

*Polar Regions in the Twentieth Century*

Hammerfest, in 70° 04' N., is the most northerly city of the continental world, and from its remote locality might be thought inactive and somnolent. Yet it has replaced by its 3,210 inhabitants the arctic activities long fostered by the British. Here largely center the sea-oil industries, dependent on the thousands of mariners who seek cod and other fish. It has also built up and conducts a large trade with the people of the White Sea regions. Nearly destroyed by fire in 1890, the city was promptly rebuilt along modern lines. Alive to the march of progress elsewhere, it harnessed its neighboring waterfall, and set an example to all Norway by being the first city of that country to be lighted by electricity.

The most remote of arctic towns are Vardo and Vadso, north of the 70th parallel, situated at the mouth of Varanger Fiord, on the shores of Barents Sea. Along the north shore of the fiord is a road of 130 miles, which connects Vardo with the Tana-Karasjok road in the interior. Vardo (population 3,488) is one of the few arctic ports that is open the entire year, which makes it an important business center. It has a British consul, a customs officer, county medical officer, hospital and newspaper; it enjoys frequent steamer service with Southern Norway. This polar outpost, one of the most northerly in the world, is the principal factor in controlling the trade with North Finland, and in exploiting the resources of Barents Sea. The