

*Pequena história do café no Brasil (1727-1937)*. By AFFONSO DE E. TAUNAY. [Edição do Departamento Nacional do Café.] (Rio de Janeiro: Companhia Editora Americana, 1945. Pp. 558. Paper.)

Afonso de E. Taunay, member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, eminent Brazilian author, editor, and historian, and son of an equally-famous Brazilian writer, has written the story of Brazil's best-known product, a story which the Brazilian Department of Coffee invited the author to write. The work is a remarkable one, especially when one becomes aware of the amount of information the author compresses into 545 pages of subject matter. If the title implies brevity to the point of mistreatment of the subject, then the title is misleading. Only when one compares this volume with the more extensive works of the author on coffee does this book become a "short" history.

No phase of the subject of coffee in Brazil is neglected. There are brief references to the origin of coffee, to the appearance of coffee in Europe, and to the introduction of the famous tree into the Western Hemisphere and particularly Brazil. The historical development of coffee culture in Brazil is treated not as a whole, but sectionally. Throughout the book the author shows an unusual familiarity with the bibliographical material on coffee.

There is an amazing variety of information in the book and an abundant evidence of the wide-spread knowledge of the author. He discusses coffee pests, coffee and slavery, famous *fazendas* and *fazendeiros*, agricultural methods, and the faults and troubles of the coffee industry. The author gives much data on the production, consumption, and exportation of coffee. The American reader will note with some interest the use of a number of English words, including *globetrotter*, *yankee*, *corner*, *rush*, and others. The historian will be especially interested in the references to the valorization plan and to the opposition of the American government to the activities of the valorization committee.

The abrupt style of the book does not always make for good, smooth reading. The cause for this abruptness may arise from the efforts of the author to present his material in as abbreviated a form as possible. Sometimes this brevity serves a good purpose in eliminating repetitious descriptions. There is this statement for example: "Em Vitória tudo se passava como no Rio."

The *Pequena história do café no Brasil* is primarily a reference work. The statistical information on a great number of subjects dealing with coffee and the bibliographical references which the book contains make the book invaluable to the student of Brazilian history. A translation of the work into English should find favor among the economists, the geographers, and the historians in this country.

Birmingham-Southern College.

LEON F. SENSABAUGH.