

after passing through low sandy hills and crossing another small cultivated valley in which were three or four small Chinese villages and beyond this some low hills, he reached the fertile irrigated Ch'a-pu-ch'a plain, which is some 3 miles wide and stretches 6 miles to the north and 12 miles to the south to the Yellow River. Ch'a-pu-ch'a has some 85 families of whom 25 are Chinese and the rest Tibetan. The houses were of mud with mud walls round the enclosures. There was a Chinese camp with 200 men about 4 miles to the south.

Gung Nor, the "Egg Lake", $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles, was reached on May 15. After descending the Ch'a-pu-ch'a valley for 4 miles Pereira struck south of west for 10 miles across a great grass plain, where he saw several herds of cattle and some horses but only one solitary Tibetan. On the plain were also several gazelle, some hares, red-legged partridges and many lizards, while on the lake were some wild duck. On the banks of the lake there was a big flock of sheep under the care of a Tibetan woman. But Pereira was surprised at the absence of Tibetan tents: he saw only one. The Tibetan sheep he bought were very tough and appeared to him to have been trained for a Marathon race! The weather was fine and warm, but there was a strong south-west wind blowing, filling the tent with sand.

Leaving the Gung Nor on May 16 he passed over a great plain stretching away for 10 or 12 miles to a high range of hills to the south. This plain was mostly covered with scrub and small streams running south flowed across it.