

As reported, the Federation lowered their purchase prices to 315 Colombian pesos for regular pergamino, load of 125 kilos and 325 pesos for the same load of washed pergamino. Independent buyers will hardly pay today 260 pesos per load, but even though they buy little, they always keep buying, because their requirements are not so exacting as the Federation's, which will only accept even sized coffee, and when they want it clean, they mean really clean. Nobody knows how much coffee has been bought by the Federation, but it must be a very large quantity.

No Statistics Kept

One thing that will serve as a consolidation of sorts is the information that domestic consumption of the so-called "pasilla" inferior coffee has increased at least to seven hundred fifty thousand bags and the most

optimistic reports assert that it reached eight hundred thousand, a figure which cannot be verified because no statistics are kept of that consumption. The obvious fact is that Colombia is drinking more coffee. There is no office where it is not served, nor a person who does not consume at least three cups per day.

Another report which has deserved good comments is the assertion made by Mr. Mejia that sixty percent of the large Central American-Mexican crop, which was the main responsible cause of the near collapse in prices in the early days of this year, has been sold. On the other hand much gloom has been created by Luis Toro's report on the African plantations, from an extensive tour of which he just returned, and which he says are in production and the quality they grow is quite similar to the Colombian.

Exporters, including the few independent ones, continue with their petitions to the Government to do away with the so-called differential exchange, whereby they are forced to sell their dollars at 238.50, whereas the black market dollar, which dropped today under yesterday's quotation, is now at 342.

There is not much more to say about the market in general, because Government offices and officials adhere to a policy of secrecy that makes it very difficult to obtain exact figures in connection with sales, purchases, contract registrations and other matters which formerly were given to journalists and others interested in the coffee market.

Transportation Normal

To complete this report, it may be added that, despite the forecast of a torrid summer as mentioned above, all transportation systems are operating normally, including the Magdalen River, so that there are no problems in this respect.

This report will also be supplemented with the information that the treaty or agreement that has been drafted between the Federation and the Western Germany's Commercial Mission which calls for six million dollars in coffee purchases, an amount which might have been higher, but for the strict conditions specified for the purpose that that coffee may not find a different destination and reach that part of Germany occupied by the Russians. It is also said, without official confirmation that other treaties with European countries, which expired at the end of the year, are being studied and revised especially in reference to coffee. This is one way to defend the Colombian product, for which some people persist in predicting hard days, especially if the United States continues its uncompromising attitude of scant demand.

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