

Our route was now towards the east, up a gently ascending slope. On our left we passed a couple of big pools with brownish-grey muddy water and on the right a large lake, considerably bigger than the two just mentioned. It is long and narrow, and extends towards the west-south-west. After climbing over a flat saddle, we saw in front of us to the south-east a very large lake, the eastern shore of which was not visible, though in the far distance we saw low mountains. The sandy hills sink gradually down towards its shore. I generally observed in this region that, wherever there was grass, the ground was always sandy; possibly that is because the sand allows

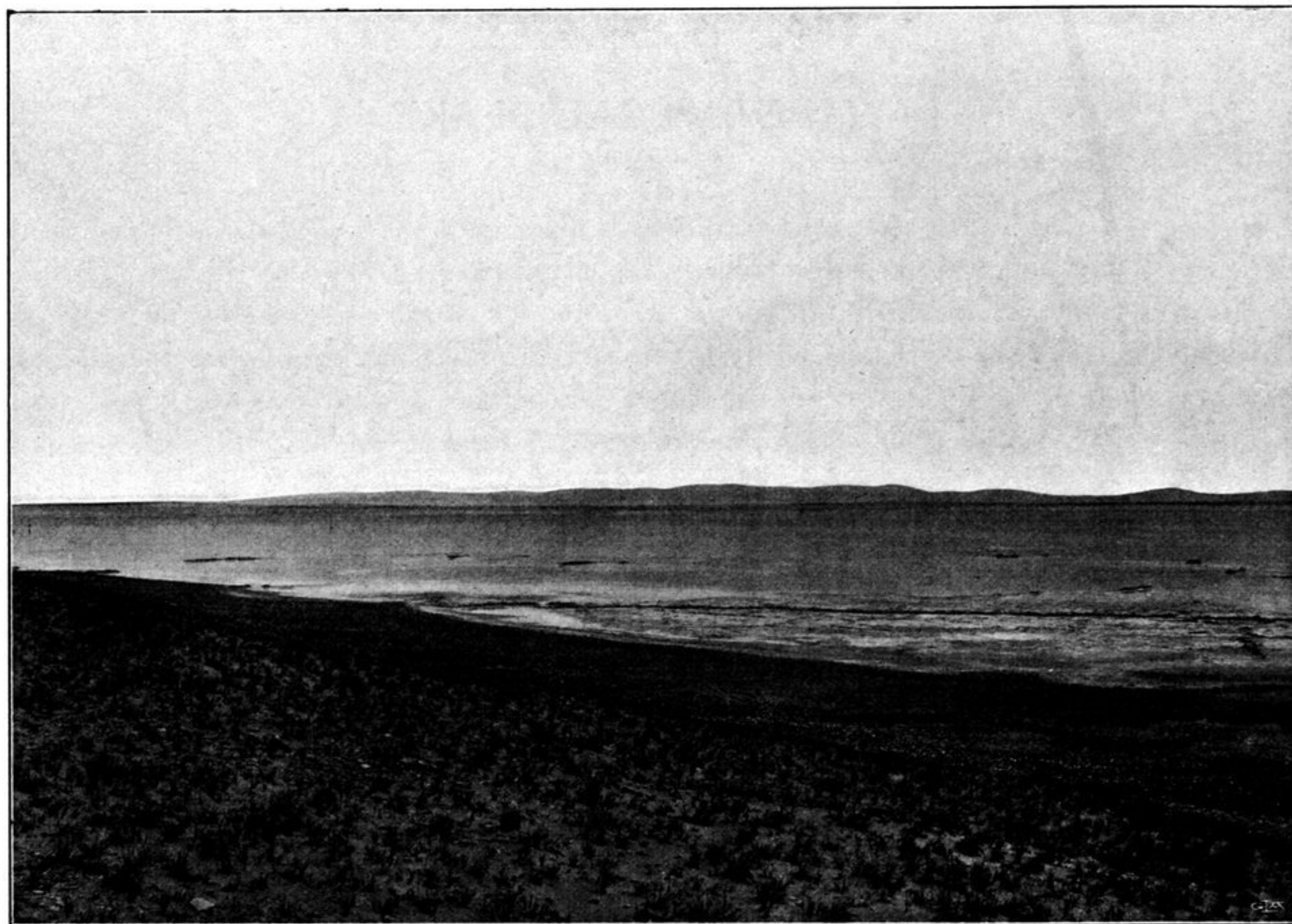


Fig. 77. S 65° E FROM CAMP XXX.

the excess of rainfall, which is heavy, to escape freely. Here too there were several waterless ravines. The strip of shore close beside the water's edge consisted of wet mud, with a number of small lagoons in it. The water was intensely salt, and so it was also in all the lagoons of the neighbourhood. We however were fortunate enough to find, not far from the lake, a spring which yielded drinkable water. Seen from the hills beside the lake, its northern half appeared to be of a reddish brown colour, its southern half on the other hand was blue; from which one is almost tempted to believe, that the former is somewhere entered by the turbid glacier stream. Next day however the reddish tinge had disappeared, and the lake was blue throughout. But as the northern part in particular is remarkably shallow, the turbidity was probably due to the beat of the waves.