

have not only not penetrated into the interior, but have not made any satisfactory examination of the coast with a view of finding out whether it was rich in minerals. Mr. Golowin says:

"The mineral has its prizes scattered all about, which, unfortunately, are but little sought for, although of their existence there can be no doubt. Coal is everywhere at hand in greater or less quantities; particularly along the Kenai Bay do the coal veins appear for a considerable distance, and extend into the interior. Even with the superficial explorations that have been made at various points, granite, basalt, many kinds of clay, red chalk, ochre, various coloring stuffs, sulphur, etc., have been found. On the River Medvoja (i. e., Copper River) large pieces of native copper have been uncovered, and on the Kenai Bay there are undoubted traces of gold."

Speaking of an expedition made by the Russians in 1848, he says: "The result of this was the development of coal in the Kenai Bay which has since been developed by the Company, and not only is used in burning material in their steamers, but is also an article of commerce to California. Generally, however, the exploration was carried on without plan or system, and can only be regarded as very incomplete. Also on the peninsula of Alaska, on the islands of Ungu, and on the islands of the Kosloschians' coast, traces of coal have been observed; but the explorations made on this region were too superficial, and the knowledge of those entrusted with the matter too slight, to allow us to speak positively in regard to any thing further."

The quality of all the coal that has been yet discovered on the Pacific side of North America is inferior to that of the Atlantic side—most of it is tertiary coal. There is some of this coal in California, but it is not mined to a very great extent, as labor is very high, and the coal is only fit for household purposes. At Vancouver Island the coal is better, and a considerable quantity is exported to San Francisco.

If, as appears from Mr. Golowin, coal has been exported from the Kenai Bay to San Francisco, it is probably a better coal than that from Vancouver Island. If it was profitable to transport this coal when the country belonged to Russia, certainly it will be now when the duty of \$1.50 per ton is removed. Let our citizens see that we import no more coal from Vancouver Island while we have it within our territory at Kenai Bay. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company carry the coal which they use for their steamers from the Atlantic side round Cape Horn. Perhaps these new mines may give them what they want nearer home.

In regard to the existence of copper, there can be no doubt. The Indians possess various dishes, plates, etc., which have been made from the pure metal. When the early voyagers first saw them they found them eager to trade for iron, but they had no desire for copper, of which they had sufficient. Iron has also been found at Sitka, and a gentleman who has been there within a year says that he has seen a blacksmith repairing the machinery of a steamer with iron

which he had extracted from the ore of that island. Let some of our citizens, with their eyes for mineral wealth, visit this country, and it is not improbable that it will be found to supply to the Pacific coast what it needs—abundance of iron and coal; and will add those mines of gold and silver which are already the wonder of the world.

The fish of this country are most abundant. The natives live on them. Every voyager speaks of the halibut as large and abundant. The cod fishery along its coast is carried on by vessels from San Francisco. It was begun some six years ago by a native of Massachusetts, who had often fished on the banks of Newfoundland. His first voyage was with a single vessel, and now some dozen vessels sail each spring from San Francisco to fish for cod. The cod banks are said to extend along the shore south of Kodiak, and the fish are very large and abundant. There are also banks which have been fished over on the Asiatic coasts. At present the population of the Pacific coast do not consume a great quantity of salt fish, but if the supply is increased the demand will increase.

The whaling ground is mostly above Behring Strait in the Arctic Ocean, though whales abound above the Aleutian Islands. The whalers winter at the Sandwich Islands, and pass up through the Strait in the early spring, returning in the fall. By the treaty of 1825, between the United States and Russia, it was agreed

"That in any part of the great ocean, commonly called the Pacific Ocean, or South Sea, the respective citizens or subjects of the high contracting powers shall be neither disturbed nor restrained, either in navigation or in fishing, or in the power of resorting to the coasts upon points which may not already have been occupied for the purpose of trading with the natives, saving always the restrictions and conditions determined by the following articles."

One of which provided that the citizens of the United States should not resort to any point where there was a Russian establishment without the permission of the governor or commander.

It might seem as if this treaty gave to the citizens of the United States all the facilities for fishing on the Russian coast which they require; but it did not. The Russian Governor construed this treaty in such a way that our vessels were not allowed to fish either for whales or codfish in certain parts of the coast where these fish abound, and the negotiations which brought about the recent treaty originated in the desire of the Pacific coast to have additional privileges for fishing.

The use of the harbor on the coast will not be of much advantage to our fishermen; for whalers do not frequent harbors and carry their supplies with them, neither would it be well for them to winter in them, for after a summer's whaling they require to be refitted, and the damp atmosphere of this climate is very unsuitable for tightening rigging.

The cod fishery can never be carried on successfully from this coast, for the fish must be cur-