



RUSSIA : ECONOMIC.

*The Black-Earth Region.*—South of the forests, and notably in the South-West of Russia, the occurrence of a black earth of extraordinary fertility has led to the conversion of the original grass-lands into vast fields of wheat and maize. The sugar-beet is also cultivated widely in the Dnieper valley, where Kiev is a great sugar-refining centre; while tobacco flourishes around Kishinev, in the Dniester valley, and near Samara and Saratov, on the Volga. The chief port for this agricultural region is Odessa, on the Black Sea, which has a deep harbour, and is sometimes frozen for only about two and a half months in winter. Other ports are Kherson, at the mouth of the Dnieper, Nikolaiev, and Taganrog.