

road very muddy. There was a gradual rise of some 900 feet over the Ma-ch'ang-Kou Shan, 9910 feet, then a descent and afterwards a rise to 10,000 feet over the Nan-men Shan. Three or four big villages inhabited chiefly by Chinese were passed. The country all round was hilly, the ridge rising some 500 feet above the valleys. T'ao-chow, 9520 feet, was a dead-alive town of 600 families.

March 8 was a bitterly cold and very gloomy day, with a few inches of snow on the ground. The road lay up and down over bleak bare hills. One village was passed and there was then a steep climb to the Shih-t'ou-kou Shan, 10,700 feet. After this there was a descent to 9800 feet, and then another climb to Pai-sung-kou Shan and another descent to Pan-ch'ise. Then the road passed down a narrow valley which joined the broader Yang-sa-kou and crossed by a good covered bridge to Yang-sa, a town of 55 families situated at an elevation of 8500 feet. A good many pheasants were seen on the march.

From here the road lay down the fairly fertile Yang-sa valley for 6 miles, and then turned to the left by a narrow valley to Kan-kou, a village of 80 families, at 10 miles. Then there was a rather steep climb to the Lien-hua Shan, 10,150 feet, at 14 miles and a gradual descent along the hill-side and a final very steep, muddy, slippery descent to Shan-shen-miao, 8170 feet, a village of 17 families which was reached on March 9. Though the sun was out the weather was bitterly cold, and there was 3 or 4 inches of snow on the pass.