

respect it reminded me of the Kuruk-tagh farther to the north. Accordingly we followed the road into a small pass in an insignificant offshoot running towards the south-east. Thence the hard sandy surface slopes slowly and evenly down towards the beginning of a fresh saj, which, unlike the foregoing, proceeds towards the north-east, being sunk 2 to 3 m. deep. This new glen, in which the teresken was fairly abundant, and two or three tiny snow-drifts had forgotten to melt away, led us, as I have said, first towards the north-east, but soon it inclines to the east, south-east, and south-south-east, deepening as it advances, although its fall is easy, regular,

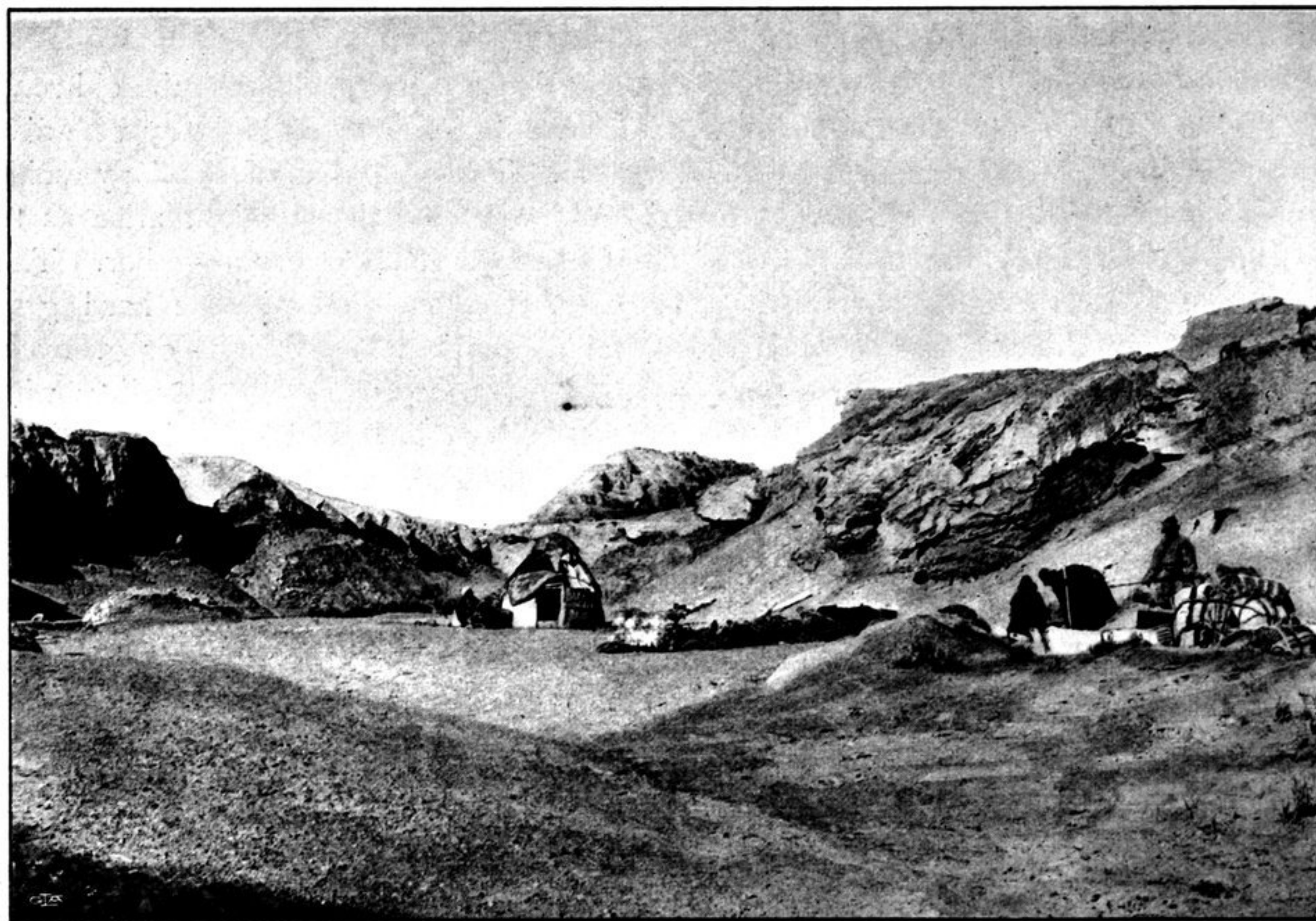


Fig. 230. CAMP CVI.

and slow. Its bottom shows plain indications of water-channels and of flowing water, although it appeared to be a long time since any actually flowed that way. This glen is joined from the right by two pretty large side-glens. On that same side, that is on the south, it is bordered by fairly flat, but tolerably extensive, mountain slopes, apparently the south-eastward continuation of the parallel range already alluded to. Farther on, to the south-south-east, rises a chaos of small, and apparently innocent looking, mountains, though in reality they are possessed of the same inhospitable characteristics as the Akato-tagh. On the left, that is north-east of our course, there now appeared a rather isolated mountain-mass of some magnitude. Although we were being taken quite out of our direction, that is to the south-east, instead of to the north-east, we had no choice except to follow the bottom of the