

here and there villages or a farm surrounded by yellow fields. A very steep rocky descent brought him to Sing-ka, a hamlet of two families on a small level patch 100 feet above the Salween. Pereira made the elevation of this important place 11,090 feet, which would put the Salween at about 500 feet higher than the Mekong at Chamdo.

Speculating on the population of Tibet, Pereira remarks here that the experts who put the population of Tibet at 2,000,000 must err badly. He thinks it must be far more in spite of the country being so sparsely inhabited.

A few Machi snow-white bustard pheasants were seen on the march.

Following down the valley of the Salween on September 17 he reached Ru-a-tung at $19\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The river was very winding and of a greyish colour. The path kept high up on the hill-sides, rising to 12,290 feet at the Tung-ka La at $9\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The hills were fairly wooded and covered with bush. There was a gradual descent to the ferry across a small plain with some dozen farms and a monastery of sixty monks. The fields were bordered by low trees or hedges, chiefly of wild roses and gooseberries, giving them an almost English look. As the Kalon Lama was coming, occasional attempts had been made to repair the road and improve the bridges. The spades used were of a most primitive type and more suitable for children to play with than for serious work. Pereira's party crossed the Salween near Ru-a-tung in five coracles. His two ponies swam it, and had now swum the Yangtze, Mekong and Salween.