

WHERE COFFEE IS THE THING I in the United States as Rio and Santos cof- 35 cents a pound for his so-called Mocha and fee. These names come from the ports of Java mixture. many of the women make a ling below the wharves as well as above them, themselves, and in this way information has They were accompanied on their souther

Facts About the Great Crop Which Supports the Feople of Brazil.

Behind the Scenes in the Coffee Warehouses-How the Berries Are Polished and Painted Up for the Markets,

(Copyrighted, 1899, by Frank G. Carpenter.) RIO JANEIRO, Brazil, April 3, 1899 .-(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)-1 have spent a day among the coffee shippers of Rio Janeiro. This is, next to Santos, the bags. greatest coffee port of the world. Millions of bags are here shipped every year and the chief business of Brazll's vast coffee crop is done here. Rio Janeiro lives upon coffee For that matter it is the mainstay of Brazil. In 1895 the total exports of the country amounted to \$180,000,000 and of this \$140,-000,000 came from coffee. The rise of 1 cent a pound means prosperity or the reverse to these people and the enormous fall the last few years has made things tight in Brazil. Just how much the fall has been few people as a usual thing in lots. know. The truth is that coffee has been steadily dropping for the last six years and today it is not worth much more than onethird what it was in 1893. With our new possessions in Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines it is likely to go still lower. for it is expected that the Yankees will establish large coffee plantations, and if so the Brazilians will have to look elsewhere for a market.

It is an outrage that Brazil has not done more for the United States. She should give us the bulk of her trade and all her fat contracts, for we have been practically supporting the country for years. We are the greatest coffee drinkers of the world. In 1897 we used 636,000,000 pounds of coffee. which was 10,000,000 pounds more than was consumed in all Europe. We have increased our consumption during the past year at the rate of more than a pound per person, and we now use about fifty pounds annually for each person in the United States. The amount spent for this coffee is enormous. During the past ten years we have paid out pound. \$\$75,000,000, or \$\$7,000,000 per annum, for coffee alone. The bulk of this money has Brazil. Some of it has found its gone to way into the pockets of the coffee planters. a large part has gone into the hands of the shippers and dealers, and 11 per cent of the export price has been paid to the government. Brazil charges an export duty of 11 per cent on every pound of coffee that is shipped. This is, of course, paid by the nsumer, and such of our people as engage in coffee raising will have the advantage of 11 per cent over Brazil to start with, for they will of course, not have to pay duty. Some years ago there was talk of taxing coffee, but the demagogues of our congress not up a holy howl about taxing a poor man's luxuries, and coffee was admitted nominally free. It was not allowed to be free, however, for Brazil at once put on an extra export duty and the poor man's luxury was taxed just the same. The only differtaken out for the Mohammedana. ence was that the Brazilan government got the money and not Uncle Sam.

Brazil the Land of Coffee.

Coffee is raised in nearly every one of the provinces of Brazil. The country produces stalk and they are to some extent imperfect herries, a coffee cherry containing one inthe bulk of the world's crop. It raised 10, stead of two herries. They are known as 000,000 bags last year, and it is planting new fields now. I described in a former letter pea berries by some of the dealers. travels through the state of San Paulo the richest coffee raising region of the world

which the coffee is shipped. The Santos coffee is grown almost entirely in south eintial

This statement will probably be denied by Brazil. It is carried over the railroads to ome of our grocers. They will tell you Santos and exported from there. It come that they can tell Mocha and Java by the from a cooler climate than does the coffee smell or the color of the grain. Don't you which is raised further north and is genbelieve them. The coffee as it comes from erally considered to have a milder and finer UNCLE SAM THE LARGEST PURCHASER flavor than that shipped from Rio. It is es- the plantation, the simon-pure genuine artitimated that we take about 30 per cent of cle, is often far different from that which the Santos crop and about 70 per cent of all goes away on the ships. I have visited shipped from Rio, so that the bulk of the here in Rio enormous establishments who make a business of painting coffee and drescoffee used in our country is Rio coffee.

