

of us, i.e., in the N, we saw, when the view was open for a moment, several chains rising one behind the other, their rough outlines showing that these were no longer hills of löss.

After 82 li we reached Wan ting kang with 50 houses. Here the road dipped slightly and soon led us down into a stony river bed, compressed between mountains of conglomerate. Layers of löss were only visible here and there in some cracks. We continued for a short time at its bottom, after which the road climbed a short way up the slope on the left. The road now became stony and often went along ledge-like galleries. It was, however, sufficiently wide and good for wheeled traffic. We had left our gorge and soon entered another. For a time we descended again along a sunken road. We passed a small village, Hwantupo, with 8 houses (92 li) and reached Nankuan, a suburb of Yutai hsien, after covering 102 li. From here we could see the town on the other side of a narrow valley. It lies on a high stone hill going in terraces and its half-ruined old stone wall towers over the surrounding valley. Crossing the latter and a small river flowing E of the town, we turned our steps towards Tung kuan (103 li), where we stopped for the night in a sarai that was not too bad, though small. Stone is used more and more for building. Many of the buildings have large stone basements and large parts, especially on all steep slopes, are built of stone.

In Shansi the fields are often irrigated by hand or by means of horses or mules. For the first time I saw a curious pump on the river that it took no less than 4 men to work. Two men, each sitting in an armchair, filled a short channel of earth with water from a basketwork pail, to which four ropes were attached. Two other men sat at the other end of the channel, raising the water to a channel on the level of the field by the same manipulation, whence it spread over the fields.

Yutai hsien, with a population of about 1,000 tja, is the principal town of a mandarin's district consisting of about 10,000 tja, and is the residence of its mandarin. — Wheat, millet, gaolyan, peas, maize, mustard, red kunsjut, rice in the lower places and opium are grown in the district. Average crop 5—6 fold. — Two years ago restrictions on opium growing were introduced, but now it can proceed again unhampered. Owing to the bad harvests of the last few years the population here, too, is said to have reduced the growing of its own accord.

The wealthiest man of the district is said to own 1,200 mou of land, 5 men 800 mou each, 20 men 200 mou each. Of the rest of the population about 30 % own 80 mou and 50 % only 2—3 mou per tja.

Some rain fell yesterday evening and, judging by the wet look of the ground when we started, it must have continued during the night. It still looked threatening when we rode away this morning. The peaks of the hills enclosing the cauldron-shaped valley of the town were enveloped in a veil of grey clouds. After a short descent the road entered a cleft that led in a pronounced easterly direction between hills of löss, steep slopes and small mountains. After 5 li we passed the village of Tatugo with 6—7 houses. A stone-paved road, winding in sharp curves, took us to Muhu kuan, an archway with the traditional tower built between two spurs of rock on a ridge that we crossed. Barometer No. 1 640.9. Looking to the W we saw a labyrinth of hills with terraces and long slopes.

*June 24th.
The temple of
Chenliangsu.*