

by boat. One of my men declared, that there was only one point at which it was possible to launch a boat, namely in the district of Bel on the south side. That point, with its yellow *kasch* or »shore terrace«, was visible from our camp to the S. 40° E., while Kumutluk was seen to the S. 45° W. and Tschigelik to the S. 80° E. North of Komutluk there are reported to be several marshes (*schapang-su*) and pools along the shore. There is also a marginal lagoon on the flat land in the eastward continuation of the lake. The two visits that I have paid to the Ghas-köl are not sufficient to determine its shape; it appears however to be elliptical, its long axis running east and west. North of Komutluk it seems to send out a narrow bay towards the west, and this we now crossed over on the ice. On the whole the lake is broadest in the west and narrows towards the east. Its absolute altitude is 2837 m.

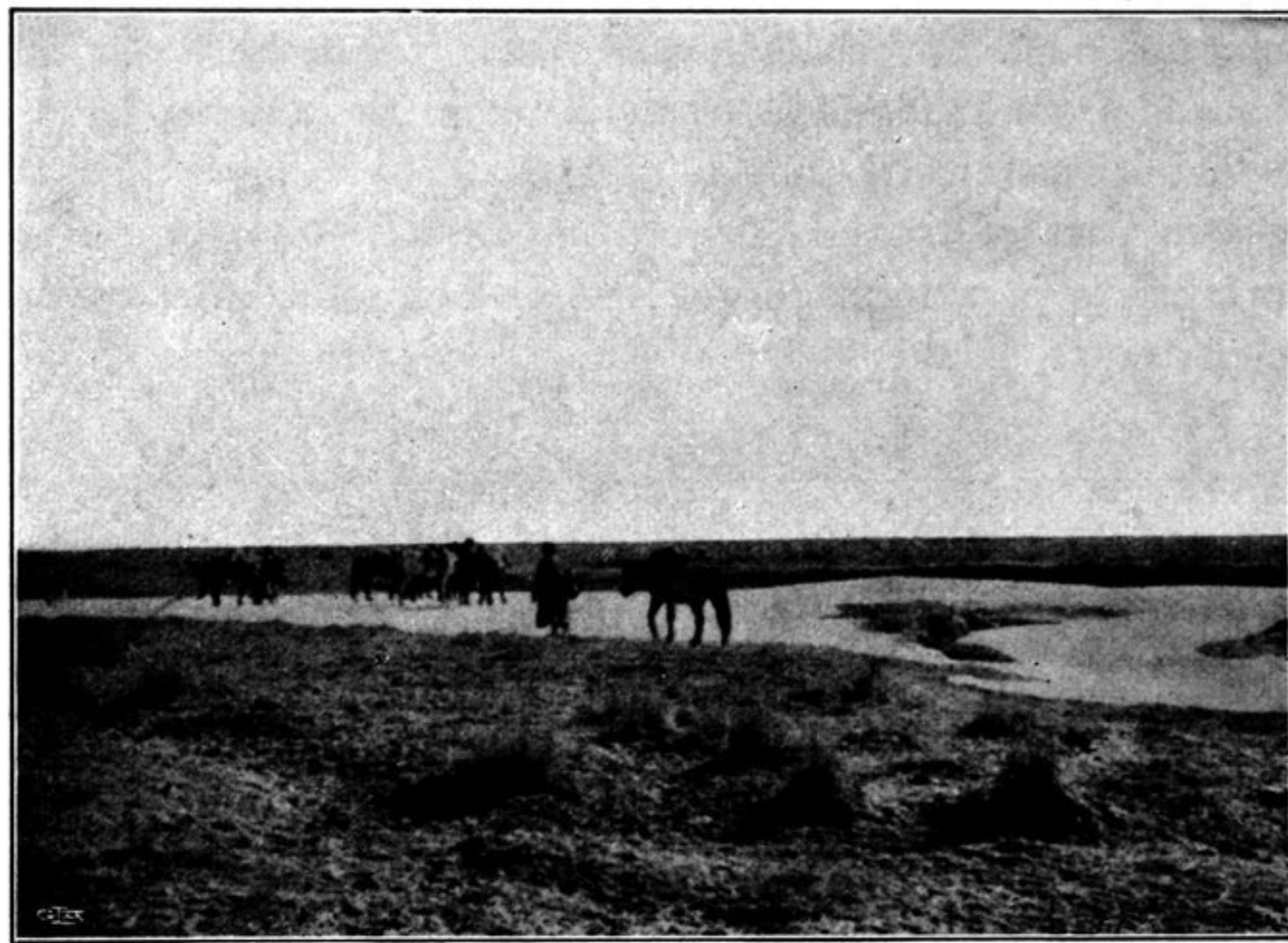


Fig. 203. THE SAME.

Originally this lake, or rather this flat, barren salt-marsh, would appear to have owed its formation to the stream of Jusup-alik and its tributaries. We have, it is true, ascertained that this stream disappears in the district of Bagh-tokaj. After that it flows underground and reappears in the numerous springs, that form jars, in the Tschimen valley. Thence the water again flows on the surface, until finally it enters the lake. The lake is fed exclusively from the west, and the inflow there is constant. It is only occasionally that there is any influx from the north and south, e. g. from the glen of Mandarlik. On the other hand, there is no feeder from the east: the flat Tschimen valley merges with the basin of Tsajdam without any water-divide to speak of. The western feeders are said to enter the lake at three separate places. The largest of these is the stream formed by the union of the Tschong-jar, Kulak-jar, Temirlik, and Usun-jar, all of which conjoin not far below Temirlik to form one stream, which, after picking up the Basch-malghun, enters the lake at Camp C. South of that the Ajiklik-ileghi and the Tschalma-jar