

The only mine that is worked rationally is said to be the one near Pingting chow owned by the German-Chinese company. — The supply of coal and iron is said to be very considerable and the coal is supposed to be of excellent quality. Iron is cast and kettles are exported in large quantities from the neighbourhood of Pingting chow. In Shensi I frequently saw arbah wheels and ploughshares of cast iron imported from Shansi. — There are said to be other metals, too, though for the present it is impossible to establish their quantities. At Mr Nyström's I was shown samples from the mountains containing coal, coke, anthracite, bituminous coal, iron, lime, sulphur, pyrites, sulphate of iron, alum, soda, gypsum, copper and brass. Maps of the mineral resources of Shansi, drawn by the Peiping Syndicate, indicate coal and iron throughout the whole province and oil in a considerable area, in the SW part. On the other side of the Hwang ho oil is already being obtained in Shensi. — It will be a stiff job, however, for the newly appointed mining engineer, Harald Martin, to get anything started. He has spent six weeks at Tai-yuan-fu already, but has so far not been given any instructions. It is typical of the Chinese system that another mining engineer, also an Englishman, has been appointed and stationed at Pingting chow, though no connection has been established between them.

The armed forces of Shansi are organised as in Honan and are composed of ludziun sunfang and police troops and an incomplete ying of Manchurians. The former form an incomplete brigade, as there are no sappers, transport or field hospital. A year ago there was talk of setting up another 1 ying of matui, 2 tui of sappers and, in the way of transport, of securing 2 arbahs per tui in the different yings, but nothing has come of it. — The arms do not seem to be uniform even among the ludziun troops and they are to a great extent out-of-date. — Drill is performed punctually.

The arms and cartridge factory about 2 li N of the town employs 70—80 workmen, many of them from the South. 10 mountain guns and a few Mauser and Mannlicher rifles are said to have been manufactured, rather as samples. At present 7—800 cartridges are turned out daily. Nickel is obtained from the South. Repairs are also made and, when necessary, swords, drums, trumpets etc.

The powder factory is situated in the NE part of the town, near the E gate. It works in the spring and autumn and employs 40 men at such times. 4 flourmills (formerly 8) produce 150 cases of 120 djin annually.

The ludziun pien mu hsio tang trains non-commissioned officers and corporals (senchang) for the different troops. The course lasts 1 year, 1/2 for general subjects and 1/2 for special subjects connected with each kind of arms. Altogether 16 subjects are taught including arithmetic, topography, target shooting, regulations etc. There are 8 masters from the Pei yang troops. At present there are 30 pupils. Formerly the number was 70.

The ludziun hsiao tang is the same here as at Si-an-fu and other places, i.e., not high-class. 6 masters, 2 of whom are Japanese, 240 pupils. 3 years' course. The establishment of another ludziun hsio tang is planned in the Manchurian part of the town.

The other schools opened in the town are as follows, besides the university: