

Bedel pass, but the majority from Kashgar. I was particularly struck by some Russian articles of luxury, such as large cut-glass mirrors, china cups, bowls and dishes of all conceivable shapes, scented soap, glassware, enamelware etc. that I saw in several shops. Indian goods are also displayed — velvet, muslin and drugs. Here they represent only a fraction of the Russian goods, the proportion being 1 to 10.

Soon after my arrival I called on a Russian merchant, a Tartar from Kazan, living in Prjevalsk and here, where he has done business for twenty years. He sells Russian goods to the merchants and buys principally guts and hides, 25,000 and 8—10,000 a year respectively. The guts cost 1 1/2 to 2 copecks apiece and are resold by him mainly to Germany at 10 cop. apiece. He complained of the state of uncertainty in Russia, where even the Kirghiz had again begun to be restless. During his last journey he was attacked by Russian Kirghiz, robbed of 2000 roubles' worth of goods and money and left more dead than alive on the road across the mountains after being whipped. The robbers had, however, shown some humanity by placing some loaves by his side and leaving him his horse. On former occasions he had seen Russian army rifles in Kirghiz kikitkas. It felt quite strange to sit by the aksakal's excellent samovar and chat with a Russian.

The bazaar is held here on Mondays and Thursdays. I had an opportunity of seeing the former to-day. A large proportion of the customers are Kirghiz. The men's dress is the same as in Russian Turkestan. The women, however, wear a tall cylindrical white headdress which differs from the dress of the Kirghiz women in Russia. It is made by winding a white cloth several times round the head in a complicated manner, one fold passing under the chin. The unusual inquisitiveness of the population shows that the place has seldom been visited by Europeans. Owing to the proximity of the Russian frontier a European is taken for a Russian, and as you pass, you hear «uruss» whispered from mouth to mouth. Traffic and life in the bazaar are less lively than in other towns that I have visited.

Uch Turfan is the seat of a district mandarin, who governs the following Kirghiz tribes besides the Sart population: Chisak with about 1,000 kikitkas, Yamansu with 250, Kuche 400 and Hassanbegtigan with 60, with about 10 Begs for 100 houses each. For this purpose he has 6 Sart Begs (2 of them for Aqyar) and four Kirghiz Begs. The military command is in the hands of a Shaitai. The troops are inspected annually by a military mandarin from Aqsu and gaps in the ranks are filled on that occasion by men hired in the bazaar. The Cherik Kirghiz inhabit the Taushqan darya, Aqchi, Qara bulaq, Qizil Gumbaz, Kiyik Tokai, Som Tash, and Kashgartchi Tokai; the Yamansu Kirghiz carry on farming in the Taushqan darya valley and Yzan Kugush; the Kuchi Kirghiz inhabit Sapervai and Qara Teke.

Yesterday was occupied by a trip to a gorge in the chain of mountains N of the town in order to photograph and copy an alleged old Kalmuk inscription on the mountain. The road, about 6 paotai in length, runs in a NW direction. We climbed the long slope of gravel and stone that leads to the mountain on the other side of the river and on which a herd of camels seemed to be flourishing on pasture that deserves the name of stone rather

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Uch Turfan.*