

of this work. The map shows that the wild camel frequents principally the following parts of Innermost Asia — (1) the region in which the Kerija-darja dies away in the desert; (2) the entire southern foot of the Kuruk-tagh; (3) the southern half of the swelling between the Tschöl-tagh and the Kuruk-tagh; (4) the desert between the Kuruk-tagh and the Astin-tagh; (5) the desert north of the Anambaruin-ula; (6) the whole of the eastern Astin-tagh; and (7) the border region between the kakir of Usun-schor and northern Tsajdam. The native hunters are said to have observed that the wild camel, in its wanderings from the desert to the mountains and from the mountains to the desert, makes use of only the following transverse glens in the Astin-tagh—Tschokola, Satschkan, Japkaklik, Mus-saj, Tasch-köl, and Hun-tschan; the reason no doubt being that these glens are broader and opener than the others, and the camels consequently feel themselves more secure against ambushes. But from what I have stated above it will be plain, that a map of the localities in which the wild camel really does resort would be different in summer from what it would be in winter.

One of my men, a hunter from Lop, told me that the wild camel is not so much sought after now since there is less demand for the skin. Formerly a skin would fetch 2 liang in Chinese silver, but now only one, whereas the raw hide of the wild yak is worth 3 liang, and the dressed hide 5 liang. That this region really was unknown to my native servants was proved by the fact that a couple of them considered they had made an important discovery, and resolved to return there in the following summer in order to hunt the wild camel.

With regard to the old road, it is very probable that it did touch this spring, and indeed in the country to the north-east of it we shortly afterwards discovered its continuation. On Dr. G. Wegener's map, »Übersicht des Kwen-lun Gebirges,»* we find entered »einige wichtige chinesische Strassenzüge», and amongst them, in precisely this region that we are considering, a road which runs from Sa-tschou and the district of Usun-schor, though it is marked by a sign of interrogation. It is however beyond all question that such a road really did exist, although it was a Mongol rather than a Chinese road. I shall revert to its further continuation presently.

Generally the geography of Tsajdam is but little known. While the south-eastern part of this elliptical basin has been visited by several travellers, such as Prschevalskij, Kosloff, Carey, Rockhill and myself, its north-western part has remained quite unknown, and is so still, with the exception of the part that I have just described. With regard to the central parts, only one expedition so far as I know, namely that of Carey and Dalglish, has ever penetrated across Tsajdam. That expedition started from Hadschar on the Batughantu-gol and travelled north-east to the region of Machaj, which was reached after an eight days' march. The locality in which the Batughantu-gol dies away in the central part of the basin is marked on the map, »Bed of caked salt», and north-east of it is a strip of »sand hills», a couple of days across; to the south-west of Hadschar-tsacha there are also »sand mounds». Thus in this part of the interior of Tsajdam there exists a belt of

* In *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin*, vol. XXVI. Pl 6.