

huma an 8—9 fold and rice a 10 fold crop. — The quantity of livestock may be estimated at slightly over 2,000 sheep in the larger lunguan districts and about 1800 in the smaller ones. The richer houses possess 2—4 oxen and 3—4 horses; poorer ones 2 oxen and a couple of donkeys. The rural population employs oxen exclusively as draught animals. The horses are very short and not of good breed, but thickset and strong. There are, however, quite a number of poorly developed and long-legged horses. Some merchants in the town are said to have about 1,500 camels.

Kanchow forms the junction between the highway from the province of Sinkiang via Lanchow to Peiping and a road from Sining over the mountains, generally used by Mongolians making a pilgrimage to Gumbum. The road to Uliasutai is said to go via Chinta. A caravan route leads across the mountains in the S to Khungeitzu and Suchow and probably on to Tun-huang. Another connects Kanchow with the route via Bautu to Kuku Khoto. The district is intersected by many arbah roads that connect all the villages with each other and with the villages in the adjacent districts. There must be a road closer to the foot of the Nanshan mountains connecting Kanchow with Suchow, but I was unable to obtain information as to its existence. This is quite natural, however, for arbah traffic for long distances passes along the highway, and if there is a road further south, it is only used for journeys between places lying closer to each other.

Gold is said to be obtained by Dungans about 3 days' journey S of Kanchow. A tax (over 200 lan in gold annually) is paid to the Titai. There is coal in the Rin zung ko gorge in the mountains to the N and NE of Kanchow about 3 days' journey from the town on the road to Tchen Fang (shen district subordinated to Lianchow). The coal there is said to be larger and better than in the Li Yuan district.

*January 7th.* The road eastward from Kanchow passes through the S gate, protected by a double wall. *Town of* Just outside it we turned due east. It only took a minute or two to cross the suburb and *Tung lo.* we then passed a row of scattered houses and temples on the left, behind which the wall of the fortress was visible. On the right there was marshy ground, through which a river flowed. It came from the S, kept to the road for a few minutes and then turned northward and passed at a short distance E of the town. Between it and the road we saw the ruins of a high, old wall. Just before crossing the river, about 4 fathoms wide, by a solid bridge of logs we passed a larger group of houses with a massive stone gate, topped by a pagoda, under which the road went. On the left there was low-lying ground, presumably marshy, on which we only saw a couple of houses. Its W edge extended to the town wall and its S edge was only separated from the road by a few scattered houses. The ground over which the road led us was cultivated throughout, there being a number of houses, many of them large, and scattered trees. The fields were well cared for. With its numerous ariqs the neighbourhood seemed fertile.

5 1/2 miles from the town we crossed the Hsiao Sa ho, a broad river, which flows here in a direction of 200° in rather a low-lying bed. It is said to rise occasionally, so that traffic is stopped for 2 or 3 days. 2/3 of a mile beyond stood a group of houses belonging to Ehrshih-li-pu, a large village of several hundred »tja». After another mile or so we came to