

In Tsaidam the pilgrims gather together in great parties, hire camels, and start in June through the »khoshun» of the Taitshinar to Lhasa, on the same road that was chosen by N. M. PRSHEVALSKIY. In Nakchu they change their camels for yaks, as the further road to Lhasa is not practicable for camels. This information is nearly the only place in this report from which one may get an idea of the general morphological character of the country. The Olots and Torguts from Ili and Yuldus travel more seldom to Lhasa. They follow the southern slopes of Eastern Tian-shan to Hami, from where they cross the Gobi to Sa-cheo, and further *viâ* Sirting and Kurlik, reach the »koshun» of the Taichinars. This road is more comfortable than the one taken by the Khalkhas, as there is more pasture for the camels.

In 1899 G. TS. TSIYBIKOFF (or Zybikoff) started on a journey to Lhasa, equipped and prepared by the Russian Geographical Society. He begins telling us that he will not say anything of his journey through Amdo, thus omitting the part most interesting to us from geographical point of view.¹ He travelled with a caravan of pilgrims. After 22 days through the »uninhabited north-Tibetan plateauland», they camped at the river of San-chu at the northern foot of the Bumsa Pass, from the neighbourhood of which PRSHEVALSKIY had returned on his third expedition.

The caravan, which had started from Kumbum April 24th 1900, consisted of about 70 men, nearly all Amdo and Mongol lamas with 17 tents. Their 200 horses were from Amdo. — From Bumsa they travelled in four days to Nakchu-gompa. During the rainy season the river cannot be crossed.

Three rather long marches took the caravan over the watershed between Nakchu and Ui-chu, and a vast plain called Sun-shan, at the western side of which the mountains of Samtan-Kansar are to be seen. From there the road continues across Chor-la to the Dam valley, inhabited by the descendants of the Mongols, who, in the middle of the seventeenth century, were brought to Tibet by the Khoshot Gushi Khan.

From Kumbum to Lhasa they were three months on the road.

Speaking of the Snow Land of the Tibetans he adds: »Indeed, in the region through which we travelled, we saw two snowy mountains, Samtan-Kansar at the eastern end of the Nian-chen-tang-la Range and the Range Kar-là at the S. W. side of the ringshaped lake Jamdok.» This cannot be correct as the Tang-la System has both snowy peaks and glaciers, described by other travellers, among them Count DE LESDAIN (see below).

¹ Г.Ц. Цыбиковъ: *О центральнономъ Тибетъ. Извѣстія Имп. Русск. Геогр. Одц. Томъ XXXIX.* 1903. С.-Петербургъ, 1905, p. 187 *et seq.* A summary of this article, *Voyage de M. Tsybikov à Lhassa et au Tibet*, is to be found in *La Géographie*. Tome IX. Paris 1904, p. 24 *et seq.* — The same article is *in extenso* translated into English: *Lhasa and Central Tibet*, and published together with the interesting photographs taken by Tsybikoff.