

beautiful, being situated high up among the mountains, and are favorite places of resort during the summer months, when the atmosphere of the plains becomes very oppressive.

Japan is not devoid of mineral wealth. Gold and silver were exported in considerable quantities by the Dutch and Portuguese, three centuries ago, but the present output of these metals is small. Copper is now an important article of export, and iron, tin and lead are also found. Coal is plentiful, but of inferior quality.

Although, on account of its character, only a small part of the country is capable of cultivation, Japan's principal source of wealth is agriculture. Its plains are exceedingly fruitful, and some of them, such as those surrounding Osaka and Nagoya, which are the largest in the country, yield two crops annually. Rice is the principal crop, but wheat and barley are also grown in considerable quantities, as well as a good variety of roots and other vegetables. Tea, silk and cotton are also valuable products both for home consumption and exportation to other countries. Fruit is generally plentiful, the principal varieties being oranges, persimmons, peaches, plums, apricots, figs, grapes and pears. Japanese pears are, however, very disappointing, being hard, coarse and almost devoid of flavor. Apples grow in the north, but are of inferior quality, and cherry trees abound and their blossoms are magnificent, but they bear no fruit.

Flowers may be seen in bloom the year round, except, perhaps, in the extreme north, and some of them, especially the chrysanthemums, grow to perfection. There is one thing, however, the lack of which sadly impairs the beauty of the country, and that is grass. Grass there is to be sure, but so coarse that sheep cannot live upon it, and one never sees a green meadow or lawn such as are so plentiful in Canada.

Japan is fairly supplied with animals, horses and cattle being the chief domestic ones. The Japanese horse is not a noble looking beast, being small and ill-shaped. Neither is his temper, as a rule, what it ought to be. He is fond of using both his heels and teeth for purposes other than those for which they are popularly supposed to have been intended, but he is strong, and efforts are now being made to improve his breed. He is used principally for military purposes, but sometimes as a beast of burden.

On account of the prevalence of Buddhism, which forbids taking life and using flesh as food, there was formerly little use for cattle, but now since Buddhism has, to a certain extent, lost its hold upon the people, and most of those who can afford it have taken to eating meat and drinking milk, the demand has greatly increased. Pigs are scarcely to be found in Japan, and there are no sheep except such as are brought over from China, but in addition to beef, horse flesh and fowl are used for food.

Of wild animals, deer and wild boars are the

most plentiful, but foxes, badgers, and in some parts, bears are found.

Birds are not very numerous, but a good many kinds are found, and some of them have beautiful plumage, but very few are songsters. Some one once said "there are three remarkable things to be observed in Japan, viz, birds without song, roses without scent and cats without tails." This, generally speaking, is true, and if he had added that Japanese dogs have neither beauty nor sense no one would have contradicted him, for I believe that in ugliness and uselessness the dogs of this country are matchless.

Next to rice, fish is the chief article of food for the Japanese. Both in the sea which surrounds their island home and in the inland waters, fish abound in almost endless variety, and are a great source of wealth to the country.

The climate of Japan varies considerably. In the northernmost island the average temperature for the whole year is about 45° Far., at Tokio it is about 57°, and at Nagasaki in the south it is 62°. The extent of latitude accounts for this to some degree, but the climate is mainly influenced by monsoons and ocean currents. The prevailing wind from May till August is S. W. It blows off the Indian Ocean, and being accompanied by heavy rains produces a hot and damp summer. The N. E. monsoon continues from Oct. to Feb., making the winter months cool. Sharp, frosty nights follow bright warm days, but changes of temperature are not so sudden or marked as in Canada. The southern part of Japan being in the latitude of Egypt, and having the Black stream from the equator flowing along its eastern coast, has a climate almost tropical in summer, while the northern part, being struck by an Arctic current is colder than England.

As there is scarcely any real country life in Japan, villages, towns and cities are numerous, and some of them very large. Tokio, the capital, extends nearly ten miles from north to south, and nearly the same distance from east to west. It is rapidly increasing in size, and now has a population of 1,200,000. Next comes Osaka, also a growing city; with a population of about half a million. Kioto, the ancient capital, is not so large as it was in the days of the Mikado's residence there, but still is the third city and has a population of about 300,000. These three are "Fu" or first-class cities, so called from being or having been the place of Imperial residence and the capital of the country. After these come the ordinary cities called "Shi," of which Nagoya with its 200,000 souls is chief.

Japanese cities are, as a rule, well laid out and have moderately wide and well made streets, with a small open sewer on either side of each. Except on one or two streets in Tokio, sidewalks are not found outside the foreign concessions of the treaty ports, but, there being no heavy wag-