

did not carry as much as a Chinese mule. On the other hand, the latter cost three times as much. The two Chinese soldiers who formed the escort acted as interpreters with the Tibetans.

Chungku was reached on the following day. The country was now only sparsely inhabited, though several hundreds of pack animals—yak oxen and ponies—were passed on the way. Besides the Tibetan inhabitants there were many half-bred Chinese. The Tibetans themselves seemed friendly enough and beamed all over their faces whenever Pereira nodded to them. At each house was tied up a fierce black mastiff. Beyond Chungku Pereira passed through a thinly wooded district with stunted evergreens and scrub, and on January 9 camped in a wood at 12,000 feet with a high snow range on the west. In the valley there were only patches of snow, and only the smaller streams were frozen. Again next day not a house was seen, and a party of Tibetans stuck to Pereira all day as a protection from brigands. After a steep climb up a bare rocky hill-side he reached the summit of Ta-pao-shan, 15,300 feet, on the far side of which was a very slippery descent for a mile over frozen snow. Then the path lay down a deep valley and he camped at a height of 12,600 feet.

On January 11 he continued down the valley and passed through fir trees to a hamlet of three houses, Kuei-yün, the first habitation for 29 miles, and 8 miles farther on reached Mao-nui, 10,350 feet, an interesting little village of thirty families, partly Tibetan and partly Chinese. It consisted of two-storied buildings and contained a Tibetan