Painted Coffee.

sing it up for the markets. In South Africa At both Rio and Santes the great coffee houses of the United States have their agents for instance, the people want black coffee beans. It seems that the coffee they have who buy the coffee of the dealers and ship been buying is of that color. The bags that it direct to their houses in New York, Balticome from the plantation are filled with more and Chleage. They have large establishments for preparing the coffee for shipolive green beans. They are turned into a great mill and rolled round and round in conment, and some of the brightest coffee men of the United States are here watching the tact with colored powder. Just what it is, markets and buying by the thousands of the Lord only knows, but when the beans

that can be grown in Africa. Other grades How Coffee is Bought. are given a tinge of yellow by the use of

Coffee is handled in different ways at the other colors, and others are varnished in diftwo great ports. During my stay in Santos ferent shades of green. Some of the color-I spent some time among the dealers and ing stuff is unhealthful and the men use watched them shipping the vast quantities gloves when they handle it. In one Portuof coffee which come to that port. The guese house I saw them coloring 30,000 bag coffee is put up in bags of 132 pounds each. for the Cape of Good Hope, and in another they were coloring coffee for the Argentine and in this shape it is sold to the exportmarket. This is no fiction. I saw it myself. ers. The buyers in Santos deal directly with the planters' agents, taking the coffee coffee sent to the United States goes there in its natural color.

In Rio the coffee first comes to commis-And what is the natural color of coffee? sion men. They dispose of it to the whole-That I saw on the plantations and the most sale coffee dealers, who grade it and put it into the bags for the exporter. In this case rich olive green. It grows slightly yellow the coffee has passed through three hands as it becomes older, and the older the coffee before it starts for New York. is the better coffee it makes. Since the remarkable fail in the prices of

These big coffee factories are interesting offee, however, the big exporters have sent places. Some of them are as full of maagents out among the planters and they are now buying their coffee direct. As it has walk under a network of moving belts been the consumer has had to pay a halfdozen or more profils on every pound of coffee. In the first place he has had to keep the planter, then the commission mer-

chant in Rio, then the wholesale dealer in Rio and the New York manager's agent here. He has had to pay the cost of shiphusks be on the beans when they arrive in ment to New York, the wholesale dealer or roaster there, the commercial drammer. the railroads, and lastly his retail dealer at as washed coffee, bringing a much higher home. With all this he is able to buy coffce price for 15 cents and less a pound, the same coffee costing here not inore than 6 cents.

ished. It is shined up as you shine silver, and delivered in New York at 614 cents a If he is particular about his coffee he will pay from 35 to 40 cen's for some of this same coffee which here sells for a trifle over sold much as it comes from the plantation.

the amounts above mentioned, the only difbut so far I believe there is no ference being that the beans are of a little graded. different shape or larger size and that they have been graded into certain so-called well known varieties. I have already written of the Mocha coffee

of Brazil. A large part of the Mocha used in the United States is grown here. Indeed, there is practically no genuine Mocha coffee in our markets. The Mocha coffee fields of so much a plece. Arabla are so small that very few of the berries are sold outside the Mohammedan

In the Exporting Section.

countries. W. G. Palgrave, the well known oriental traveler, says that two-thirds of the Mocha crop is consumed in Arabia, Syria the coffee exporting section of Rio de Ja- them in on the trot, and we hear the thud and Egypt and that the rest is almost altogether taken by the Turks. The coffee is The Rio coffee which is sold as Mocha is

largely made up of the little round beans filled with wagons and cars loaded with \$25 to \$40 a month, which are very high which are found on nearly every tree. In | coffee. many places they grow near the end of the You can hardly get through the streets.

There are scores of half-naked men trotting from the cars to the warehouses with

There is another class of berry which is flat. Some of these are very much like the

good living by gathering these stray coffee

Stop a minute and watch the men as they unload the coffee. Every bag is tested before it is taken into the warehouse. The tester has a little tin pipe as big around as a broomstick, with a sharp point on the end. He tabs this into a bag and in it brings out a handful of coffee. A glance at the beans tells whether they are according to samples, and, if not, the rest of the load is carefully watched.

