

settlement of a country. The great gainers by such mining regions are the outside centres of supply, whose creation is not due to the discovery of minerals, and whose permanence is dependent on other sources of business.

A far more valuable mineral than gold or silver, is coal. Although coal has been found at several points in Alaska, yet up to the present it has not been mined for commercial purposes. That country has the greatest stability whose principal resources are food, hence the ultimate and inevitable success of Manitoba and the North-west.

To sum up, the mineral resources of Alaska thus far developed are gold mines, and of these the Treadwell mine produces nearly the whole annual yield.

We now come to the last of the natural resources of Alaska, viz : timber. The public is apt to associate with the word Alaska a cold, barren, rocky country. But such is not the case, especially not in south-eastern Alaska, where, on account of the mild temperature and copious rains, a luxuriant vegetation is seen on the strip bordering the sea. Heavy carpets and festoons of beautiful mosses, luxuriant ferns and dense undergrowth, characterize the coast region. The whole area is densely wooded. The timber line is found at an elevation of about 2,500 feet. Spruce and hemlock are the predominant varieties of wood ; red and yellow cedar are also found, but in limited quantities. On deltas and sea level terminal moraines, the poplar and cottonwood are found. The alder flourishes on old moraines and on snow slides, and the crab apple is sparingly scattered through the forest.

Although the country is densely wooded, yet the timber fit for the mill is very limited, and hence no very great value attaches to it. For some, not very apparent, reason, the United States government prohibits the manufacture of lumber in Alaska for export, even into the United States. There are a number of small saw-mills in the country, which supply the limited demand for building purposes and for the shooks used by the canneries for salmon cases or boxes. The spruce grows to a very respectable size. I have measured some logs over five feet in diameter ; however, the average is under three feet. Soil there is not much, and it is astonishing on how little the trees grow. How-