



Prince Lanj at his writing-table at Urumchi.

out of a contract, theirs is not a case of buying the best, but the cheapest rifle. This is the main reason why China will for a long time remain the dumping ground for the discarded weapons of all nations.

To-day we made a trip to the country house of Prince (gungje) Lanj, about 3 1/2 miles NE of the fortress. The district, which is called »Shumago», is delightful, with a rapid little river flowing between the shady trees and bushes that climb the slopes — fairly steep in some places — on either side of it. There are a couple of neat flourmills on the river, with painted fronts, and the mint and cartridge factory of the province, occupying a small impanj. The Prince's house lies a little higher up on the E slope just above a mill surrounded by trees and bushes, the heavy foliage of which the sun can scarcely penetrate. Architecturally these two buildings are of no importance, but their large terraces and verandas with the rushing little river just below are cool and comfortable in the heat, which is often intense. A dozen paces higher up the slope stands a modest little temple and beneath, in the bed of the river, a graceful pavilion, at a spot where the river makes a bend that half surrounds the small building. The exiled Prince is fond of coming here in the heat of the summer and resting in the cool air for a few hours. He rides out early in the morning accompanied by many servants, who exercise the numerous and beautiful, though overfed, animals in his stables. *August 9th.
Urumchi.*

We took a short walk along the river in order to take some photographs and inspect the mint. It is strange how similar these reception rooms are in all official Chinese buildings, even in factories. Their presence is as indispensable as tea-drinking for all visitors. In the mint one reception room opposite the entrance was not sufficient; there was another with the same red furniture at the entrance to the machine room. In the latter there were 4 or 5 machines for minting coin along one sidewall and 5 or 6 for manufacturing cartridge cases