Picking Coffee on a Well Kept Fazenda in Ribeirão Preto

The service varies in the cities and towns. Upcountry the custom seemed to be to mix two-thirds hot milk with one-third coffee; the coffee, of course, having been previously diluted by mixing part of the coffee base with boiling water.

The Largest Coffee Fazendas

Before the recent disintegration process started, some years back, in the Schmidt holdings of the “Companhia Agrícola Francisco Schmidt,” that company had 4,500,000 coffee trees on its various properties and the Fazenda Dumont 2,500,000 trees; Guatapará ranked third with 1,600,000 trees. Now, however, I believe that Dumont is the largest with 4,374,000 trees. This is the estate founded by Dr. Henrique dos Santos Dumont and afterward sold to a British company for $5,000,000.

Its main properties are only 15 miles out of Ribeirão Preto, with which it has its own private railway connection. A special, made up of a wood-burning locomotive and a freshly painted cane-seated passenger car (American, 1876 model), carries one with several station stops, on the narrow-gauge tracks of the Rede Dumont Ramal, to administration headquarters in 50 minutes. Here the general manager, or general administrator, is always glad to show visitors over the estate.

Water Canals Carry the Coffee Berries to the Drying Flats