

having got aground there. The grazing along the shore was relatively good, and the kulans were clearly aware of the fact. The mountains to the south did not look particularly dangerous; but it is easy to deceive oneself in this respect, for difficult mountains often lie hidden behind the nearest hills. All this time we had in view to the west-north-west the immense double peak of the-Ullugh-Mus-tagh.

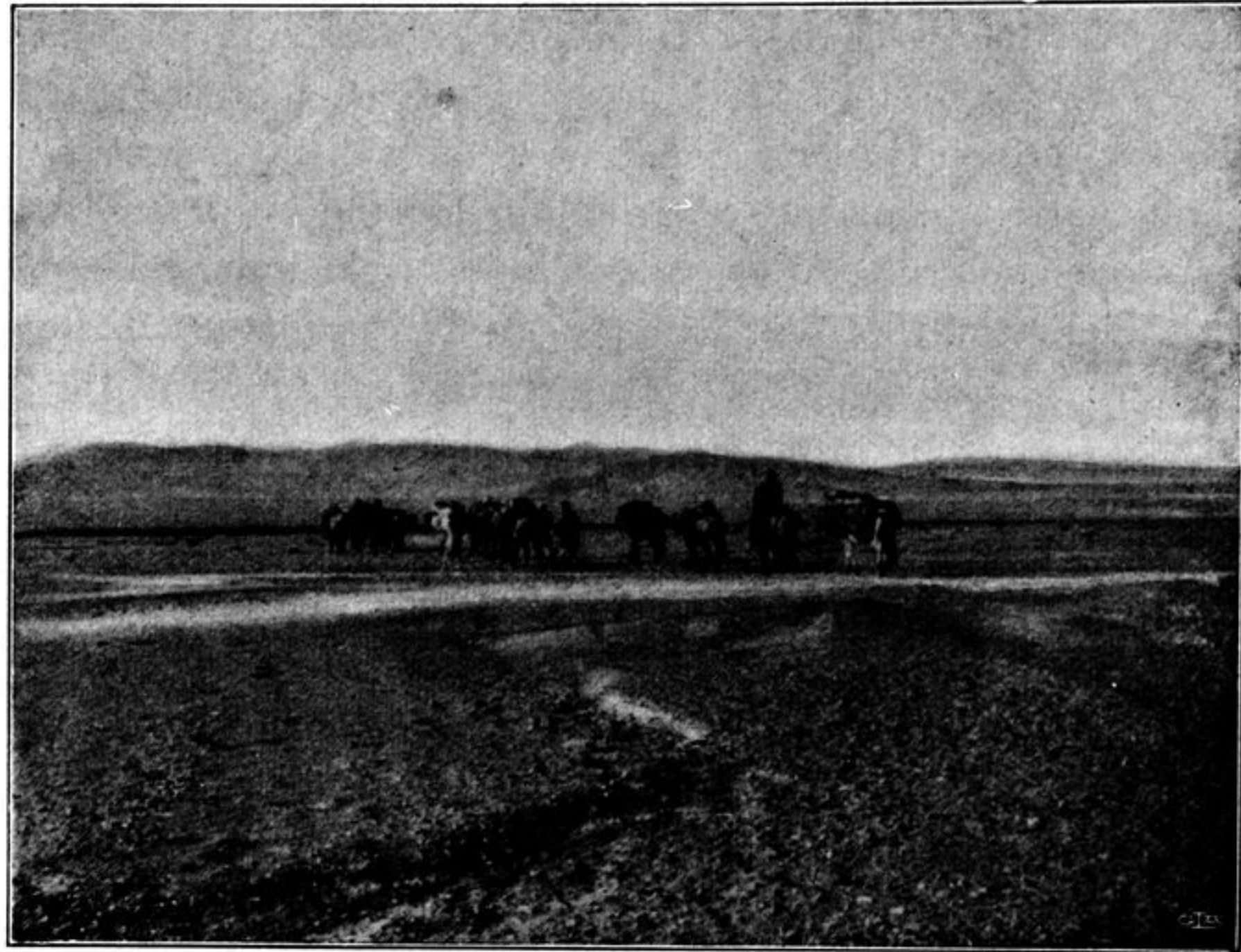


Fig. 349. OPEN LANDSCAPE OF THE NORTH TIBETAN PLATEAU.

On the ridge between the two lakes, the highest summits of which we had evaded by making a detour to the west, I took two specimens of the sandstone schists prevalent in the neighbourhood. One of these dipped  $40^{\circ}$  towards the S.  $40^{\circ}$  W., the other  $45^{\circ}$  towards the N.  $5^{\circ}$  E. It is very seldom that the rocks are so intact that their bedding is distinct or may be implicitly relied upon. Usually the beds dip towards the south, so that the sharp-edged ridges with the outcrops point towards the north. From this rule, if rule it can be called, there are however numerous exceptions. In one or two places I observed the veins of quartzite projecting through the disintegrated *débris* (which consists of the same sandstone), partly as small chips and laminæ, partly as finely pulverised dust. In colour it is red or green, and exhibits several varieties of shade, the differences being apparently dependent upon the angle of inclination and the dip in relation to the sun. In the vicinity of Camp XXIV I observed the occurrence of a peculiar kind of spherical stones, concentric integuments arranged round a central nucleus, which put me in mind of the volcanic *lapilli*. Most of them were however defective, only one-half, or even a smaller portion, remaining.

On the morning of the 29th June the sky was perfectly clear and serene. There was not the slightest speck of cloud around the double peak of the Ullugh-Mus-tagh; and its white summit, together with the entire mass of which the double