

1954/55 crop would be almost nil. The fact that the frost-damaged trees no longer have the protection of the green leaves would mean that, with a new frost, the trunk—possibly the root also, would die; and the prospects of large crops of Parana coffees within the next five to six years would be small.

In regard to the quality of the present crop, it must be stated that it is not at all as good as that of the past few crops—insofar as Sao Paulo and Parana are concerned. The Parana coffees from many areas, are rain-damaged, and not as good in the cup as previous crops. The Sao Paulo coffees are also poorer in quality than in previous crops, and some of them show signs of rain damage. Only the quality of the sweet Sul de Minas is excellent. All the Brazil coffees of the new crop, which I had the opportunity to see—the bean was smaller than that of previous years.

If it were not for harvesting, one would not know that there is coffee in the interior of Brazil. Hardly any coffee is being sold by the farmers. Many of the manquinas are stopped. The reason for this is that quite some propaganda has been fostered—that the farmer ought to obtain a higher price in Cruzeiros for their coffees. They rightly argue that, if they are to receive only 18.26 Cru-

zeiros per dollar's worth of their coffees, they must then buy their food-stuffs, farm equipment etc., at the free rate of the dollar—which was recently up to—and more than 50 Cruzeiros per dollar.

Their action has now caused the Government to fix minimum prices for sweet drinking coffees at \$68.00 per bag (51.52c per lb.). For Parana coffees \$67.00 per bag (50.75c per lb.), and for Rio drinking coffees \$60.00 per bag (45.45c per lb.); for Victorias \$56.00 per bag (42.42c per lb.)—while the balance can be sold at the free exchange. This action has caused a rise in the Cruzeiro prices to about 1,500 Cruzeiros F. O. B. Seaport, for sweet drinking coffees, but the propaganda continues—that the farmer ought to get 1,500 Cruzeiros per bag for the coffee delivered on his plantation—which will mean about 1,800 Cruzeiros—or about 62.00c per lb. F. O. B. Santos. The fact that much more free exchange is now available in Brazil has caused the free exchange to decline to about 37½ Cruzeiros per dollar. As it is the goal of the authorities in Brazil to bring the free exchange down to 30/35 Cruzeiros per dollar, the new measures taken by the Brazilian authorities have been quite effective.

It must be hoped for—that the

propaganda for higher Cruzeiro prices in the interior will stop, and that the Brazilian farmer will be satisfied with the present prices, so that the consumption will not decrease on account of ever-rising prices for coffee.

### Sao Paulo Issues Revised Post-Frost Crop Estimate

The Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, has issued a post-frost estimate of the 1954 coffee crop of 7,957,705 bags as compared to an earlier estimate made before the frost of 10,373,013 bags.

The Secretary stated that the loss of 2,415,000 bags represents a loss of \$3,140,000,000 Cruzeiros figured on the basis of \$1,300 Cruzeiros per bag.

The State's Agriculture Department makes the following estimate of trees damaged based on a total number of trees in the State of 1,204,869,000: trees up to two years old damaged, 31,824,715; trees between two and five years old damaged, 23,951,560; trees over five years old damaged, 141,039,643. The Department also estimates that 21,823,290 trees of all ages were killed by the frosts.

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