

it does not produce, and even the luxuries of life. It is more than probable that the population of Iceland (and this may be said to be true also of other Arctic countries of small population) will increase in the near future instead of decrease, as has been threatened and predicted. Certainly if the Icelanders handle their own fisheries, as they should, and not leave them to the Americans and French (the latter nearly monopolize them), they would have to ask for help to do so, which is another way of expressing immigration.

The iron mines of Finland are mathematically in temperate climes, but the workmen as they blow on the tips of their fingers pronounce it emphatically Arctic in climate. The Norwegian fisheries, wholly within the Arctic, have a much milder winter climate. The latest reports from these Finnish mines show 17,000 workmen employed, being some of the most well-to-do people of that desolate region. It is not our intention to give statistics in tons and number of blast-furnaces, etc., sufficient to say the metal is of the bog iron variety, giving the very best pig iron when smelted.

There is enough known of the industries of Siberia to say that where there is a dollar in them at present, there are a thousand lying dormant and in full sight. The increase during the last fifteen years has fully equalled that of the United States, under the strenuous efforts of Russia to take advantage of such evident resources, but the master stroke of all efforts has been recently made by an Imperial decree ordering a railroad built from the terminus of the present Russian system in the Urals to Vladivostock on the Pacific shores, which, when completed, will be, by about double, the longest railroad in the world. The valuable gold mines on the heads of the tributaries of the

Amoor, and the unusually rich timber region of the Usuri, may not be Arctic exactly, but the swarming fisheries of the north-east, the rich furs of the Arctic coast with Kamchatka and the adjacent islands are all cold weather commerce. All this part of the polar world is steadily on the increase in all the element of civilization. It is from this region whence come the garments Junius Henri Browne describes as seeing at the great fair at Nijni Novgorod and worth \$2,500 to \$3,500 apiece.

The Labrador seal fisheries are essentially Arctic in risk, climatic conditions, and all others too, except being south of the north polar circle. The skins bring about a dollar each, and the animal catch has varied between such wide limits at 50,000 to 500,000 and even over. These are converted into foot-gear for mankind and harness for horses, while it has been asserted that the finer skins, probably the kitten seals, find themselves wrought up into kid gloves for the fairer sex. Twenty-five steamers, and eight to ten times as many sailing vessels, manned by a force of over 10,000 Arctic seamen, find employment here during the "season" of about three months in the summer. The fat is worth about as much more and during fruitful seasons the catch is a mine of wealth to the ports of Newfoundland; one-third going to the catchers.

I might mention the copper mines of Alten in Norway, where singularly enough, the greatest discomfort is in the excessive underground heat from which the workmen suffer. The Russian government announces valuable silver discoveries on the White sea shores; although it is known that more than 150 years ago Saxon workmen mined silver, copper and lead around the White sea.

But of all the resources known there is nothing that can compare