

new mountain-range, capped with fresh-fallen snow and of greater dimensions than any of the ranges that we had lately crossed over. To have gone straight over that gigantic mountain-wall would have been utterly impossible; our best plan was therefore to travel eastwards along its northern foot in the hope of discovering a gap by which we could get over it. One thing was at any rate clear, that we could not expect to find better grazing-grounds until we did get beyond it.

At the first little pass in this stage we found a close-grained variety of rock, which, though hard, was greatly weathered, with a dip of  $35^{\circ}$  S. Near the bigger pass was red sandstone, dipping  $35^{\circ}$  towards the N.  $35^{\circ}$  W.; then again, at the high pass, the recently mentioned hard, dark rock, thickly interpenetrated by white veins. Apart from this, we observed no hard rock, and only a little detritus in one place. From the first pass  $M_1 N_1$  were still visible to the N.  $35^{\circ}$  E.

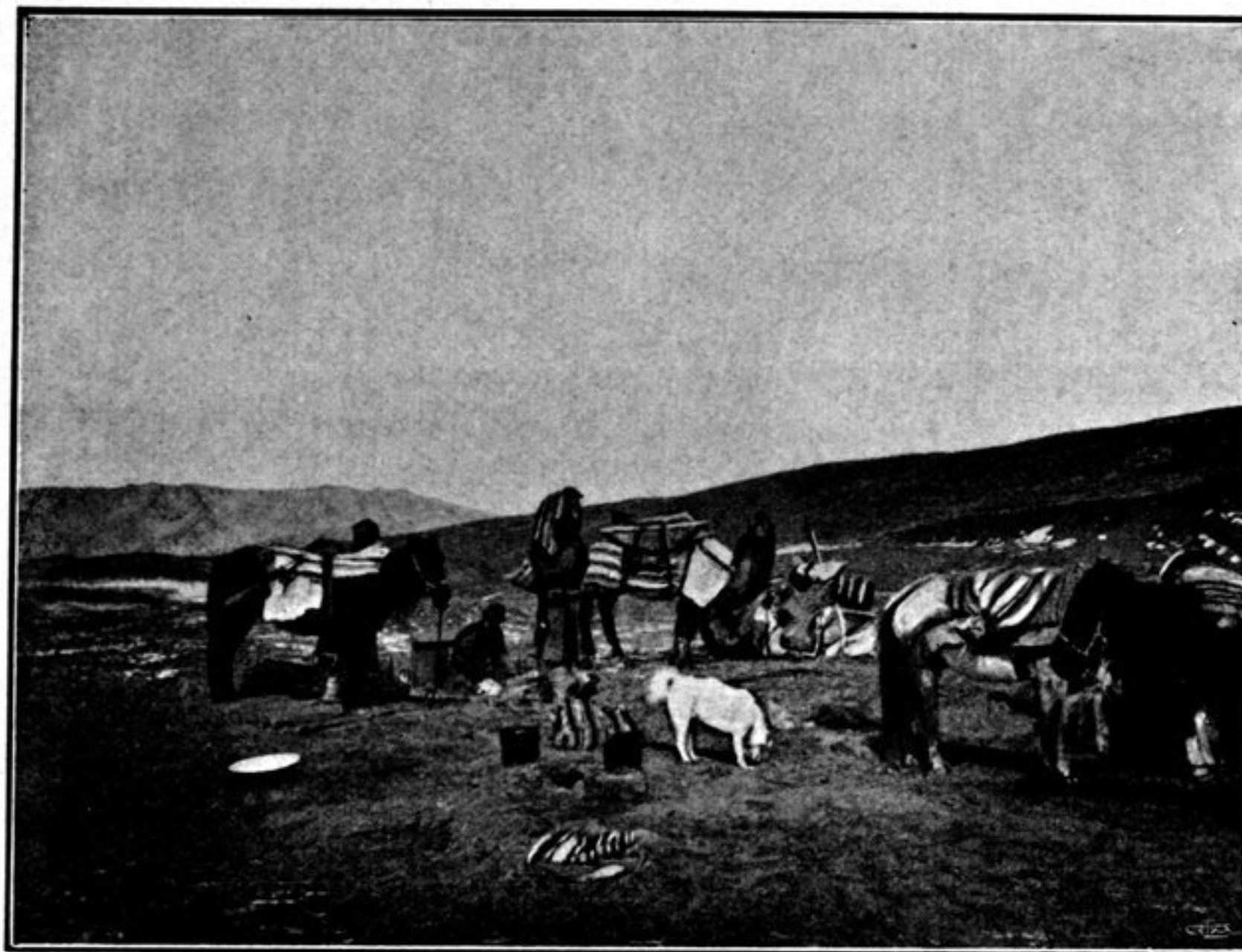


Fig. 359. CAMP XXXV.

On the 11th July we travelled towards the east-south-east, following the broad latitudinal valley (which had an imperceptible slope in that direction), though without approaching notably nearer to the southern range, whose great snowy summits were now masked by ranges and crests of a sombre complexion. The scenery was, as it usually is in these latitudinal valleys, extremely monotonous. At first we kept on the north side of the stream, which flows due east. Grass and garlic occurred in small patches wherever the surface was rough; where it was perfectly level it was either quite barren or else bore a thin sprinkling of moss and japkak. There were numerous traces of orongo antelopes and kulans. What wild-yak dung there was dated from the preceding winter. The yaks appear to spend the summer in the higher snowy regions, but the winters down in the latitudinal valleys. And indeed we did find vast numbers of them on the top of the next range.

At the point where we forded the stream, in order to continue along its southern bank, its bed was very broad, though but slightly indented; its volume was