

Brazil's Drive to the West.

We are accustomed to the problem of space. Ten times a day we are told that it is one of the principle problems of our time. But, curiously enough, most people know only one aspect of it: Too little space.

Brazil faces the other side of the problem: Too much space. The situation is clear: Either Brazil will conquer its empty spaces, or the wilderness will conquer Brazil. The Government, resolute and active as it is, decided to attack the enemy, it proclaimed the drive to the West.

The idea to compare this situation with Germany's occurs automatically. It may be said that these two situations are two sides to a coin. Germany fleeing from its overpopulated space, driving to the East and trying to destroy everything on its way. Brazil advancing into the wilderness, trying to construct and develop as it advances. If it is allowed to continue this comparison, it may perhaps be said, that whilst Germany represents a dying world in its last terrible efforts to survive or drive a world into the abyss, Brazil represents a new and rising civilisation, fighting Nature just as mankind always did since it appeared, and every new conquest is a gain not for Brazil alone, but for Mankind as well. But here the comparison ends. For whilst Germany's drive to the East is a movement repeating itself throughout modern History without bringing about any results except for permanent unrest and likely to bring about Germany's end, Brazil's drive to the West is entering a new phase with every generation. Every generation settles some problems in this drive, and creates new ones, and the whole history of Brazil is the story of a successful but practically endless battle between Man and the elements.

The phases of this battle may change, one problem however remains the same ever since the pioneers of São Paulo, the Bandeirantes, first dared to enter the wilderness in the interior, and this problem is Manpower. Ever since Brazil was a seemingly unimportant Portuguese colony, the cry went forth from its empty shores: Send us more men.

And men came, first from Portugal, later from all over the world to help and conquer the ferocious power of tropical nature. But the more people came, the more were needed. And more came. Whilst the old nations in the old world were occupied in continuous wars against each other, a new and powerful nation was rising on the shores and river-banks of Brazil. So very important were the wars and quarrels of the so-called civilized nations, that they even did not notice this rise, and it may be said that it is the first time that they that they now found themselves in a situation which endangers their very existence. They turn to Brazil for help, and what do they see?

A nation still fighting wilderness, a nation still driving to the West, but a nation strong and powerful and becoming stronger and ~~more~~ more powerful still every day. Their westward drive has made them strong.

The historical nations cannot more than take a look at Brazil. They must continue to defend themselves against barbarians from within their midst. They can ask Brazil for help in this struggle, and Brazil, remembering that it is the mother country that cries for help, will not refuse it.

But Brazil's turn has not yet come. After this war is over the Nations of Europe will hold for a minute and look around for shelter for the hundreds of thousand, or even millions, who will have lost their homes and their basis for living. And they will find Brazil. Brazil's drive to the West continues. And Manpower continues to be its problem. It may well be that this western drive will once become a way out for Humanity.