

a low plateau where LARSON had encamped; and here the new tent community gradually grew up.

Just after three o'clock the wind increased to a regular gale. The fine dust sifted in through the canvas of the tents. Inside, everything was covered with fine sand. The bed, the mat, chests and boxes — all were covered with a yellow layer, and the washing water soon looked like pease soup. One could not make out a single feature of one's surroundings; one saw nothing but yellow, swirling dust, mantling even the nearest tents from view. The wind already had a velocity of twenty-four second/meters. The temperature rose only to 23° Centigrade. According to HAUDE the storm extended to five hundred meters above the surface of the earth.

From Pao-t'ou we had travelled 473.7 kilometers, leaving 420 to the Edsen-gol. We had been told that at Shande-miao there was a tax-station where one had to pay five dollars on every chest. However, not a word was mentioned about taxes, and we did not pay a cent. We were advised not to hold too hard to the north on our march westwards, as otherwise we might fall into the clutches of the tax-gatherers of the Mongolian Republic. The nearest republican tax-station was situated only 120 li to the north of our present camp.

We were obliged to stay for a couple of days at Shande-miao to rest and pasture the camels; we had also to re-pack and select the chests to be left behind for NORIN's and YUAN's columns. This place was not so bad. From the Chinese merchants one could buy candles and matches and a number of other such trifles. We were at an altitude of somewhat more than 1700 meters above sea-level, and at night the temperature sank to +6° C., so the climate was good.

The first day was largely taken up with clearing up after the dust-storm. Everything had to be beaten and aired. LARSON, MARSCHALL and HASLUND attended to the question of provisions. Four of the Chinese coolies who had been taken on at camp IX were discharged, and two others were enrolled.

On August 20th we were caught up by HUANG's little caravan. He had stayed behind for four days at camp XIII at the Hailutain-gol and dug up seventy objects of bronze, mostly arrow-heads, one hundred and seventy iron objects and twenty of bone, as well as Han coins. He told us also that BERGMAN had discovered some fine stone-age dwelling sites since we had left the camp, with rich inventories of worked flint tools.

From the merchants at Shande-miao we had heard that one could travel down to the bend of the Yellow River in two days. I made a few calculations and came to the conclusion that it would be of value for our mapping work to connect up with the great bend of the river. On the morning of the 21st I instructed LARSON to get together a light little caravan, at the same time giving HEMPEL and ZIMMERMANN a program to carry out and a number of commissions. With the students LIU and MA as interpreters they were to betake themselves to the nearest