

could not resist the temptation of a visit. He was now tenting with his young wife and a Mongol a little farther down the river. I invited the two of them to lunch.

These two Russians were extremely likable, and they came like a greeting from the outer world. He spoke fluent German, but she knew only Russian and a little Mongolian. In their blue Mongolian sheepskin coats with belts and their fur caps they made a striking picture in our camp. But she was shy at the sudden transition from the depths of the desert to the company of a lot of white men.

NORIN, who was to lead the northern column to Hami, questioned SEMUKOV about the route he intended to take, for the Russian couple had just covered a part of it themselves.

Everybody wrote letters home, for SEMUKOV was about to journey direct to Urga, where he would arrive on December 1st, and he had promised to take our mail. A packet of fifteen letters was handed over to him.

THE TORGUTS

The Mongols in the Edsen-gol country are of Torgut extraction. In the 1860's was published a book under the title »Meng-ku Yu-mu-chih» or »Cattle-breeding and Pasture-lands Among the Mongols». The author, CHANG MU, was not able to finish his work. It was completed by HO CH'UI-T'AO. A special volume is devoted to each Mongol tribe. SIU was kind enough to translate for me the principal contents of the little volume on the Torguts. I recognized much of what I had already read in the works of famous sinologues in various European languages.

The progenitor of the Torguts bore the name WUNG KHAN. He was followed by seven generations leading up to BÖGÖ URLUK, who had four sons, the eldest being called JOLE TSAGHAN URLUK. The latter's son HU URLUK (BORO ÖRLEK) lived in the country of Eishörn-ola, a part of Yar, not far from Tarbagatai. At that time Ölöt comprised the following four sub-tribes: Tsoros (the Dzungars), Torgut, Hoshot and Durbet. Hoshot was the only branch that was descended from CHINGGHIS KHAN. Tsoros lived in Ili, Durbet near Irtysh, Torgut in Yar and Hoshot, who had formerly lived in the vicinity of Urumchi, left this tract at the end of the Ming dynasty to conquer, under their chief GUSHI KHAN (KUSHE KHAN), a part of Alakshan, the Kuku-nor district and Tibet. GUSHI KHAN's nephew OCHIRTU KHAN moved his tribe to the pasture-lands of Alakshan. But in 1677 OCHIRTU KHAN was attacked by the Dzungars and killed. After this a number of his kindred moved to the tract around Ning-hsia and were allotted pasture-lands by the emperor. GUSHI KHAN's younger son had sixteen sons. Of these, four had with the permission and aid of the DALAI LAMA settled at Kuku-nor while twelve settled in Alakshan. They received the imperial consent to live in the regions they had chosen, which lay sixty li from the Chinese frontier.