

Away to the southwest there is a low ridge running westward and connecting the Dang la with another range of hills, but we have, as we hoped, turned the great mountains. The snow peaks at whose base we are now camped are truly the 'Head of the Dang la' (Dang la tolh' a). They rise apparently 2000 feet above the snow line, and at least for 1000 above where we are camped (17,000 feet above sea level), they are without snow, we must conclude that the line of perpetual snow in this region is at very nearly 18,000 feet above the level of the sea.

Rockhill regards the Tang-la as the northern political boundary of Tibet. From there to Tsaidam is no-man's land, usually called Chang t'ang or »Northern Plain».

June 27th he continued W. S. W. along the foothills of the Dang-la. Fine gravel, and very little grass. »Our view of the Dang-la and its snow fields is absolutely unobstructed. I cannot decide whether there are any glaciers. I am inclined to think there are none.» The rocks he saw were all limestone and granite. »The whole country, as far as I can see, is covered with hills, between which are pools and lakelets receiving all the drainage.»

June 28th he says:

We are now well to the west of the Dang la, which stretches out in a southeast by south direction, as far as we can see. Some twenty miles south of us we can distinguish a short range of black hills, and nearer to us in the same quarter another short range, running southeast and northwest, from which issue several streams emptying a mile below our camp into the Kétén gol. No mountain range of any importance beside the Dang la can be seen, but innumerable little blocks of hills intersect the country in every direction. The soil is very barren; where we have camped there is a little grass, but elsewhere there is only sand and gravel.

From the camp of July 1st Rockhill took the last view of »the western extremity of the Dang la».

From Rockhill's map¹ his »Dang la, Snowy Range», does not give us the impression of a continuous range, but rather of detached groups and masses, the biggest of which, with several snow-peaks, is situated to the S. E. of his route. He does not enter any western continuation of the range. Where his route begins to take a nearly easterly direction it is bordered to the north by another part of the Dang la, carrying two Snow peaks. Between this part of the range and the above-mentioned group all seems to be mountains, forming one range. This is the part of the system which, according to his text, Rockhill turned around in the west.

In 1894 Rockhill delivered a lecture in London on the same journey. There he again gives some information on the Tang-la Range:

Crossing the two branches of the Toktomai, which meet at the base of the Bukamangna, we saw from the low hills to the south the high and snowcapped Kurban-habsere, a shoulder, as well as I can judge, of the Great Dang-la.²

¹ *Route map of explorations in Mongolia and Tibet* by W. Woodville Rockhill in 1891—1892, Scale 1:2,027,520.

² W. Woodville Rockhill: *A Journey in Mongolia and in Tibet*. *Geogr. Journ.* May 1894. Vol. III, p. 357, 370 et seq. Cp. *Land of the Lamas*, p. 174.