

sloped. The ground, which consisted of sand, earth, or gravel, was everywhere hard and capable of bearing; here there were no marshy places, the reason doubtless being that the sand lets the water run through it. Farther on we crossed over some tiny rivulets, as well as waterless, though slightly moist watercourses, coming out of the northern mountains and running towards the west.

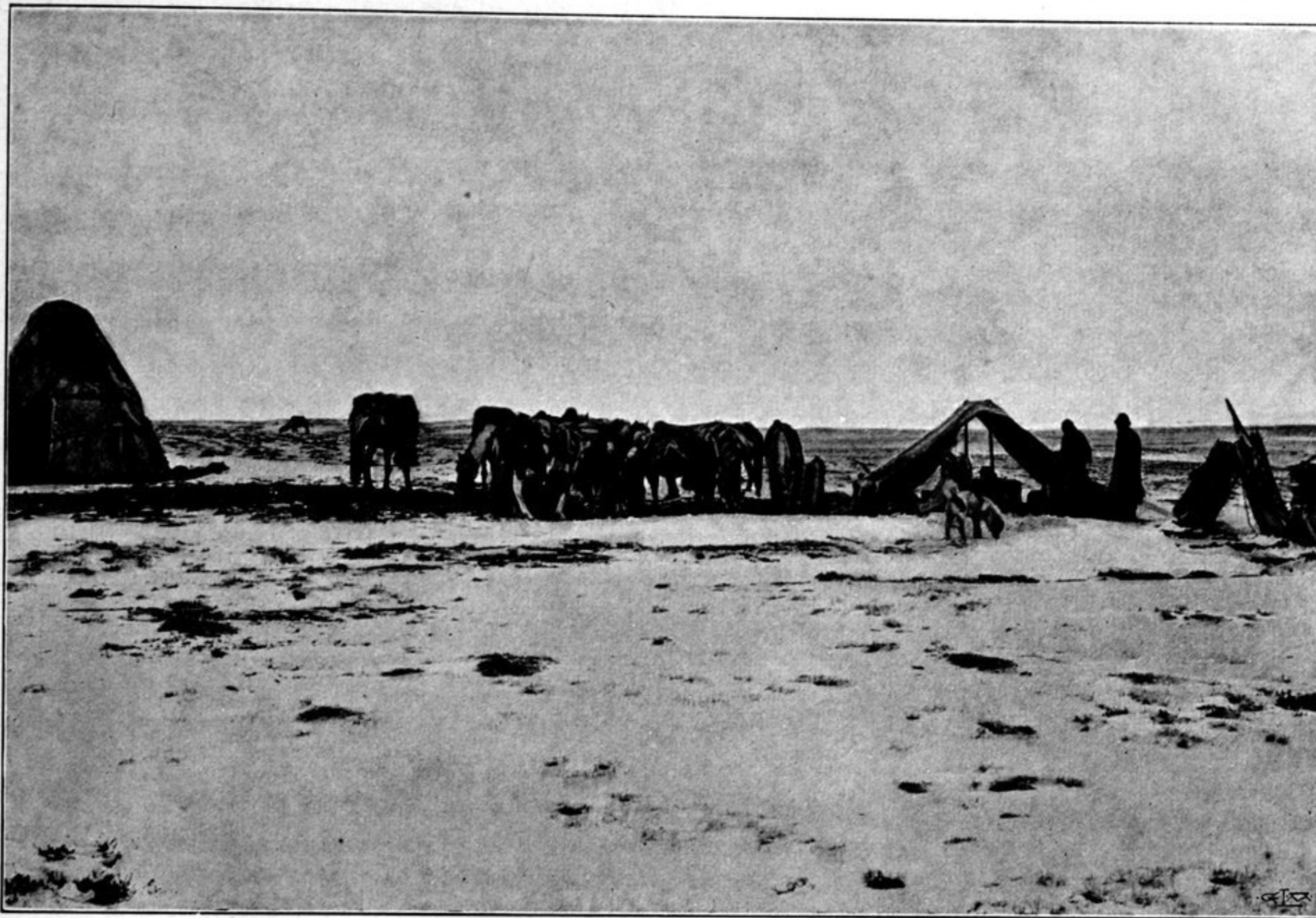


Fig. 112. CAMP L.

Kulans and orongo antelopes were here quite common, and once we even saw a flock of arkharis or wild sheep. On our left we passed a miniature lake or rather large pool, which quite unusually stretches from north to south, while on the west it is bordered by a sharply outlined terrace-like elevation of the surface. It is into this pool that all the brooks of the region gather. North-east of the large pool there are several smaller ones. One of these, a peculiar double pool, is entered by the arms of a large brook, which divides quite close to its mouth. The country here is almost perfectly sterile. As a rule the channels down which the brooks run are broad and filled with mud, and show a tendency to split into deltaic arms.

After that the country is again broken, forming a labyrinth of sandy and earthy hills, thinly sprinkled with grass. Amongst these lie an incredible number of small self-contained basins, each with a tiny salt pool in the middle of it, most of these having no visible affluent. Some of them were at that time without water, though the moist mud at the bottom betrayed that they had contained water re-