

**THE INDUSTRIES OF  
RUSSIA. SIBERIA  
AND THE GREAT SIBERIAN  
RAILWAY, VOL. V**

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The Industries of Russia. Siberia and the Great Siberian Railway, Vol. V by Department of Trade and Manufacture Ministry of Finance & John Martin Crawford

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND MANUFACTURE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE & JOHN MARTIN CRAWFORD**

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## P R E F A C E.

The beginning of the construction of the Great Siberian Railway, which will unite the most distant points of Europe and Asia and will draw the Old World nearer to the New, practically coincides with the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America.

The accomplishment of this magnificent and historic task has fallen to the lot of Russia. Notwithstanding the enormity of the material expenses, Russia has cheerfully and earnestly accepted the undertaking, one of the most important in the history of peaceful acquisition, of knowledge and of labour.

The Great Siberian Railway will benefit not only Russia, it will do great service to the material and spiritual cultivation of humanity, and from this point of view will acquire much importance and interest for the whole civilized world. Following this idea, Mr. S. J. Vitte, Minister of Finance, commissioned the Department of Trade and Manufactures, to prepare for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago a description of this great railroad, and also of Siberia, a land little known to the people outside of the Empire.

The present volume therefore contains a history of the occupation and colonization of this extensive territory, its geographical description, the review of its industry and trade, the description of its land and water communications, and finally the history and contemporary state of the questions concerning the construction of the Great Siberian

Railway. In order to explain more clearly the geography of the land, this work is furnished with a map of the Russian Empire showing the general network of Russian railways, together with the Great Siberian Railway as well as the principal deposits of the noble metals, with which the country is richly provided.

The present edition has been accomplished under the direction of Mr. V. I. Kovalevsky, Director of the Department of Trade and Manufactures, and President of the Imperial Russian Commission for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, together with the active assistance of Senator P. P. Semenov, Vice-President of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, a man well known to the civilized world through his geographical works. This volume is being simultaneously translated into the English language with the kind assistance of the Consul-General of the United States, Mr. J. M. Crawford, who consented at the request of the Imperial Ministry of Finance to supervise and edit the English translation of this work.

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## P R E F A C E

TO THE  
ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

Of that great expanse of territory reaching all the way from the Ural mountains to the Pacific Ocean and from the Frozen seas to the borders of the Celestial Empire there is perhaps little more than the name, *Siberia*, authentically known to the general public. Yet with its wide-stretching plains, its magnificent water systems and its unknown wealth of noble metals and other valuable mineral deposits buried in its bosom, there is for such a land a future too great to be overlooked at the present day.

With the steel rails of the Great Siberian Railway piercing their steady way through the vast country to the Far East, thus completing the great arc of the circle that in direct lines, winding about the 50th parallel of north latitude, will steam around the world, the resources of this great unknown become of immediate importance to our own Pacific slopes, and through them to the whole people of the United States. It was therefore with great satisfaction that I welcomed this the 5th volume of the series on *The Industries of Russia*, designed for the World's Columbian Exposition, and accepted the invitation of the Imperial Minister



of Finance to edit and supervise its translation into English. In full realization of its unquestionable interest and value to the American people I have laboured hard to make this Edition as faithful to the original as the very limited time and exigencies of the case would permit.

Together with an historical account of the conquest of Siberia, of the subjugation of the petty principedoms and nomads, with a glimpse of the colonization going on up to the present day, and with a review of the efforts of the Government to induce the various Siberian tribes to adopt settled modes of life and engage in regular industrial pursuits, will be found a full and scientific resumé of its flora and fauna, of its mineral resources, its possibilities of agriculture and trade, and of its climatic and physical characteristics.

This work contains also numerous official tables and statistics covering the several industries of the country, and is accompanied with a general map, showing among other matters of interest the various railway surveys that have been made, examined and rejected, as well as the line which now, in process of construction, winds its way along the rivers, over the mountains and across the vast plains on its way to the eastern shores, thus to form a through railway route from ocean to ocean in the Old as in the New World, to the mutual advantage of the two great and friendly nations, the Empire of Russia and the Republic of the United States of America.

To His Excellence, Mr. V. I. Kovalevsky, Director of the Department of Trade and Manufactures, Actual Councillor of State, and President of the Imperial Russian Commission, World's Columbian Exposition, ably assisted by Senator P. P. Semenov, Vice-President of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, is due the well-earned credit and honour of formulating and of carrying out the original idea of His Excellence, Mr. S. J. Vitte, Imperial Minister of Finance, with reference to the preparation of this work, and of editing and publishing the same in the Russian language.

Although this volume, like all the others of this series, has been prepared in extreme haste and under very great difficulties, rendering it impossible to avoid errors, nevertheless, I trust the reader will find pleasure and profit in examining this authentic and official resumé of the present and future interests of that enormous and immensely rich country, Siberia, the Great East of the Russian Empire, separated only by pacific waters from the Great West of the United States, and which are destined in the near future to be in intimate commercial relations with each other.

J. M. Crawford.

St. Petersburg, August 15, 1893.

