

end of Hodgson's Nyenchhen-thánglá chain in some mysterious way. This range existed, of course, only in Sir Henry's imagination, as Nyenchhen-thánglá in Hodgson's, although the latter had at least the authority of Chinese sources.

He concluded: »In giving every possible credit to the Pundits, we must remember that this was not entirely a new country. The portion from Gartok to the north-east was entirely new; but Moorcroft and Henry Strachey had both been up the Indus as far as Gartok. There Strachey heard of the other branch of the Indus now discovered by the Pundits, but he was unable to penetrate into Independent Tibet. He believed, in fact, it was quite impossible for any European traveller to penetrate into that country.»

Sir R. MONTGOMERY said that in 1854 Lord DALHOUSIE tried to make a road from Simla towards Gartok, with the object of opening an overland route to China from India. It was never carried out. Only some 50 years later it was built from Simla to the Tibetan frontier.

In 1868 Montgomerie sent a new Pundit expedition into Western Tibet to explore the country north of Aling-gangri. If possible the exploration was to be carried from Tok-jalung »along the upper road to the Tengri-nor Lake and thence to Lhasa; failing that, to take the route through Majin and Shellifuk towards the Tadum Monastery.»¹ The itinerary goes from Spiti through the upper part of Chumurti and Ladak to Demchok, and thence to Rudok. Then the Pundit went eastwards through the districts of Rawung and Tingche to Dak-korkor. Several small lakes and a large salt lake called Rawung-chaka or Phondok-tso were passed on the way.

On his way from Rudok to Tok-jalung the Pundit saw no high peaks to the north or east, which seemed to prove the existence of a large plain; therefore Changtang. »According to modern maps this plain extends a great way east, nearly up to the end of the Great Wall of China near the city of Sewchoo, to which place the Chief Pundit appears to have got a rough route when in Lhasa.» The further way goes over Chak-chaka and through Majin, a very level country. The drainage sloped to the east, where only comparatively low rounded hills were visible. Passing salt- and borax lakes and travelling S.E. for nine days the party reached a river, Chu-sangpo, so large that it cannot be forded during the summer. »This river flows east-ward and falls into the lake called Nala-Ring-cho, or Cho-sildu, said to be about the same size as the Mansarowar Lake; it has a small island in the centre.» The Pundit heard that one river entered the Lake from the east and another from the north. So far as I touched Nganglaring-tso I saw only the rivers coming from the south and S.W. The Pundit was not permitted to follow the northern route to Tengri-nor, but had to go S.W. to Manasarovar. He followed the Chu-sangpo, also called Sangpo-chu nearly to its source, »crossing one very high range called

¹ Report of the Trans-Himalayan Explorations made during 1868. Proceedings Royal Geogr. Society, Vol. XIV. 1869—70, p. 207.