

If in addition to these many natural advantages, the country were also blessed with mineral wealth, etc., its future would indeed be assured, but as yet we have in this respect only indications and no certain facts. This much, however, I can say, that in several different parts we heard of gold as well as of coal, and that in one place we found gold, silver, coal and iron within a few miles of one another. That little has so far been heard of the mineral wealth of Manchuria is due to the fact that the Chinese Government absolutely prohibit mining by private individuals.

This fertile land, blessed as it is with a favourable climate, navigable rivers and capacious harbours, possesses the further all-important advantage that it is populated by an advanced and industrious race. Of the twenty million inhabitants, probably ninety-five per cent. are Chinese, and the remainder of that race which two and a half centuries ago conquered the whole of China and nominally rule it to the present day. The industry and intelligence of the Chinese are proverbial, and in Manchuria, both Mr. James and I were especially struck with the energy they showed as pioneers