

which runs from the south into the heart of the country is of sufficient extent to support twenty or thirty million people. Here, where communication from town to town and from the interior to the sea-coast is easy, progress has always been rapid. And the fertility of the soil is such that crops of millet, wheat, barley, beans, rice, hemp, etc., scarcely to be equalled elsewhere, are grown. Food is, therefore, abundant and cheap, and there is ample surplus production for export.

As a result of this abundance, man and beast are well fed, and with the neighbouring pasture-lands of Mongolia to serve as a breeding ground, and with a plentiful supply of grain always at hand in the agricultural districts, the domestic animals are numerous. The inhabitant of Manchuria need never want for sheep or cattle for slaughter, oxen or ponies for his plough, or mules and donkeys for his carts. Agricultural operations are, therefore, easily carried on, the produce is with little expense transported to market, and the means of proceeding from one district to another are readily available. In all these respects development is greatly favoured.