

months, but seldom remains lying except in crevices. There is a good deal of rain between the 3rd and 8th months. Burans occur from the SW in spring and summer.

*January 8th.* The road continues eastward, or rather SE, over cultivated ground, which seems sparsely populated, but the large number of »tja» in the villages indicates the reverse. *Hsin Kou village.* On the left flowed the Shantan ho, hidden at times by the ground rising between the low land and the river. On the other side of the river there was a line of houses with occasional gaps. Beyond them was the Great Chinese Wall, from which the ground ascended steeply to the mountains which the local people called »Lung Thou shan». The ground on the right was flat and cultivated, slightly uneven at times. Further E the Nanshan mountains with a smaller group of hills stretched northward and joined the Lung Thou shan. The character of the neighbourhood did not change throughout the day. The only variation consisted of frequent villages and an occasional uncultivated space, often covered with very low grass.

After 10 li you get to San-shih-li-pu or Shih-li-pu according to what town you come from. 5 li further on lies Tatung-miao with 70 houses and a temple placed on a high tuntai tower. Another 5 li beyond lies Ehr-shih-li-pu with 80 houses. About 5 li from it we came to Chi-shui-tzu sui with 60 houses at the northern extremity of a long, ridge-like eminence coming from the S. Shih-li-pu, a small village of 20 houses, lies some distance E of it, and 10 li further on the town of Shantan. Just before it we crossed the frozen river of the same name. Shantan is the principal place of a Shenguan district of the same name that begins in the W at the Tatung-miao and ends in the E at the Ting-chiang-miao. In the S it extends to the mountains and probably some distance into them. It is divided into the following »pa»:

1	along the highway	1,884	tja	with	an	annual	crop	of	grain	of	10,760	tan
2		2,570	»	»	»	»	»	»	»	»	20,570	»
3	S towards mountains	1,400	»	»	»	»	»	»	»	»	10,600	»
4	SE » »	2,630	»	»	»	»	»	»	»	»	20,200	»
5		1,732	»	»	»	»	»	»	»	»	8,400	»

10,050 tan are levied annually in taxes.

In the town there are 380 tja, 80 shops and 7 sarais, and in the suburbs 260 tja and about 200 shops (?). Wheat, millet, tchumiza, tchinkho and opium are grown. The crop is 8—9 fold. The district is rich in coal which is said to be present in the mountains both in the N and in the SW and S in the form of both anthracite and coal. — There is a garrison of 1 »tchyping» in of 80—100 men and a shao of cavalry of the matui of the Titai in Kanchow.

For a short time we had the Ghantanho on the right of the road on the other side of the town, and then the road finally left the river, which flows from the NW. — We passed in turn the villages of Shih-li-pu with 50 houses, Ehr-shih-li-pu with 60 and San-shih-li-pu with 30. 10 li from the last we reached our goal for the day, Hsin Kou with 350 houses. The last bit of the road was slightly stony, but otherwise it was excellent, broad