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> he charged two or three cash a *chih,* with food and a place to sleep as was the custom. That was a lot of money for a man to earn; he could live for a week on one day's labor.

At page 53 it is mentioned that a few years later, at or about the Boxer time, the Old Weaver no longer came to the Chu home to weave cloth each winter, and that no one took his place, it being then cheaper to buy British or foreign cloth in the market.

1. For descriptions of hemp spinning wheels from Chekiang see pp. 167-169 of Rudolf P. Hommel's *China at Work* . . . (New York, The John Day Company, 1937). Photographs of two such wheels are at pp. 170 and 171. I have not yet come across any such relics from the Hong Kong region.

2. The Hakkas of Hing Ning district, mentioned above, appear also to have played a large part in weaving foreign cotton yarn imported via Swatow. Consul F.S.A. Bourne in his section of the *Report of the Mission to China of the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce 1896-7* (Blackburn, The North-east Lancashire Press Company, 1898) at pp. 153-4 mentions them as using foreign yarn for weaving cotton cloth "sent down the Canton East River past Hui-chow Fu to Fatshan where it is dyed black and called *ch'ung-ch'ang-ch'ing* i.e. imitation long black. This cloth, like that of which it is a copy, is very largely exported to Singapore."

3. For local, i.e. Hong Kong, place names see *A Gazetteer of Place Names in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories* (Hong Kong, Government Printer, 1960).

Hong Kong, 1968. JAMES HAYES

## THE TUNG CHUNG FORT (LANTAU ISLAND, HONG KONG)

For earlier references in NOTES AND QUERIES see Vols. 3 (1963) and 4 (1964) of this Journal at pp. 144-145 and 146-152 respectively.

In late January 1966, I heard of, and spoke with, an old lady aged 90 *sui* (歲) born on 2nd October 1877. She had spent all her days in the Tung Chung valley, having been born in Wong Ka Wai and married into Sheung Ling Pei village. A series of ques-

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tions and answers produced an interesting picture of life among the soldiers at the Fort in the few years before they withdrew from it after Lantau and other parts of the present New Territories were leased to the Hong Kong Government in 1898. Put together they amount to this:

> I was 24 *sui* when the British came to take over Lantau. Tung Chung Fort had a permanent garrison of Chinese troops before then. I can't remember exactly how many troops there were or what the rank or title of the officer-in-charge was, but they were none of them local people. Their families lived at Tung Chung too, in several rows of brick houses outside the Fort and some inside the walls also. There was a house nearby in which soldiers or their family members were put when sick, with a burial ground behind. The garrison's provisions were brought in by ship, though they bought fish and vegetables locally at Tung Chung. There were military boats at Ma Wan Chung [where the main stream empties into the sea], about 7 or 8 of them of different kinds, but they were not under the command of the Tung Chung officer and came and went between such places as Canton [the provincial capital], Nam Tau [the district city], Shum Chun etc.
>
> The soldiers at the Fort had a big parade each year on the 1st day of the seventh moon. It was held on the level ground beside the Hau Wong temple (侯王廟) near the beach. Inspecting officers came from Nam Tau, Shum Chun and Canton, I think. There was much drumming and noise on that day, and the troops paraded with all their weapons. The soldiers had uniforms of all sorts, and many kinds of weapons too, but there was no uniformity of clothing or equipment.
>
> The soldiers were generally well-behaved and gave no trouble to us local people, though they did not have much to do as they didn't cultivate any fields, inside or outside the Fort. They did not ask for money, but kept watch. There was a guard station at Ma Wan Chung, though there were rarely soldiers in it. There were lots of robbers and pirates in this area when I was young. They came from

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outside, usually at night. I remember the guns being let off and the drums being beaten on one occasion to scare off a band of pirates.

For Tung Chung place names see *A Gazetteer of Place Names in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories* (Hong Kong, Government Printer, 1960) pp. 75-77. For information on Tung Chung see Robert G. Groves and Kenneth R. Walker "Rice Farming in Hong Kong" an illustrated article with both black and white and colour photographs at pp. 751-763 of *The Geographical Magazine* January, 1967 and the brief article "Economic Life and the Family" by Ronald Ng in (edited by M. Topley) *Aspects of Social Organisation in the New Territories* published by the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong 1965.

Hong Kong 1968. JAMES HAYES