

CHAPTER II.

THE KURUK-TAGH AND JING-PEN.

A crisp breeze blew down the valley all night, and for the first time that year the thermometer did not descend below zero, the minimum being $+1^{\circ}.3$ C. On the morning of 8th March the brook carried 88.5 cub.decimeter per second. After advancing a little way up the glen, we climbed to the top of the gravel-and-shingle terrace on the left. Thereupon we directed our steps towards the east-

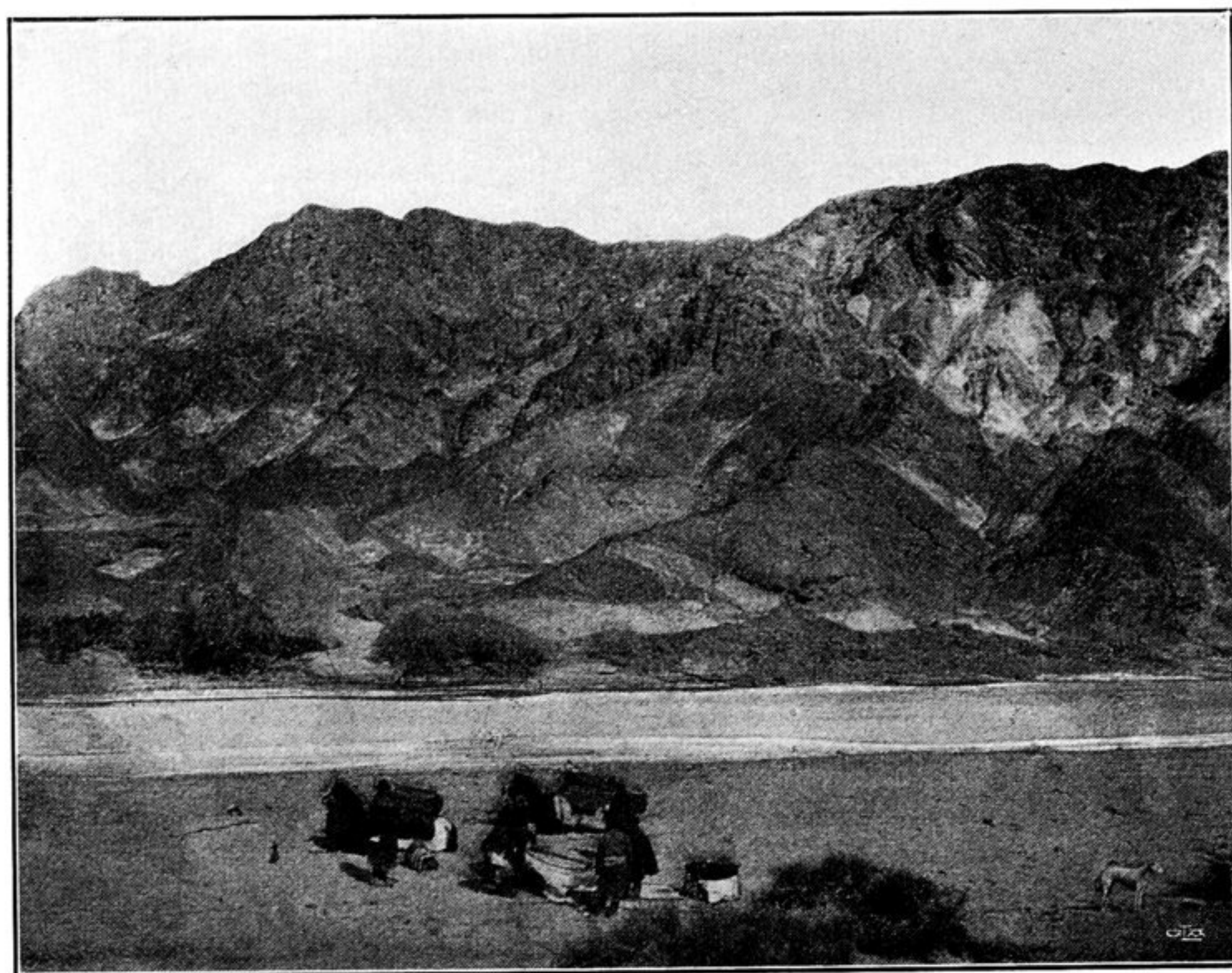


Fig. 14. MOUNTAIN SCENERY ON THE ROAD BETWEEN SUGET-BULAK AND KURBANTSCHIK.

south-east, keeping near the foot of the mountains, and crossing over innumerable tiny rivulets, all of which were dry, and some of which contained drift-wood, an indication that some of the smaller glens bear vegetation. The hard, gently sloping saj, strewn with débris and easy to travel over, was dotted with thin scrub. Every now and again we saw *arkaris* (or wild sheep), antelopes, hares, and *teschikans*,