

When the merchants return in spring with the Chinese goods, which are of greater bulk and weight than the Russian commodities, they proceed by water; descend the streams of most of the rivers, namely, the Selenga, Angara, Tunguska, Ket, and Oby, to its junction with the Irtysh; they ascend that river to Tobolsk, and travel by land to Moscow and Peterburgh.

Before the passage from Okotsk to Bolcherefsk was discovered in 1716, the only communication between Kamtschatka and Siberia was by land; and the road lay by Anadirsk to Yakutsk. The furs* of Kamtschatka and of the Eastern Isles are now conveyed from that peninsula by water to Okotsk; from thence to Yakutsk on horse-back, or by rein-deer. The roads are so rugged and marshy that the journey lasts at least six weeks.

Yakutsk is situated on the Lena, and is the principal town, where the choicest furs are brought in their way to Kiakta, as well from Kamtschatka as from the northern parts of Siberia, which lie on the rivers Lena, Yana, and Indigirka. At Yakutsk the goods are embarked on the Lena, towed up the stream as far as Verkolenfsk, or Katsheg; from thence transported over a short tract of land to the rivulet Buguldeika, down that stream to the lake Baikal, across the lake to the mouth of the Selenga, and up that river to the neighbourhood of Kiakta.

* The furs, which are generally landed on the eastern coast of Kamtschatka, are either sent by sea to Bolcheretsk, or transported across the peninsula in sledges drawn by dogs. The latter conveyance is only used in winter; and is the common mode of travelling in that country. In summer there is no conveyance, as the peninsula contains neither oxen, horses, or rein-deer. S. R. G. III, p. 478.