

Upon reaching the northern shore, we skirted it to the west-south-west for a distance of 7,5 km. It was slightly indented with wide bays separated by capes. The shore-line here was accompanied throughout by a terrace, which ran now a couple of meters, now twenty meters, from the water's edge and was pierced by a countless number of ravines, all running down to the lake, though at this time they were naturally dry. This terrace too, like that on the southern shore, is broken at intervals and its place taken by a rounded rampart. Farther west it frequently plunges sheer down to the water's edge or is separated from it by an excessively

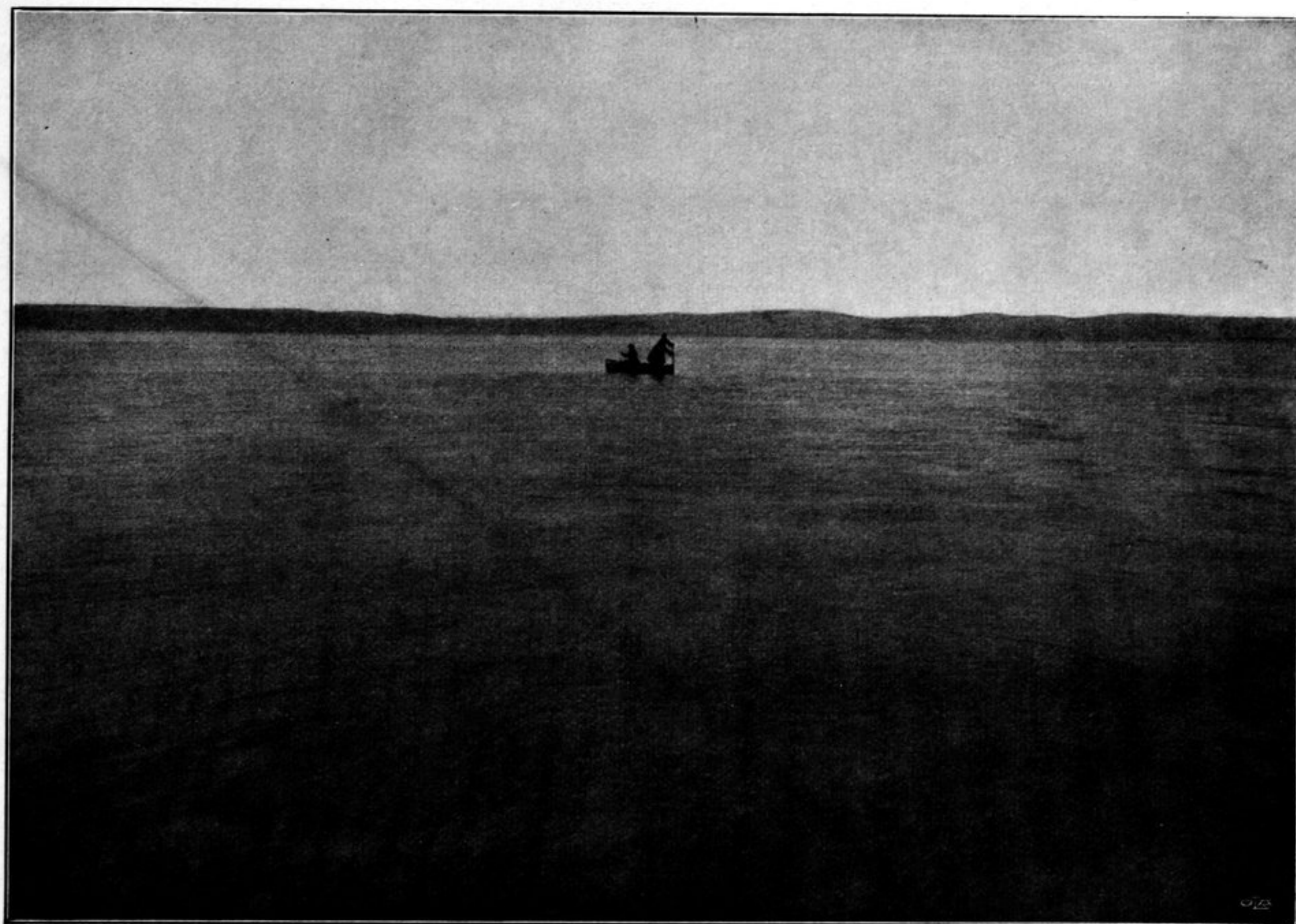


Fig. 179. THE SOUTHERN SHORE OF AJAGH-KUM-KÖL AS SEEN FROM CAMP LXXXV; HERE THE LAKE IS RATHER NARROW.

narrow strip of shore. At a very short distance from the shore the depth of the lake often amounts to two or three meters. The shore is littered with patches of detritus and sand cemented together and as hard as conglomerate. From the lake-shore the surface rises extremely slowly and with insignificant irregularities to the foot of the Kalta-alaghan. It is from that range that the dry torrents issue which upon approaching the lake spread out delta-like into an endless number of gullies. A larger watercourse enters the lake a little east of the point where we struck the north shore after sounding our second line. This watercourse gives rise at its embouchure to a delta of several arms the delta entering some little distance into the lake. During the latter part of the excursion the usual transverse terraced swelling was absent, its place being taken by a gentle shelving of the shore. Camp LXXXV