

group of temple buildings with 8 tall poles of cast-iron and wood in front of its entrance attracts the attention. In the cool evening the doors of the houses were packed with women sitting and gossiping, both old and young. Many had a refined look, but on the whole they looked less attractive than the women I saw on the way here. — The town extends mainly from NE to SW along the foot of a hill coming from the N. The E part has spread out a little along the bank of a fairly broad river bed. In the S and W the town is surrounded by a marshy meadow.

The principal importance of the place is founded on traffic with Mongolia, to which good roads are said to lead over Lungsheng in the N, a place with a population of over 1,000 tja, mostly Mohammedans. Large herds of cattle are driven to the town from Mongolia to be sold. Many roofs are covered with rows of hides spread out to dry. Trade in grain is also said to be considerable. The surplus grain crop is sold to the south. There are not more than 200 shops, but as many as 7 very large sarais intended exclusively for trade in grain. Others attend to trade in cattle. — The town is the residence of a Fu, a so-called Ehrfu. The garrison consists of one tchi of putui of the Kweihwa ting detachment. It is mostly scattered at various posts. — The town is connected via Lungsheng Chuang with Mongolia and Kalgan (5 days, good road) and by arbah roads with Tatung fu and Kweihwa ting.

The following schools have been opened: Chutung hsio tang — Kao teng hsiao hsio tang — Liang teng hsiao hsio tang. The new police force consists of 30 men of the matui and 30 men of the putui.

There was said to have been an old mandarin in the town last year, who was keen on reforms and spoke personally to the people in the market place, trying to convince them of the necessity of giving up opium smoking and binding their feet. He was dismissed and was succeeded by a man who displayed complete indifference to the opium question and to reforms in general. The result is apparent. The opium asylum at the Swedish mission, which was always full of people last year, is now empty. More opium is grown this year than before despite edicts and proclamations. Last year some people had been scared and gave up growing poppies, but the braver spirits were rewarded by a very good year and as a result, of course, nothing could stop others from following their example. The sowings are said to be larger now than for some years past. A tax is paid on land of the 1st class of 2.4 taels per mou, of the 2nd class of 1.6 taels and of the 3rd class 1.4 taels.

The climate is very pleasant. In the summer the temperature does not rise above +30—32° C., in winter the cold does not exceed —25°. There are heavy storms in the spring, mostly from the W and NW, but at times, too, from the E. There is a good deal of similarity in climate with Kweihwa ting. The town has a Swedish missionary station under the management of Mr and Mrs Hill. The district consists of:

	tja	annual crop	oxen	horses	donkeys	sheep	per mou
E (abt. 120 li) . . .	3,420	200,000 tan	2,000	3,000	350	30,000	7 tou
W	1,135	50,000 »	2,000	1,750	200	10,000	5 »