

consisted of his boy, six followers, including a Tibetan and Mongol interpreter, four soldiers, eight horses and fifteen mules besides the five mules and ten donkeys.

After crossing the Hsuang-shui Ho, the north branch of the Sining River, the road ascends the narrow but fertile valley of the Sining Ho. Treeless hills from 500 to 700 feet in height bounded the valley on either side, though in the valley itself there were trees for the first 3 or 4 miles and a few small Chinese villages. The first stage was only 12 miles and Pereira pitched his tents at San-kun.

Shara-kuto, the last Chinese town, $22\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Tangar, was reached on the following day. It consists of some fifty houses surrounded by a mud wall. Leaving this town and the Sining River valley the road ascends a grassy valley with some recently started cultivation to a pass, 10,780 feet, over the Jih-yüeh Shan range, 27 miles from Tangar. This is the boundary between the Kansu and Ch'ing-hai Provinces. It is also the real boundary between China and Tibet, though the present frontier is the Tang-la Range, running east and west, the divide between the Salween and Mekong rivers.

Typical Tibetan grass land, valleys and hills all grass, and not a tree nor a house to be seen, was the character of the country on the far side; and Pereira encamped on May 12 $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the pass at a height of 10,770 feet. It was generally warm in the daytime, though the winds were rather strong, and it was cold in the mornings. Away to the south could be seen