

Iron manganese, which is used in making steel and glass, are found near the Black Sea. Copper occurs in the east, and rock-salt has long been mined near Erivan. Still more important are the vast supplies of petroleum obtained from wells at **Baku** on the Caspian. A large quantity of this is conveyed by rail and in pipes to Batum and Poti for exportation. Both these places have large factories for refining the oil, and the latter has a good harbour.

People **Tiflis**, the capital of Trans-Caucasia, lies in the Kur Valley, on the railway between Poti and Baku, and commands the famous road over the Dariel Pass (see p. 5). The town exhibits a curious variety of European and Asiatic features, and has a mixed population, composed of Russians, Georgians, Armenians, and Persians. Various nomadic tribes dwell on the Armenian plateau besides the Armenians, who lead a settled life (see p. 52). The chief Russian town is Erivan, whither routes converge from Asia Minor and Persia.

QUESTIONS ON ASIATIC RUSSIA.

1. Describe the frontier of Asiatic Russia, and the extent to which it corresponds with physical features.
2. What difficulties hinder the Russian Empire from becoming a maritime Power ?
3. Draw a sketch-map of the Siberian Railway. State what goods will be exported from the districts it traverses, what goods imported by it to these parts, and what goods may pass over it from foreign lands as transit traffic to Europe.
4. Contrast the life of a Steppe-dweller with that of a stock-rearer in the United Kingdom.
5. What do you know of the Russian exile system ?
6. By what routes does the Russian Empire trade with the Chinese Empire ? What are the chief goods imported by these routes ?
7. To what extent can the Russian Empire, on account of its size and the variety of its products, be self-supporting ?
8. What advantages may an area which is naturally arid, but can be irrigated, have over one possessing a fair rainfall ?
9. State the uses of petroleum, and mention products of economic value that are obtained from it.

TURKEY IN ASIA.

THIS consists of (1) the plateau of Asia Minor ; (2) part of the plateau of Armenia ; (3) the diversified plateau of Syria ; (4) the plain of Mesopotamia ; (5) certain coastal districts of the Arabian Peninsula.