Notice how the men carry the great bags on their heads. Each bag weighs 132 ounds, but they stand straight up under them and walk off as briskly as though piercer into a bag as they are carrying it they were carrying feathers.

Bagging the Coffee.

But let us follow them into the ware house. The car load which is now being handled is in all sorts of bags and it has o be repacked for shipping. We walk come out they are as black as any coffee through long aisles with bags of coffee piled on each side from the floor to the eiling and come into a hall where the floor s covered with great piles of green coffee Hans

At each pile are a dozen half-naked negroes in their bare feet. They are scooping up the coffee in bowls much like a bread bowl and pouring it into the bags. We hear the scratch, scratch, scratch of the bowls although I am told that the most of the as they touch the floor, varied by the sound of the laughter of the men at work. Now

they burst out in a song, keeping time with their scoops as they sing. As soon as a bag is filled it is dragged off to a pair of scales of that which comes here to Rio is of a to be weighed. It is next handed over to the sewers, who sew up its mouth, leaving enough vacant space at the top that it may pack well in the steamer.

In other factories the bagging is done by machinery, and in all the work goes on in chinery as a Minneapolis flour mill. You a business-like way.

Each of the big Auerican establishments through air mixed with coffee dust and go of Rio handles vast amounts of coffee in a through coom after room filled with ma- year. Its manager must have good business chines for dressing the berries to suit the ability and be a sharp trader. He must different tastes of the world. Each market be a good judge of coffee and must know seems to have its particular desires. The how to take advantage of the risc and fall Germans, for instance, demand that the of the market. Each establishment has its twenty-five years, and that long before the coffee expert, who can tell by the eye and end of that time all of the surrounding Hamburg. The Germans prefer to do the nose just what the coffee is worth. His property, with the exception of Jefferson ger for the Southern Pacific, arrived from shelling themselves, and the coffee is sold judgment is usually passed without grind- square, will be used for railroad and ware- the east yesterday and after spending the ing or burning the berries. Samples of house purposes. In support of this conten- greater portion of the day in Omaha, re-

price on each grade by looking at, handling its depot near by twenty families have left Pacific to San Francisco. He is traveling in being brushed by the most delicate ma- and smelling the samples. During my stay the locality, thus reducing the school popu- the Southern Pacific private car "Sunset, chines, which do not injure the grains. The bere I have gone through a number of the lation of the district fully fifty. They furcoffee which goes to the United States is American houses, and, among others, have ther urge that if the school building is not McCormick began his duties as passenger been much indebted to Jonn F. Keogh, the located upon the site ere long the block traffic manager on May 1. The position was it is passed through the separators and manager of an American wurehouse at Rio. where the old building is situated will be created specially for him. He is an experi-The most of the coffee is shipped from occupied by the roads entering the Webster emand in our country for polished coffee what are known as the coffee wharves. The street station and a new passenger depot or for any other than that of the natural scenes about these are among the most built opposite Jefferson square.

olor. A great deal of our coffee is bought | interesting of Rio. Come with me and look | The north side residents declare that the the great roasting companies. It is at them, We jump upon a car containing Board of Education can sell the old site shipped directly to the roasting mills in about three tons of coffee. It is hauled by for more than enough money to buy a tract New York and Chicago, and the average two mules, who drag it over the street rall- of land suitable for the purposes west of man does not see it until it is handed out road through one narrow street after Sixteenth and in the vicinity of Cass and to him by his grocer in fancy packages at another down to the bay. We stop at the California streets. They say that if the wharves, where a gang of negroes stand building is located somewhere in this vicinready to take in the bags. They back ity it will accommodate a great many more

theemselves up against the cars and balance people than if erected on the Cass street There is no busier place in the world than the great sacks on their heads. They carry site,

neiro. There are great warehouses near thud! thud! of their bare leet as they go the wharves which are filled with coffee over the floor. They run, for they are paid sifted over grain by grain and the best is and into which coffee is being brought by by the piece and not by the day. Each man suspected of the Burglary of Mrs. the thousands of bags. The streets of this receives 152 cents for every bag he brings in section are narrow and dirty. They are and the best of the workmen make from

> wages here. The Coffee Stealers of Rio.

