

KOREA.

THIS is a mountainous peninsula traversed by a range which lies nearer the east than the west coast. The rainfall occurs in summer, and is heavy on the eastern slopes of the mountains, which are densely clad with forests. The most fertile areas lie near the west coast, where rice, millet, beans, hemp, cotton, and ginseng, are cultivated. A good deal of gold is mined in the north.

Wild-fowl abound in the coastal districts, and the seas are rich in fish; but violent high-tides render navigation difficult along the west coast, and the only good eastern port is Fusan. This is now connected with the port of Chemulpo on the west by a railway, which passes through **Seoul**, the capital of the country. The river on which Seoul stands is navigable with difficulty to that point.

Korea, though nominally independent since the Chinese-Japanese war, is practically under Japanese influence, and many Japanese have settled there in recent times. The **chief exports** in order of value are: Pulses, ginseng, rice, and hides.

QUESTIONS ON PERSIA AND CENTRAL ASIA.

1. By a recent treaty the Russian sphere of enterprise in Persia lies north of a line drawn from the meeting-place of the frontiers of Afghanistan, Turkistan and Persia to Yezd, and on near Ispahan and Kermanshah to the western frontier. The British sphere lies south-east of a line through Bender Abbas, Kerman, and Birjand, and the rest of the country is neutral. Compare the political and economic value of these areas (see map in the "Statesman's Year Book," 1908).
2. Compare and contrast life in the deserts of Arabia, Mongolia, and the Tundra.
3. Give an account of Afghanistan, and explain the extent to which it may be regarded as a Buffer State.
4. What facts have led to the suggestion that a change of climate has taken place in the Tarim basin during historic times?
5. What minerals of economic value are often found in arid regions?

CHINA.

THIS is a very compact mass of land of roughly circular shape, which protrudes into the Pacific on the east, and ascends on the north and west to the plateaux of Mongolia and Tibet. From the latter it is, to a large extent, cut off by a series of ranges and deep gorges running north and south; but the exposed nature of the northern frontier led to the con-