coffee are France, Germany, and Italy.

SEEING THE COFFEE FAZENDAS

The best way to see Brazil's coffee fazendas is to first visit the offices of the DNC in Rio where every facility is offered the visitor in planning his tour. Recently, delegations of coffee men from Europe and the United States were invited to visit some of the leading coffee districts and the accompanying map will show how their tours were planned.

After Rio the visitor must go first to São Paulo, whence all tours really part, and here he will find the São Paulo Coffee Institute, the Serviço Técnico de Café, the Cooperativas, and the Sociedade Rural also ready and anxious to facilitate his investigation.

By referring to the Itinerario map it will be seen how simple a matter it is to reach the Minas and Paraná districts as well as those of the state of São Paulo by an overnight journey.

TO SÃO PAULO BY LUXO

There are two ways to approach São Paulo: one by the famous coffee railway from Santos and the other by the Estrado de Ferro Central, the Federal's "Central" Railway from Rio de Janeiro. I made the journey from Rio, traveling by the "Luxo," the overnight de luxe train, which leaves Rio every evening at 21:20 (9:20 p.m.) and São Paulo, traveling in the reverse direction, at 21:30. The Brazilians follow the 24-hour Continental Railway time-table custom.

"Luxo" is pronounced "Lusho," because every time you meet an *x* in Portuguese it is pronounced "sh." Wherefore the familiar postoffice-box legend, "Caixa Postal" becomes "Kaisha Postal," and the Brazilian equivalent for our "White Rock" mineral water, known as "Caixambú," becomes "Kaishambo." Also, I may tell you that *ã* written with tilde accent mark over the *a* (combination fre-