

route the ordinary way and reminds the Society that he had shown »how very easy the passage by the Changchenmo route really was».¹

T. DOUGLAS FORSYTH'S expeditions over our western mountains into Eastern Turkestan form an epoch in the history of exploration of these tracts. His first journey, a friendly visit to the Atalik Ghazi or Yakub Bek, took place in 1870 and only two Europeans, GEORGE HENDERSON and SHAW, accompanied him. The leader of the expedition was well prepared for his task. Visiting Leh in 1867, Forsyth could convince himself that for centuries a straggling kind of trade had been carried on through Kulu, Lahore and Spiti and over the Himalayas and Kara-korum between Eastern Turkestan and Panjab, and he found that there was every prospect of a fair trade reviving if the obstacles caused by oppression were removed. He even encouraged the Yarkandis by proclamations, and got himself an excellent support in Sir RODERICK MURCHISON.²

For our purpose it will be sufficient to follow HENDERSON'S description of the journey.³

In 1862, Mr. R. H. DAVIES' report on *The trade and Resources of the Countries on the North-western Frontier of British India*, showed that the trade between India and Eastern Turkestan was virtually barred by the excessive duties levied on goods in transit. The negotiations of Sir ROBERT MONTGOMERIE with the Kashmir Durbar resulted in a considerable reduction of the tariff on goods passing through the Kashmir territories. This was a stimulus to the trade on Eastern Turkestan and in 1867 Dr. CAYLAY was stationed at Leh during the summer. He was to make observations on the trade and how to encourage it. The attention of the authorities was drawn to the Chang-chenmo road, of which Henderson says that it »was believed to present fewer physical difficulties than the other route by the Karakorum». In 1869 he had seen men at Leh »who had crossed over from Yarkand by this route in the depth of winter; they described the road as almost free from snow, and practicable for laden horses the whole way, at all seasons; in this, it contrasts strongly with the old Karakoram route, which is quite impassable for half the year.»

In 1870 there followed the treaty between the British Government and the Maharaja of Kashmir. The Atalik Ghazi had the year before sent an envoy to the Viceroy of India, and in 1870 the Commissioner of the Jalandhar Division, T. DOUGLAS FORSYTH, was sent to the Atalik Ghazi.

July 3rd the expedition was joined at Leh by Mr. SHAW, and after necessary preparations, they started and went *viâ* Tikse, Jimre and Sakte to Chang-la which

¹ *Proceedings Royal Geographical Society*. Vol. XIII. 1868—69, p. 198.

² *Autobiography and Reminiscences of Sir Douglas Forsyth*. Edited by his daughter. London 1887, p. 43, *et seq.*

³ *Lahore to Yarkand. The Expedition of 1870 under T. D. Forsyth*. London 1873.