What a lot of policemen there are everycated in the burglary of Mrs. C. M. Biart's where. At the ends of the wharves there

ing up the coffee out of the cobblestone see that nothing goes on or off the ship | The men are cooks by trade and are memstreets where it has dropped in order that without paying duty, and there are many bers of a gang that has been responsible for rival.

for sometimes thieves come in boats under been secured against the men arrested. the wooden floors and stop just below one | Davis was taken into custody last sumof the big piles of bags. With an augur mer under the name of Spencer for kidthey make a hole through the floor, then a naping. At that time he persuaded a young dercer or pipe is stuck up through the hole girl to leave her home and live with thim and into a bag so that the coffee pours down on North Sixteenth street. The hiding place through the pipe in a stream to the boat. of the girl was not discovered by the police In a short time a half dozen bags can be | for several weeks.

to \$103.50 each.

emptied, and if this is taken from a large pile no one will be the wiser without the SALE IS COMPLETED NOW detectives spy the men under the wharves. Stealing is also done by the negroes who Deeds for Union Pacific Lands Sold oad and unload the coffee. They come to Last March Are

their work with plercers in their sleeves. Received. Then by a dexierous thrust they drive the Deeds to the Nebraska land purchased in in on their heads and allow some of the March by the Union Pacific Rallroad comcoffee to roll out down their sleeves to their pany, have been received at headquarters

walsts. This they do with one bag after an- in this city. The land was sold under fore other as they can during the day, going off, closure proceedings in the United States as they say, for a drink now and then to court on account of the sinking fund secrete their stealings. Such thefts, how- mortgage given over twenty years ago. The ever, are well known, and the men are deeds are in printed form and run from arefully watched. Some of the men work Sherman E. Day, special master, and others, half naked and others have their sleeves to the Union Pacific Railroad company rolled up to their shoulders. Thieves are at There is a deed for the land in each of the nce arrested, and the factors pay large thirty-four countles in the state where the ams, I am told, for detectives to watch old company had holdings. They will be such matters. FRANK G. CARPENTER. sent out to the respective county seats for record at once. The United States revenue NORTH SIDE PEOPLE OBJECT stamps used on the documents make an

Contend that Erection of New School House on Cass Street is Waste of Money.

The residents of that portion of the city lying north of Capitol avenue are considring the advisability of calling a mass meeting for some evening early this week o protect against the crection of the prooosed school building on the Cass street site. A good deal of enthusiasm is being manifested in the matter and a committee will wait upon the Board of Education at the next meeting of that body.

People on the north side contend that the erection of a new building upon the Case Deeds for the land in Wyoming, Colorado a great demand during the coming months. and Utah have been forwarded direct from money. They declare that if a building is New York to those states. put up there it will remain for at least Visits Omaha Railroad Men.

E. O. McCormlek, passenger traffic manaabout a pint of each are soread out on bine tion they point to the fact that since the ceiving calls from local railroad men, con-Other countries want their coffee pol- paper and the coffee expert will put his Terminal company commenced work upon tinued his journey westward over the Union enced railroad man, having held an important position with the Big Four before ac-

cepting service with the Southern Pacific, He is an affable man to meet and among Omaha railroad men is held in high esteem, not only for his personal qualities, but for his ability as a railroader.

Railway Notes and Personals.

J. Francis, general passenger agent for the Burlington, has gone to Kansas City. Thomas P. Wilson of St. Paul, one of the eccivers of the old Union Pacific railroad company, is in Omaha.

