

RECORDS OF THE JOURNEY

the door for the smoke to escape by. Inside they were entirely in the Chinese style. Shortly before reaching Lungchow we passed an impanj with an in of recruited mobile troops in the village of Tiucha chuang. We caught sight of a couple of men in the doorway, clad in khaki summer uniforms. Scarcely 2/3 of a mile beyond, the suburb of Hsikuan began, where we stopped in a dirty sarai. The distance covered was about 20 miles.

The suburb of Hsikuan is fairly large. The town itself, which is surrounded by a neglected wall of clay with a moat and four small buttresses on each side, is half a mile square. There is a crenellated parapet of baked bricks, as usual, and projections before the gates. There are some small clay houses on the embankment and some of the buttresses are crowned with wooden pagodas, in the lowest part of which, built of clay, you see embrasures for guns. The space inside the wall is sparsely populated. There are no beautiful temples or other buildings. I was told that the town was not captured during the Dungan revolt, though the neighbourhood was laid waste, an old Buddhist tower, among other things, having been destroyed. The population of the town itself is said to amount to 7,000 and of the town and suburbs together to scarcely 3,000 tja, including a small number of Dungans. About 1,400 of the inhabitants are engaged in agriculture. — Trade is mostly local and, judging by the outward appearance of the shops, not very lively. The articles exported from the district are wheat, maize, opium, hemp, herbs for medicine, rope sandals, wood and coal. There are coal mines in the mountains in the NW — in Nankujou and Sinyoushan, 90 and 110 li from the town. There is said to be a good deal of coal here in the mountains. There are several shafts not far from the road between Lungchow and Cheng-ngang, in which so far only the inferior veins are being worked. The local people cannot reach the better ones on account of water forcing its way in. All the exports go over Feng-siang-fu. There is a Chow resident in Lungchow, who also governs Ma-lu-chuang in the W with a mandarin, who, however, does not levy taxes. The district is subordinated to Feng-siang-fu. It is divided into the following Shang-ja districts:

	tja	annual crop	cattle	horses	mules	donkeys	sheep
E Hsingsiengli	8,500	30—40 tan	7—8	2	1—2	3—4	20
Tuyangli	4,500	20 »	3—4	2	1—2	2—3	10
Tungliangli	6,500	10 »	2	1/2	1/2	1	—
S Nanyuanli	3,500						
Liangpuli	5,500						
Liangtsuenli	8,500	30—40 »	10	1—2	1	4—5	30—40
Fumingli	4,500	20 »	7—8			3—4	10
Lungtsuenli	4,500	10 »	3—4			2—3	—
Lilingli	2,500						
Kungpingli	6,500						
Chusangli	3,500						
Tsichuenli	4,500						
Kantsuenli	4,500						
Hsiangtsuenli	3,500						