So much has been written recently about Brazil and other countries of South America that one need not go into detail along stereotyped lines of information. For full data on the general social and political conditions the recently published book by the Hon. James Bryce¹ can be consulted. His observations seem essentially accurate and they are stated so clearly that a mental picture of the country and its people can readily be made.

Brazil may be divided into six large general divisions. The first is the immense basin of the Amazon River and its tributaries, lying under the equator and exploited mostly for the rubber produced in its wild forests. Just to the south of this lies a fairly large semi-arid region which at present is not productive. The third division may be called the Central Coast Section, including the states of Pernambuco, Bahia, and Espírito Santo, and possibly also Rio de Janeiro. This central section is generally mountainous, especially farther south. The northern part is given over to the cultivation of cotton and sugar-cane, and the southern to sugar-cane and coffee. Farther down the coast is the Southern Coastal Section which is quite temperate in climate. It includes the states of Santa Catharina, Paraná, and Rio Grande do Sul. Finally there are two interior sections which are hard to define. The two together include the states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Mato Grosso. The two divisions in this area may be indicated by putting into one all the land in these three states which is suitable for the growing of coffee, and into the sixth and last, the plateau and prairie not suitable for coffee.

In the vast territory of Brazil are found all conditions of climate and soil. The climate varies from the tropical Amazon area to the pleasant temperate climate of the southern area, many of its variations being determined by altitude. Soils range from the sterile ones of the semi-arid areas to the exceedingly fertile ones of the tropics. The altitude ranges from sea level to more than 3,000 feet on the plateau. There are, of course, mountains in Brazil as high as 10,000 feet in altitude, but the figures given refer to the farming lands.

¹Bryce, James, South America; Observations and Impressions, 1912.