

Chinese), 2 shops, 3 sarais, 1 mapoza station, water in a river. — In the S a Dungan village of 18 houses with 1,400 sheep. — In the SE Tsayenza of 6 houses. — In the E Khodiakar of 3 houses (Sart). — In the NE Zag'r kar of 4 houses (Sart); Seidy Pakhiakar of 2 houses and Mullakar 1 house, all Sart. — In the N Tchaudiakar of 12 houses (9 Sart, 3 Dungan), 20 horses and cattle; Tchandiakar of 6 houses (4 Sart, 2 Chinese); Madiakar of 10 houses (9 Sart, 1 Chinese), Khadiakar of 11 houses (8 Sart, 3 Dungan). — In the NW Sitienkar of 4 houses (3 Sart, 1 Dungan). — In the W Madiakar of 4 houses (3 Sart, 1 Dungan); Vandia kar of 3 houses (2 Sart, 1 Dungan). — The total output of grain in the Chiktam or Tchiktäi area is said to amount to 2,290 tan of gaolyan, barley and wheat.

*October 6th.* We started at 4 this morning in complete darkness. At daybreak we were on a barren gravel plain, the ground being slightly undulating. Our course lay NE (later NNE) at an angle to the Tian Shan mountains (Karlik tagh), as yesterday, i.e., their curve to the N was much lower. In the SE we still saw the long low gravel hills that we had on our right at our start.

After 40 li we passed a sarai with nothing but a well. At 5.30 p.m. the ground became uneven. Soon afterwards darkness set in, so that we could not see much besides the hills, up and down which the exhausted animals dragged our loads, as we crossed low mountains close to the Tian Shan mountains.

At 4 p.m. we came to the Yanche sarai, a ride of 12 hours. The local people call it 180 li which is probably a slight exaggeration. At all events the journey is tiring. The ground is firm, but the gravel gives way slightly which makes it hard work. The arbahs took 16 hours and the horses were so exhausted that we had to unharness them from one arbah and use 7 horses to pull the vehicles up in turn. You cannot help admiring the drivers, naked to the waist and wearing thin Chinese shoes, who do the whole distance on foot without a moment's rest and with a long whip in one hand. After a few hours' sleep out-of-doors under the arbahs they have to tackle another 140 li at daybreak. They show not the least sign of fatigue. They are always smiling and treat their animals kindly. They do this work day after day and feed on bread and one cup of lapsha (a kind of vermicelli) without any meat.

In Yanche there are a large sarai and a mapoza station, a well with drinkable water and 2 springs with salt water. There are said to be 2 small patches of water in the neighbourhood which I could not see owing to the dark. Reeds grow round about, and about 30 horses from various mapoza stations were grazing on them. — The road is seldom used by arbahs in the summer. In the winter about 300 cartloads call at the sarai. About 5,000 camels pass every year, mostly eastward with raisins and cotton. — There are such strong burans that traffic has to be suspended; they always come from the north. In September they are common, occurring every 5 days and lasting several days. In the spring, too, they are common. There is snow from December to March.