

leave me in the lurch, and I shall therefore always feel a deep debt of gratitude towards the German air-line company.

In order to find points of departure and new channels for discussion I wrote a letter to LIU FU, stating it as my conviction that we should certainly come to an agreement in the essential points and that with a little good will from both sides we could resolve the points at which we were still at variance.

THE PAO-T'OU GROUP

From Major HEMPEL I received a reassuring letter. All was well in Pao-t'ou. The journey had passed without a hitch. No *likin* had been demanded, and CHANG TSO-LIN's letter to Marshal YANG in Urumchi, which HEMPEL had taken as an extra passport, had worked like a charm everywhere. It was understood that a party of Europeans with such a powerful protector must not be molested. All the members were busily repacking, stowing provisions and kit into cases and boxes suitable for camel-transport. A dozen first-class camels had been purchased. Three soldiers had been detailed by the military authorities in Pao-t'ou for guard-duty outside the spacious premises that constituted the head-quarters of the expedition. This guard-duty was also shared by the members of the European staff, who took turn and turn about every night.

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. WONG

On March 30th I was visited by Mr YUNG, who came to hear what demands had been made by the opposition. When he heard the chief points he burst out laughing, and seemed not inclined to take them tragically.

I myself called upon Dr WONG WEN-HAO, who said that he found all these demands rather moderate.

Wong: Such an agreement is more in the nature of a formality. It will not cause you any trouble. It may even turn out to be useful, if you should happen to run into difficulties in the provinces.

I: I will not have at my side a co-leader of the expedition on a footing of equality with myself, for such an arrangement is in practice impossible to sustain and will only give rise to friction and discord.

Wong: This matter is also a pure formality. If a decent and quiet fellow is chosen for this dignity he won't cause you any trouble, it will in any case be you who will do the deciding. And he may prove very useful in negotiations with the local authorities.

I: I should be sharply criticized, and with justice, if after taking an archae-