

yurts and an impeccably clean one put up for me. A Kalmuk post is stationed here to forward Chinese official correspondence. An inferior local Kalmuk official had brought a present of a sheep, an attention I declined, as I had enough meat for several days. The trouble with these presents is that in most cases they are part of the extortions practised by the officials. They are taken without payment and the money you give for them certainly does not reach its intended destination.

To-day we experienced the most trying part of the whole journey. I had intended to divide the distance into two days and spend the night in a gorge, where there is wood and water, between Girin (dawan) and Sâ dawan, but the assurances of the Taotai's yigit that the distance from Bugra to Kan did not exceed yesterday's march, induced me to agree to do the journey to Kan in one day. *April 10th.*
Kan village.

We started shortly before 7 a.m. From the camping place the road leads up a mountain slope. The highest point, Girin dawan, is reached after 20 minutes' ride. Water boiled at 92.9°; the barometers indicated 584.8 and 580.4. After a slight descent we entered a gorge, the Sarga gorge between the Sarga mountain on the right and the Kharkhyn ulu mountain on the left. A tributary of the Tekes, of the same name as the gorge, winds along its bottom and a bridlepath leads along it to the Kok su valley. The slope of the mountain on the right is wooded for several miles, but later the trees become rarer, only growing in gorges or climbing the summit of the mountain. In the river bed we saw a couple of natives sawing fir planks about 2 1/2 to 3 metres long with a handsaw. On the left firs are only seen in the gorges. For almost two hours the road, constantly ascending, goes along this gorge that leads up to Sâ dawan. The road is often stony and then goes along the slope of the mountain, but cannot be considered very difficult. Threatening greyish-black clouds had been lowering over the mountains ahead of us and before we had reached the pass a snow-storm overtook us. Nothing was visible but the path a couple of yards ahead. Not a trace of mountain or tree on the right or left. In such conditions, not exactly favourable to mapping, we reached the Sâ dawan, where I made a hypsometer observation. Water boiled at 90.64° and the barometers indicated 551.4 and 550.2. There is a Kalmuk cemetery at the top of the pass. We met a few Kalmuks there, who made their obeisances and prayed, unperturbed by the weather.

When the descent had lasted some time, the snow turned to pouring rain with a high wind. The road follows a gorge, along which the Sânung-su winds. For the greater part the road runs along the slope of the left bank of the river which is steep at times, though it often goes over to the opposite bank for a short time. In the 10 miles that it continues along this gorge there are no very steep places worth mentioning, but on the other hand it is very stony, when the road runs along the actual bed of the river. The road separates definitely from the Sânung-su and for about a mile goes up a steep slope. From this place a descent begins that lasts close on two hours. The road is good and not at all steep. On either side the ground forms large mound-like eminences. At the foot of these long hills lies the village of Kan.

Darkness had fallen long ago and forced me to give up my mapping work. The snow-