

The wall is unusually long and the gate is protected by an outer wall, but, contrary to the custom in China, both gates are walled in without a break. I counted no less than 18 buttresses in one side of the wall. The area of the town is 2—3 miles, but some parts are very sparsely populated. The street that led us from one gate to the other consists almost entirely of shops, many quite well stocked. In a couple of places the peculiar smell betrayed the fact that we were passing distilleries — one of the local specialities. A number of carpenter's shops turn out mostly rather rough little tables and stools. — The street was broad and a considerable part of it was paved with large stone slabs. If it were not for the dust, it would almost be a pleasure to take a walk here. A couple of old »peilu», one of them of skilfully carved blocks of stone, are the only memorials or buildings to attract attention.

The town must be very old, but is said to have lain further east in former times. Small ruins are still visible close to a picturesque old bridge, decorated with bas reliefs, E of the town. The present town, like Lungchow, is said to have withstood a prolonged siege with honour during the Dungan revolt. At Lungchow, especially, where the siege lasted for over a year, a stubborn resistance is said to have been put up, women and children pouring boiling water over the assailants etc. The suburbs and surroundings of Feng-siang-fu were destroyed completely. — A Fu, a Hsien and a Tsoudian, commanding an in of tchyping, are resident in the town. The first of these three gentlemen is reputed to be strict, but just. I was told that he sometimes made a round of the bazaar on foot, talking with the people and trying to convince them of the advantages of education in schools, and the necessity of abolishing opium smoking and of preventing women from mutilating their feet.

2 or 3 schools have been opened in the town. One is a »middle» school, in which there are about 300 pupils and 9 masters, all Chinese, this year. The majority of the masters are poorly educated. The English master, for instance, still takes lessons from the English missionary. A girls' school is said to have practically no pupils. — As regards the reform of opium smoking, it is at the same stage as in Kan Su. Some farmers, however, scared by various proclamations, are supposed voluntarily to have reduced their opium growing. — I called on the English missionary, Mr Stevens, but was received very stiffly and saw nothing beyond his official reception room.

Fen-siang-fu is subordinated to the Taotai at Si-an-fu and controls Feng siang hsien, Tchisan hsien, Paotsi hsien, Fufeng hsien, Mi hsien, Lingyu hsien, Kien yang hsien and Lungchow. — It is divided into li; the town itself is called Tsei cheng li.

	tja	annual crop	cattle	horses	mules	don- keys
E Cheng hsien li	10—14,000					
Sanyang li	5,500	55 tan	1—2	1	1	1—2
Shyngping li	7,500	100 »	3—4	1—2	1—2	2—3
Weihsiang li	4,500	25 »	1	1/4	1/4	1
Hungshui li	5,500					
Shyngtu li	5,500					