H. A. Johnson of Denver, general freight agent for the Colorado Southern, is in the city enroute castward. W. W. Humphrey of Monida, Mont., one of

the proprietors of the Monida & Yell stone stage line, is a visitor in the city. & Yellow J. E. Duval, chief train dispatcher of the

W. L. Davis, John Phender, James Hall Canada Atlantic railroad at Ottawa, Ont. and Dwight Bender were arrested Friday in the city visiting his brother, Eugene Du-evening on suspicion of having been impli- val of the Milwaukee offices. The Burlington offices have reports of

great bags on their fiends and scores of are soldiers in uniforms to keep order. A home, 2025 Half Howard street, Tuesday a good rain throughout the Republican val-negro women down on their knees sweep- customs house officer is always on hand to night. come because it was opportune in its ar-

the richest coffee raising region of the world. The states north of San Paulo also produce vast amounts, and Rio Janeiro back of the capital is one of the chief coffee centers. The kinds of coffee produced here are known
The kinds of coffee produced here are known
The kinds of coffee produced here are known
The states of the cover al stat

trip by George M. Entriken, assistant gen

eral freight agent in Omaha. The little village of Hohenzollern, which is on the Northwestern's new line up the Soldier river valley in Iowa, has had its name changed by the townsite company Schleawig. The plat of the town will put on sale next week.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Elkhorn railroad will be held in Omaha on May 19, and the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Pioneer Townsite company, an adjunct of the railroad, will be held at Fremont on the same date.

TORPEDU'S LOUD EXPLOSION

Placed on the Street Car Track at Seventcenth and Farnam by Some Mischievous Boys.

A loud explosion in front of The Bee building last evening about 9 o'clock startled the pedestrians on the street and sent them scurrying into the building to see who had been shot. A systematic search was begun while occupants of each floor stuck their heads over the court and called to those on lower or upper floors to learn whence the report came. Excitement was rife for a time and it was feared that some despondent individual had locked important item in themselves. The total himself in a room and blown himself into amount used is \$555.50, ranging from 50 cents | kingdom come.

When the building had been searched and the report could not be located it was he-The receipts of these deeds completes the lieved that it must have originated outside. title to the land with the new company, and will enable the land department of the road People on the street insisted that it had to put this property upon the market. Pendcome from the building, but finally Rev. ing the receipt of the deeds, many con-Vyrnwy Morgan and Abel Lansing relieved tracts have been received for portions of the the anxiety of the searchers. They had land, subject to approval when the deeds been standing on the corner of Seventeenth had passed. The contracts represent several and Farnam streets talking at the time the thousand acres of land, and will now be explosion occurred and had no difficulty in signed and forwarded as rapidly as possible. locating it. A street car was passing and Increased effort will be made to attract ata bright flash lighted up its base, the retention of the farmers and stockmen to port following instantly. It was simply these lands, and it is expected there will be nothing more than a torpedo which some mischlevous ind had placed on the track.

RAISING FIGURES ON BILLS

Clumsy Work in Mutilating United States Bank Notes Gets Three Men Into Trouble.

W. D. Houck, W. V. Houck and T. W. Kennedy were brought in from Fairbury yesterday by Deputy United States Marshal Keim and lodged in the county jail to await the action of the United States grand jury. The men are charged with mutilating United States currency by raising and changing the figures on bank bills. Their work was most clumsy, and for this reason they succeeded in getting rid of but a few of the bills before they were caught, When the Houcks and Kennedy were arrested a number of indelible pencils and some cheap inks of various colors were found in their possession. Their plan of operation was to secure \$1 and \$5 bills. The figures on the \$1 bills they changed to fives and those on the \$5 bills to tens, doing this by cutting figures from paper and then coloring them with their inks and pencils. It is thought that they succeeded in floating something like half a dozen of the bills

after they were raised. Kennedy admits that he passed some of the bills and declares that he received them from the Houcks, who maintain that they know nothing of the transaction.

Suits Against Mosher.

In the case of Thomas Bailey, the Jones National bank, the Bank of Staplehurst, the Utica bank and Isaac Holt against C. W. Mosher and the officers of the Capital Na-tionar bank of Lincoln, the plaintiffs ask that the suits be remanded to Seward county for trial. The suits were originally brought in that county, but were transferred to the

United States court. It is alleged that the United States court has no jurisdiction in

