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OWEN LATTIMORE: High Tartary. p.p.XIV, 370, illustrated. Little,
Brown and Co., Boston, 1930:-

The first part of the journey was described by the author in "The Desert Road to Turkestan", which was reviewed in Volume I of the present Journal. The present account starts with Ku-ch'eng-tze where the author dismissed his caravan which brought him across Inner Mongolia from Kuei-hua ch'eng. After a short stay in Ku-ch'eng-tze the author journeyed to Urumchi, the provincial capital of Hsin-chiang, and then to Chuguchak on the Siberian border to meet his wife, who was travelling by the Siberian railway. From Chuguchak the party returned to Urumchi, and after a short visit to Turfan proceeded via Urumchi to Kulja and the Ili highlands. A visit was paid to the nomad pasture grounds in the upper Tekes valley and the Kök-su. Crossing the Muzart Pass the party reached Aqsu, and then through Maral-bashi and Kashgar to Yarkend. From Yarkend the party travelled to India by the Qaraqorum trade route (Sanju Pass, Suget, Qaraqorum, Sasser, Qaraul Daban and Khardong). The author's principal interest lies in the people and the economic conditions of the country he traversed. His fluent knowledge of Chinese permitted him to make himself thoroughly familiar with the Chinese administrative methods in the Province, and his observations of the present economic state of the country are interesting. The author interrupts his narrative to give us several good descriptions of nomad tribes he met on his way. A short description is given on the curious Erh-hun-tze, a cross breed between Mongols, Taghliks and Chinese, who inhabit the mountain tracts between Ku-ch'eng-tze and Barköl. A whole chapter is devoted to the T'ung-kan or Chinese Mohammedan population of the Province. The origin of the T'ung-kan is still a much debated question. They are a mixed race of Sino-Iranian and Sino-Turkish parentage. It is possible that the Khoresmian colonists, who were carried away to the

"eastern lands" during the Mongol conquest of Turkestan were the ancestors of the present T'ung-kan. The modern T'ung-kan are mostly Shafi'ites - a sect which exercised a strong influence in Khorezmia in the XIII-th century (see: Barthold, Turkestan during the Mongol Invasion, p.436,n.) Some authors consider them to be somatologically Mongolized Turks. The author gives a good account of the Qirkhiz and Qazaq tribes in Jungaria and the T'ien-shan. On the contrary the Mongol tribes of the region attracted but scant attention. An interesting chapter is devoted to horse-breeding problems in the Province, and I concur with the author's opinion that the Barköl horse preserves traits of the old Hun horse. The Qarashahr pony seems to be a descendant of the famous T'ang horse immortalized in the clay figurines that are such a prominent feature of our Museum collections. The town name Dorbujing (p.63 and elsewhere) should read Dörbüljing.

The book is well written and faithfully reproduces the jostle of a caravan route in Inner Asia. A map showing the route of the Expedition across Jungaria and Chinese Turkestan is added to the volume.

Georges de Roerich.