

40 yards wide and 5 feet deep. Slight snow had fallen in the early morning, but it soon melted in the valley making the road very heavy going. The road lay all the day up the fertile valley of the Sining Ho. It was about 1 mile wide with hills on either side 200 to 400 feet in height. Several villages were passed.

Giant pandas, according to Père Costanoble, are to be found in the hills north of Sining-fu, but as there are no bamboos in that part Pereira was surprised to hear this: he had thought that they were not found north of Sungpan. Père Costanoble also said that tigers were to be found there.

Some aborigines, whom the Chinese call "Tu-jen", that is "men of the soil", live in the hills to the south-west of Nien-pai-hsien and in the hills north-east of Sining-fu. Père Schram says they are of Mongol origin. Driven out of Liau-t'ung in Manchuria during the Chin dynasty they moved slowly westward across the Ordus, taking seventy-one years to reach Kansu. Here they flourished for several hundred years though they had to fight with the Tibetans. But under the T'ang dynasty they were finally subdued by the Chinese and have now diminished to a mere remnant.

Sining-fu, $200\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Lan-chow, was reached on April 10. It is $24\frac{3}{4}$ miles from P'ing-chung-yi, and the road lay all day up the Sining Ho valley, which is from 1 mile to $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide, lying between sandy hills from 500 to 600 feet in height. The valley is mostly fertile, but belts of land are impregnated with alkaline and uncultivated. The villages are small. A few Mongols and Tibetans were met with. Passing