

about a hundred animals grazing. Next day Pereira marched for 24 miles across the great grass country, crossing the two low ranges running north and south, and then another great grass plain, bounded by the Ko-Ko Nor range on the north, and with a small lake, Wa-yen-nor, about half way. Huge flocks of sheep, goats, yak cattle and horses were grazing on the plain; and sixteen or seventeen black Tibetan tents could be seen in the distance. There were two mud buildings at the end of the lake and a small mud-walled Chinese camp by the road. All these buildings were uninhabited, but were evidently intended for the control of the salt. A small stream, the Tou-t'a Ho, running north into the Ko-Ko Nor, was crossed in the morning, and Pereira camped on the banks of the Dum-ka-tSao stream which flowed south to the Yellow River. Higher up was a small Chinese village with patches of cultivation, while in the plain beyond were several more small Chinese villages. Into places like this, where they can live in houses and cultivate, the Chinese will come. But the pastoral work is done by Mongols and Tibetans, living in tents among their flocks and subsisting chiefly on mutton, tomaba made from a coarse barley, and—usually rancid—butter.

Up to the previous year the route had been little used as the Goloks had raided it for centuries. But since their defeat they have retired to the east, and General Ma Ch'i has garrisons at Ch'a-pu-ch'a and Ta-ho-pa and has opened the country.

On May 14 Pereira left the small stream and