

money (my funds had been transferred to Suchow, Lanchow and Hsi An) forced me to abandon the idea. It would have been interesting to investigate this road and especially another one (of which I could not obtain details) from Tcharkhalik to Sining. They are said to be suitable for traffic all the year round, though in the winter the supply of grass is almost entirely consumed by the cattle of the Mongols and Tanguts. The snow is said to be deep, but the top layer is so firm that horses and camels do not sink into it. Two Mongols, who described the road to me, assured me that the journey could be made with horses, but a Chinese declared that only camels could live on the poor grass.

In an administrative sense the oasis is divided according to the points of the compass into 6 lao lung (a kind of elder) districts. The villages are as follows:

<i>In the North</i>	Number of houses	Crop in tan	<i>In the SE</i>	Number of houses	Crop in tan
Tung nan hua	27	240	Tingyen	44	400
Nan hu	23	570	Sin Tingyen	46	750
Lungsi	31	1,000	Tung tchengning	12	250
Tiedsjä	17	170	Sikhö	52	800
Tchingsui	17	250	Ning tchå	27	600
Tung tingning	25	700	Sin Ningtchå	21	750
Sitingning	19	500	Wi yen	37	500
Tchang sien	19	500	Tung Wiyen	20	400
Tchuang lang	42	1,000	Lan wi	10	150
Ningyen	17	170	Sin Lanwi	11	140
Tchinngan	30	700	Lanchow	25	700
Kuyen	30	700	Sin Lanchow	16	400
Jentsha	22	700	Ninting	37	1,000
Shang Jen tsha	8	140	Sin Lanting	5	140
			Sin Suchow	31	750
<i>In the NE</i>			Tchindsjä	42	300
Mundsjä	33	300	Tchang hsien	35	460
Sin Mindsjä	40	1,000	Tchung Sushow	30	250
Shang Fatchang	15	150			
Tung »	26	750	<i>In the South</i>		
Sin »	70	750	Kulang	20	400
Pajen pukö	5	80	Tchung Kulang	26	750
Taudsjä	27	500	Ue	27	1,000
Tchung Taudsjä	12	200	Sin Ue	17	470
Tin hsien	12	200	Tchung Khödsjä	20	400
Sin Tinsien	40	250	Shang »	10	240
Li hsien	22	510	Tung Shantan	15	520
Sin Lih sien	13	175	Si Shangtan	16	170
Nanhua	15	130	Sining	25	700
			Sin Sining	25	750