

A number of lamas came to visit the camp and wandered between the tents in wondering groups. Clad in dirty red togas that left their copper-brown arms bare, they sat and gaped, full of astonishment at all they saw. Our dogs had their work cut out keeping track of riders, pilgrims and monastery dogs. Dicky had to be locked up at night, for he had a heroic little temper that prompted him to fling himself into the thick of the fray whenever there was a dog-fight going on.

REPORT OF THE HUANG-HO EXPEDITION

On the evening of August 26th HEMPEL, ZIMMERMANN, LIU and MA returned from their tour to the Huang-ho valley. They brought the most wonderful water-melons with them, having purchased as many of these as their camels could carry. They had also cabbages, beets, potatoes, corn-cobs, radishes etc. — all things that one regards as very much of a treat in the interior of Mongolia. The distance as the crow flies to the Catholic mission station San-tao-chiao, where Père HILAIRE RODTS, the Belgian missionary, resided, was 57.9 kilometers S 56° E. I will give here a short résumé of the report of the two German majors.

On August 21st they had ridden with their little party in a south-easterly and southerly direction to the Lang-shan, that from the north appears insignificant enough, most resembling a low, hilly country traversed by several valleys. The route sloped slowly down into a valley, where at a Mongol station they were questioned as to their business and their destination. The country was strongly sand-bound in these parts, and there were heaped sand-dunes to a height of ten or twenty meters. There were a few deserted old houses, evidently abandoned on account of the sand.

The narrow valley was shut in between black, naked rocks. The party camped here near a Mongol yurt and a tent beside a little stream.

The following day they proceeded in a south-easterly direction towards a pass, while the valley continued southwards. The way up to the pass led over the dunes. On the crown stood an obo with a Tibetan inscription carved in wood (Dabatein-obo). The climb from the north was steep, to the south more gradual — one would have expected the reverse. The valley was not without a certain romantic beauty, shut in as it was between bare rocks and covered with some vegetation and even with a few odd trees. Somewhat farther down it curved round to the east. In one place they came to a great sand barrier, a gigantic dune, with a downward grade to the east of 35°. At the eastern foot they found springs filtered by the sand. The dune was thirty meters in height.

Winding and narrow, and squeezed in between precipitous mountain-walls, the latter two hundred and fifty meters high on the right-hand side, the valley continued downwards in the direction of the plains of the Huang-ho. Old fortifica-