

as much money as possible out of the venture was tacked on, and the result was that they swallowed up all the profit and the mine had to be closed down.

By the Chinese officials also Pereira was hospitably entertained in Lan-chow. The Postal Commissioner, Mr. Chan-bu-to, he describes as belonging to the very small number of really honest Chinese officials. The Military Governor, Lu Hung-tao, he found to be a nice easygoing official of the old school who did not trouble much about political affairs. He was handicapped by having no money, as his predecessor had cleared the Kansu bank and got away with all the money in 1921. The Civil Governor, Pen-lung-Kao, a Chihli man, was much more energetic. The Peking Government, wishing to appoint him to the post but fearing that if they sent him at once as Civil Governor the local people would refuse to accept him, sent him first as Opium Inspector. The plan worked well, as he waited till he was firmly fixed in office and then declared himself Civil Governor.

Jen-chien, the Taoyin-Hsui, was reported to be absolutely honest and a poor man in consequence. When he was asked by his superiors what reforms he advised he boldly replied that all Provincial Treasurers should be foreigners—a bold suggestion for a Chinese official to make. The police magistrate was a fat little man of not much enterprise. The police force of the city numbered three hundred and were a slovenly, useless lot of men. The Military Governor gave Pereira and other European guests an excellent and