



#### AMONG THE COFFEE TREES AT MARILIA

Left to right—Mr. Christovam Bezerra Dantas of the *Diario de São Paulo*; Mr. Herbert Delafield, chairman, American Coffee Delegation; and Dr. Cesario Coimbra, president, Instituto de Café do Estado de São Paulo.

foam on a boundless ocean of coffee. It was a sublime spectacle, awe inspiring. A great, abiding peace, an eternal quiet, hung over it all. There were birds flying overhead, but their songs were drowned in the magnificent distances between the low green earth and the far-flung blue of the sky above it.

Even at the station stops there were no raucous noises. The people, workers and masters, men and women, seemed to be soft-spoken gentlefolk, who never raised their voices, for fear of disturbing the almost sacred stillness of the clear, fresh morning air. It was as if they said, "You did well to come, Senhor; it was good of you to make this pilgrimage to the shrine of King Coffee amid these eternal hills. Welcome to the soft green heart of Brazil! Here are open spaces that pulsate for all mankind, for here is to be found the kind nepenthe that steals away life's drabness, that adds to the joy of living, that makes for comfort and better cheer. Here is Nirvana!"

#### AT MARILIA AND LINS

The American coffee delegation, with which I was traveling in 1934, did not, however, visit Ribeirão Preto first. This year a new coffee district, practically unknown in 1923, was first to be examined into. This is the district about the towns of Marília on the Paulista Railway, and Lins on the Noroeste Railway.

Our party left São Paulo at 6:30 one evening. Arriving at Itiripina about 11 p.m., we transferred to the narrow-gauge railway which brought us to Marília by 10 o'clock the following morning. Here we found an amazing city of some 10,000 inhabitants. Yesterday the district was not; today

it has 18,000,000 coffee trees in bearing on 195 coffee fazendas.

Owing to the severe drought the volcanic Roxa soil (which contains no rocks) was everywhere along the roadways 6 to 10 inches deep in fine red dust of about the same consistency as talcum powder. This made traveling difficult even though the motor cars were spaced 5 minutes or so apart. Miles away across the terrain the progress of the motors in our caravan could be traced by the clouds of dust rising to the skies. In spite of this drawback it was possible for us to negotiate visits to the fazenda Bomfim of Coronel Galdino de Almeida at Marília and to other properties in the Cafelandia district with its 20,000,000 trees and in the Lins district, having 34,000,000 trees in bearing.

Everywhere the ravages of an almost unprecedented drought were visible; leafless trees, unhealthy looking buds presaging a blighted flowering; stunted coffee berries and many other evidences of poor nourishment or neglect, probably born of discouragement on the part of the coffee farmer who felt there was too much coffee, anyhow, and maybe the drought was a blessing in disguise; besides, there was cotton, the farmer's newest plaything, concerning which so many glowing prophecies were being made, now that the United States seemed ready to give up its world markets in the name of New Deal theories which preached the same gospel of crop destruction that coffee had experienced in Brazil. Just here it is worthy of note that Brazil's cotton output this year totals 1,280,000 bales, twice what it was last year. Next year's crop is expected to exceed 2,000,000 bales.

A pleasant interlude in the dusty reception accorded us at Marília was a visit to the Chantebled estate of Dr. Jorge de Moraes Barros on the trip across country from Marília to Lins. Here we met *pinga*, a native drink with a kick like a Missouri mule. Other fazendas visited in this



#### IN THE "BOM FIM" FACTORY, MARILIA

Some officials of the DNC and several of the visiting American Coffee Delegation. Extreme left, Mr. Alcibiades Oliveira. Center, Dr. Armando Vidal and Coronel Galdino de Almeida.