

rains that did not possess sufficient power to scoop out proper channels for themselves. After that the ground was level and hard, excellent to ride on. Gradually we approached the middle of the valley, and eventually we were nearer to the Akato-tagh than to the Piaslik-tagh. Both east and west the country was open to an endless distance. Every now and again we crossed over belts of scrub, in which the japkak bushes were fairly thick. Then we crossed two successive belts with balghun bushes. Camp LXXIV was formed at Jusup-bulak, also called Supa-bulak or Jusup-alik, where several freshwater springs gush out, the grass being relatively tall and luxuriant. Here the altitude was only 3475 m.

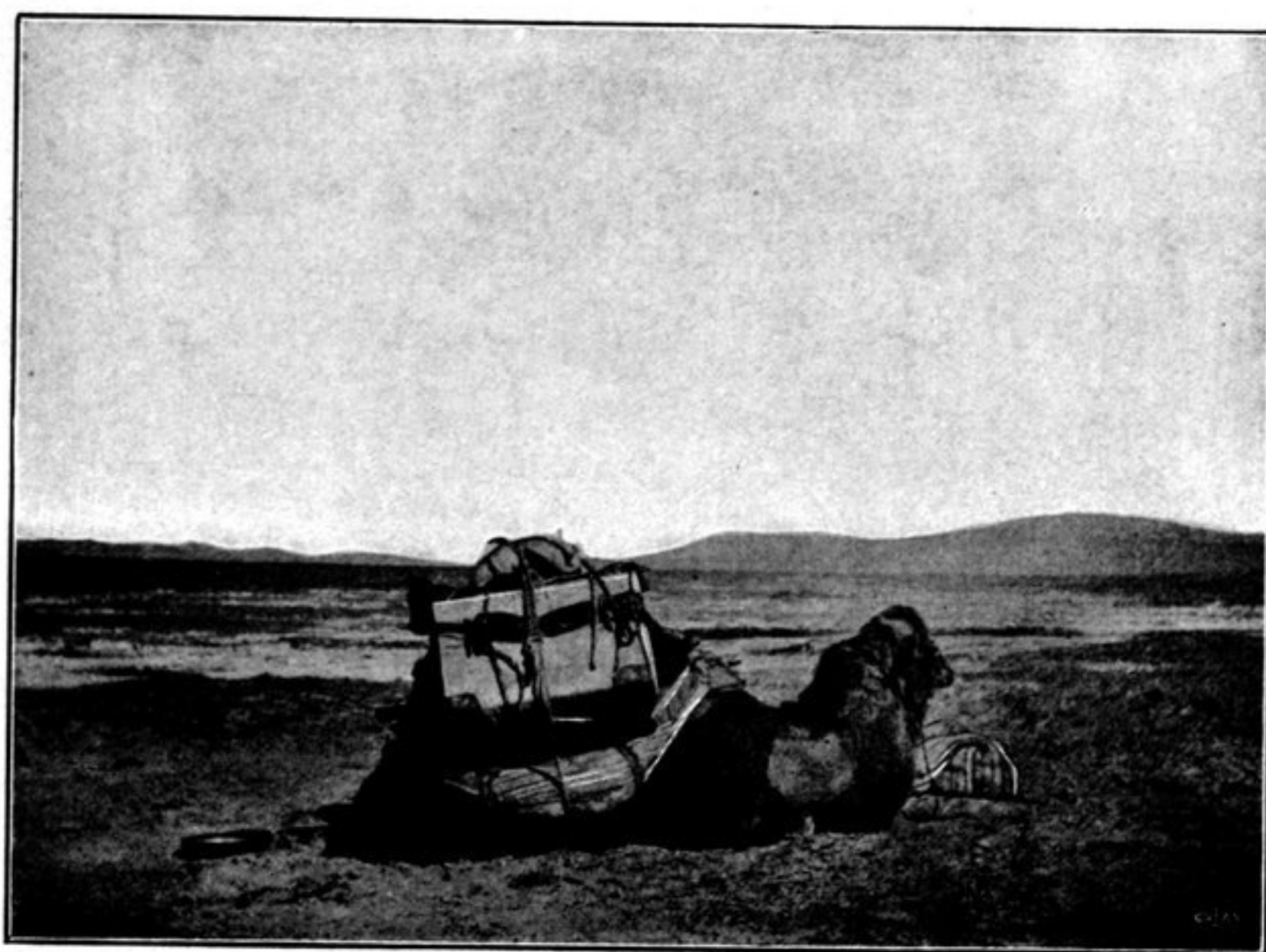


Fig. 166. MY INSTRUMENT BOXES.

The small offshoots at Camp LXXIII consisted of granite and mica-schist in alternate strata (fig. 167), and with a distinct bedding of 66° S. and afterwards of 56° to the S. 55° E. The last of the promontories that we passed consisted of granite. After that we observed no hard rock. At Camp LXXIV the character of the mountain scenery had entirely changed. The peaks of the Ilve-tschimen were seen in such foreshortened perspective that it was scarcely possible to identify them, while on the south rose a rather imposing mass of the Piaslik-tagh, with snowy rounded summits. From Ilve-tschimen the Akato-tagh grows lower and lower towards the east, but the Piaslik-tagh rises in the same direction until it fuses with the immense snowy crest of the Tschimen-tagh.

October 18th. Our route now ran almost due east up the middle of the valley of Tschimen. In this part both the bordering ranges are fairly equal in height and neither possesses any outstanding snowy peaks. We did indeed see snow in two or three places, but it had fallen recently. At length we bore to the south-east in order to get round a marsh formed by spring-fed streams; one or two of these we then crossed over, one being rather full of water, which issued out of the ground in a belt thickly set with balghun bushes. In this small well-watered