

has its seamy side. These positions are consequently not sought after and it often happens that a wealthy lungguan buys a substitute for a certain sum of money — a transaction that is recognised by the mandarin. In distributing the water a peg or a candle is used as a measure. In accordance with the amount of tax payable, landowners are entitled to water according to the time it takes one or more inches to burn. The taxpayer can make various combinations, concentrate all his water rights in a certain area and so on. In case of sale he can make a certain area liable to heavier taxes than before, thus releasing his remaining land partly or entirely from tax. His rights to the water are reduced in proportion to the taxes. The total taxes for the district are said to amount to 5,876 tan (according to Essens 9,800 tan). They are paid in tchinkho or wheat. The 6 »pa» of the district are as follows:

<i>Direction from the town:</i>				<i>Annual crop of grain</i>		<i>Yield</i>
S about 30 li	Thurpa	with 5 villages,	370 families	—	10,800 tan	6—7
SE » 110 »	Khötungpa	» 13 »	500 »	—	1,300 »	10
SSE »	Shadzypa	» 12 »	528 »	—	7,310 »	6—7
ENE and NE	Tchengtungpa	» 9 »	270 »	—	7,500 »	6—7
N and NWabt. 20 li	Khöhsiting tjapa»	5 »	700 »	—	15,000 »	8—10
SW	Huangtsaopa	» 6 »	310 »	—	7,150 »	
SE near the mountains	Tinfusy	80 »	—	1,400 »	

In the village of Malachien-tzu of the Thurpa lungguan district there are 74 Tangut families with about 1,000 oxen, 3—400 horses and 4,000 sheep. Otherwise the stock of cattle is small. It may be calculated at 2—3 horses, 4—6 oxen and a few sheep per household. A flock of sheep numbering several hundred is a rarity. There is said to be no large pasturage, but the owners of large flocks let them graze under the care of Tanguts in the mountain gorges to the S. — Wheat, peas, millet or tchumiza, oil plants, rice in the east and a little opium are grown. The yield is a good one and can probably be estimated at 9—10 fold with an average crop. No shortage of water is experienced except at times in the N. There are 4 distilleries and 7 oilmills, but only for local requirements and for barter trade with the Mongols.

The population is Chinese, mostly immigrated from different places in the interior of China. Among 10 inhabitants there is scarcely one original inhabitant of Kan Su or Suchow. In Tun-huang there are quite a number of Dungans, but they only constitute a small fraction of the Chinese in the district. Their number is said to be considerably smaller now than before the revolt. In the mountains to the S there are Tanguts and occasionally you meet some of them in the streets of the town in their peculiar, picturesque dress, the women's dress in particular attracting attention. They are not included in the tchou district of Suchow, but have to supply the Djentai with a few horses every year.

Some days have passed almost imperceptibly in hard work. Many small matters in regard to collecting information and other things have taken up a great deal of time. Tomorrow I start for Chinta. Although I feel there are still some things that I have not been

*December 8th.
Suchow.*