

## CHAPTER X.

### BACK TO THE ARKA-TAGH.

On 19th September we continued our journey towards the west, still keeping along the foot of the mountains on the south; consequently there was no noteworthy change in the scenery. All day we had on the north the same mountain peaks, seen however from different angles; of all these I took compass-bearings. The ground

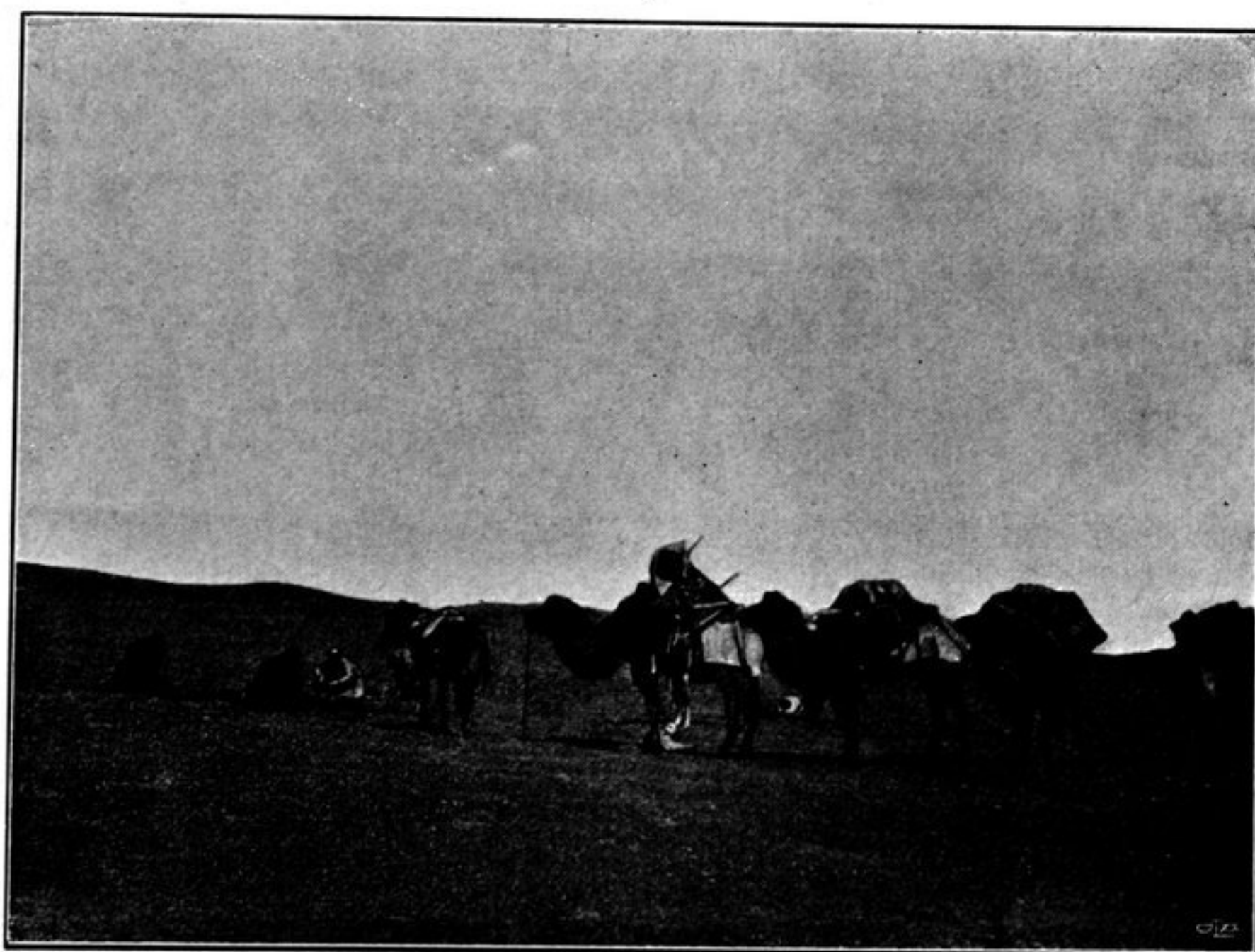


Fig. 118. COLLECTING FUEL ON THE ROAD.

was hard and level, and scored occasionally with dry watercourses, issuing out of the side-glens that open on the south. In one place we found springs of bright, fresh water, trickling out of the ground and forming shallow basins, the water in which had a temperature of  $15.6^{\circ}$ , and this probably remains fairly constant during the winter, for a species of small Crustacean\* lives in it. We only saw hard rock at Camp LIV (alt. 4917 m.), namely a light green crystalline schist and a variety

\* See vol. VI, Part I, p. 67, *Zoologie*, by Prof. W. Leche.