

To Denmark belong Iceland and the Faroe Isles, lying north of the Shetlands. Iceland is formed in part of volcanic rocks, and possesses an active volcano—Mount Hekla—and many hot-springs and geysers. Sheep and ponies are reared, but the cold climate renders agriculture difficult, and the inhabitants subsist mainly by fishing, and by collecting birds' eggs and the feathers of the eider-duck. (For commercial statistics, see p. 120.)

SCANDINAVIA.

The highlands which traverse the peninsula are called the Kiølen Mountains in the north, and the Dovre-Field and Hardanger Field in the south. They lie nearer the west than the east coast, and are deeply trenched by river valleys. These rivers descend on the west, often by means of waterfalls, into the submerged estuaries which form the characteristic deep fiords along the coast; while eastwards the slope is more gradual, and the rivers, which expand in places into long, narrow lakes, exhibit a peculiar parallelism in their courses. None of these rivers are of much use for navigation, but some of their valleys define routes, as, for example, the Glommen, which is followed by a railway from Christiania to Trondhjem. They also afford water-power, which is being more and more utilized.

The altitude of the Scandinavian highlands, above 3,000 feet over large areas, has had considerable influence on the climate, and causes much of the peninsula to be unproductive. The more westerly position of Norway, exposing the country to warm winds from the ocean, favourably affects its temperature compared with that of Sweden, but the chief difference between the two climates lies in the far greater range of temperature in Sweden.

In winter, when all the Baltic ports, and even Christiania, are frozen, those on the west coast of Norway are open; and, on this account, the railway from Luleå to the iron-mines of Mount Gellivara has been extended to the head of the Ofoten Fiord, so that it will be possible to export the ore at all seasons. On account of its northern latitude, Scandinavia enjoys peculiarly long days in summer, which partly compensate for the shortness of the season and the correspondingly long nights of winter. The rainfall in Norway is naturally heavier than in Sweden, and the country more subject to fogs, while in winter both lands are generally buried under snow.