



GENERAL VIEW OF THE COFFEE-TRADING RING IN THE SANTOS BOLSA OFFICIAL DE CAFÉ

Note the stained-glass ceiling, the inlaid marble floors, and the coffee brokers' trading "pews," each with the individual "prayer desk" or table.

The first settlement on the coast of the State of São Paulo was at São Vicente, about six miles south of Santos, in 1532. São Paulo succeeded it as the capital in 1681. Santos then became the seaport. It is one of the best ports on the Atlantic Ocean. All steamers go alongside the quays, and, whereas formerly the coffee had to be transported by carts from the railway to the warehouses and then again carried by porters onto lighters for loading on vessels in midstream, now the railways run right onto the docks and mechanical conveyors do the loading from the dock warehouses. These improvements were planned by an American engineer, Milnor Roberts.

Most of the city lies at sea level and the climate is subtropical. Rainfall is excessive, often exceeding 100 inches per annum, with 10-year average of 80 inches. The mean annual temperature is 72 F.; maximum 100, minimum 40. The months from December to March are warmest and wettest, and are somewhat depressing, but the weather is much influenced by prevailing winds. There are modern sanitation and draining systems and fair hospitals.

Health conditions have greatly improved in recent years. Formerly Santos was quite a pest-hole, yellow fever, malarial and intestinal dis-

orders, and even smallpox and bubonic plague being quite common. Indeed, only 25 years ago Santos was known as "the white man's grave"; but, fortunately for the state and city, all that has been changed. The building of the docks reclaimed a lot of the miasmatic swamps, and the City of Santos Improvements Co., drained most of the swamp lands extending from the sea to the town, with canals to carry away the water. It also built wide avenues and roads. The nearby waterfalls provide electricity for light and power, and mule-trams gave way to the electric "bonde."

The noisome smells were abolished by the Sanidad, people began to live a healthy life, and yellow jack disappeared entirely. Late statistics give Santos a population of 130,000.

Except for its being more healthy, the business part of the town shows little change in recent years. The old, quaint, narrow streets and one and two storied houses still hold out against modern encroachments; though the new coffee Bolsa has led to the demolition of a number of oldtimers and others are slated to go so as to provide a better setting for this noble structure.

The main business, of course, is coffee. Many other products are exported, but they all sink into