

On Dezember 24th, 1908, Lieutenant J. W. BROOKE was killed by the Lolos. A report of his journey, which he had sent home, was published by W. N. FERGUSSON. It is very meagre in geographic detail, and sometimes not clear. He travelled from Tankar to Koko-nor, Tsaidam and Naichi, which he again left March 6th, 1907. Of the Dichu it is said:

There is no doubt that the Dichu, or Dri River, is the main tributary of the Yangtse which is fed from the famous chain of lakes surrounding the west Kokoshili range. These lakes are over 16,000 feet above sea-level, as stated by Captain Wellby and Dr. Sven Hedin.¹

On the continuation of the journey we read:

They crossed the Dungbure, which is 16,700 feet above the sea, with little delay; commencing their march at 8 a. m. and pitching camp at 4 p. m. They experienced little difficulty, although this is the highest pass on the journey between Sining and Lhasa The top of the pass was quite flat. On the south side, some distance from the top, Brooke found hot springs gushing out of the frozen earth The formation of the Dungbure range was found to be similar to that surrounding the Tsaidam, i. e., red sandstone over a very hard limestone conglomerate, only in addition there were several volcanic spurs in sight

Here somewhere BROOKE came across the first Tibetan tents at an altitude of 16,000 feet. April 10th he reached the valley of Nakchu, was stopped and had to turn back.

A body of sixteen horsemen escorted Mr. Brooke over the Tangla Pass, where they left him After continuing another day's journey north, he turned west hoping to be able to evade the guarded district, and once more made his way south; but after travelling 200 li he was stopped again. He now went up the bank of the Dichu and crossed the Dungbure range by a small road on the other side of the range

Finally he crossed »a salty desert; the first town he reached was Chichen 130 li N. E. of Tamar; then he passed on to Suchow, Kanchow and Sining».

In his excellent and very well written book on Central Asia G. V. CALLEGARI has the following historical passage on our mountains.

Noi possiamo, alla fine, immaginarci il Bolor concepito dagli antichi come l'Imaus, i Cuenlun come la famosa cintura del Tauro col massiccio dei Tsung-ling o dei Pamir, posto quasi nello stesso luogo in cui il Kircher poneva il suo grandioso nodo montano, che doveva essere »l'hydrophyllacium principale Asiae». E così pure noi vi localizzammo il »Pamer altissima pars continentis» del Mercator, il »Planities Pamer» dello Strahlenberg, il »Pamer Pleine» del d'Anville.²

Regarding our mountains he says:

Caracorum: E una catena il cui prolungamento forma l'Hindu-cush e ne è diviso allo spartiacque dell'Hunza e del Ghilghit a 15 km. ad E. del 70° long. E. Essa sembra terminare ad W. presso il 61° long. E.; più ad oriente non è nota, si crede che s'unisca al massiccio

¹ *Adventure, Sport and Travel in the Tibetan Steppes*. London 1911, p. 33. — Anybody who has had access to my maps, elaborated by HASENSTEIN and published in Petermann as quoted before, will find that my lakes in N. E. Tibet have nothing to do with the Dichu.

² *Il grande altopiano dell'Asia Centrale*. Feltre 1911, p. 75.