

J. Errol Gray, 1893. Diary of a journey to the Bor Khamti Country, 1892-3. Simla.

p.16 ff.

1st January 1893.

The valley in which the two villages of Tingsa and Bamjan are situated, is a very small one; hardly two miles in length and less than a mile and a half in breadth. It is somewhat in the shape of a triangle with the Dching river for its base. The lower spurs of the hills which surround it to the north, east and west are clad with a species of sun grass, as is also the valley itself, presenting a very pleasant spectacle after the interminable tree forest we had been marching through ever since we left the Dapha valley. The Singphos living here are of the Kunki clan, which is a subclan of the N'kum sang. They came originally from the Khaku country beyond the Nam Kiu. They live a very isolated life, being many days' journey from any other villages, and in case of failure of crops must have a very hard time of it. **They are keen hunters, annually killing a number of elephants and rhinoceros; the tusks of the former and horns of the latter they bring down and sell to the Merwari merchants established in the villages of Borua pothar, and Chonkam, the ivory fetching Rs 10 to Rs 13 per seer, the horn as much as Rs 80 to Rs 100 per seer.** I had sent on couriers in advance to advise the headmen of my coming, and asking them to collect a few maunds of rice against my arrival, promising to give them presents when I arrived, but it appears the headmen took no action in the matter, waiting to see the nature and amount of their presents before interesting themselves on my behalf.

Extract taken from: p.423

Elwin, Verrier (ed.), 1959. India's North-East frontier in the nineteenth century. London, Oxford University Press.

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.131156/2015.131156.Indias-North-east-Frontier#page/n0/mode/2up/>