

north and north-west. Upon it debouches the recently mentioned transverse glen from the two little passes. By the side of this glen rise a couple of buttes almost or quite isolated. We were now south of the country of Rundor, which Deasy visited and mapped. There he notes a very extensive »Sandy Plain», called Tai Chaka. He has drawn as meridional the valleys which come from the direction of Rudok, that is from the south, and open out upon this depression. This is for that region a rare thing, for all the other valleys in that quarter run from south-east to north-west. As however he did not personally see the country to the south of his »Sandy Plain», he has indicated the direction of these valleys by dotted lines; and he even makes the one farthest west proceed towards the north-east. It is difficult to determine how far this conception is correct or not. On Nain Singh's map the direction is very decidedly from south-east to north-west. The particular valley into which we had now entered does, it is true, run almost north, and thus is in agreement with the direction attributed to the valleys of this country by Deasy; but we found that it afterwards bends round to the north-west and west.

From the last pass we travelled towards the north-west and west, across a surface that slopes gradually down towards the new latitudinal valley, and we soon realised that there was no fear of our getting lost amongst that labyrinth of mountains, which had at first appeared so formidable. It is remarkable how persistently these great ranges of mountains had accompanied us on the left or south all the way from Naktson-g-tso, not only with inflexible tenacity denying us access to the forbidden parts of Tibet, but also jealously cutting off our view of them. They form, as it were, a family of mountains, a mountain-system, which without any noteworthy breaches stretches all the long way towards the west-north-west and north-west, and consists of a number of parallel subordinate ranges, with a main

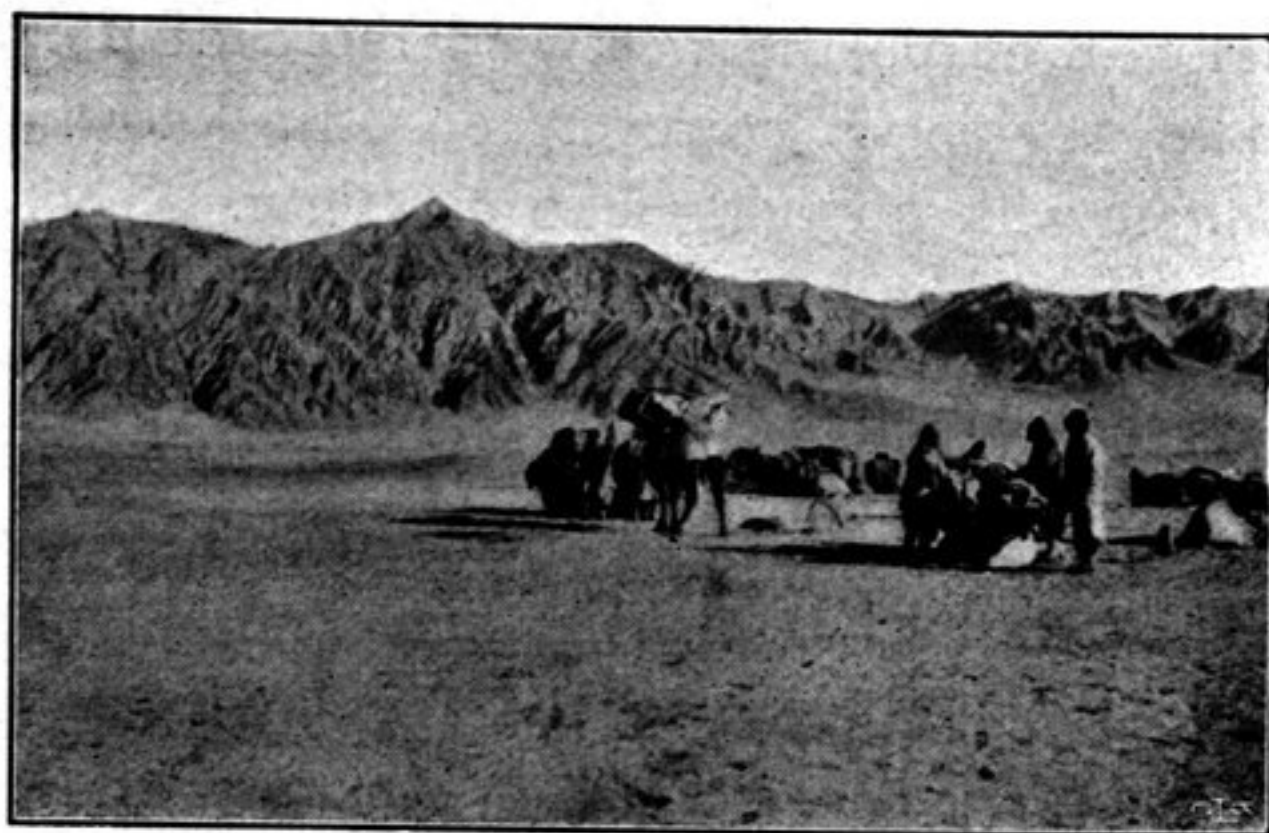


Fig. 140. LOOKING SOUTH FROM CAMP CXXXI.

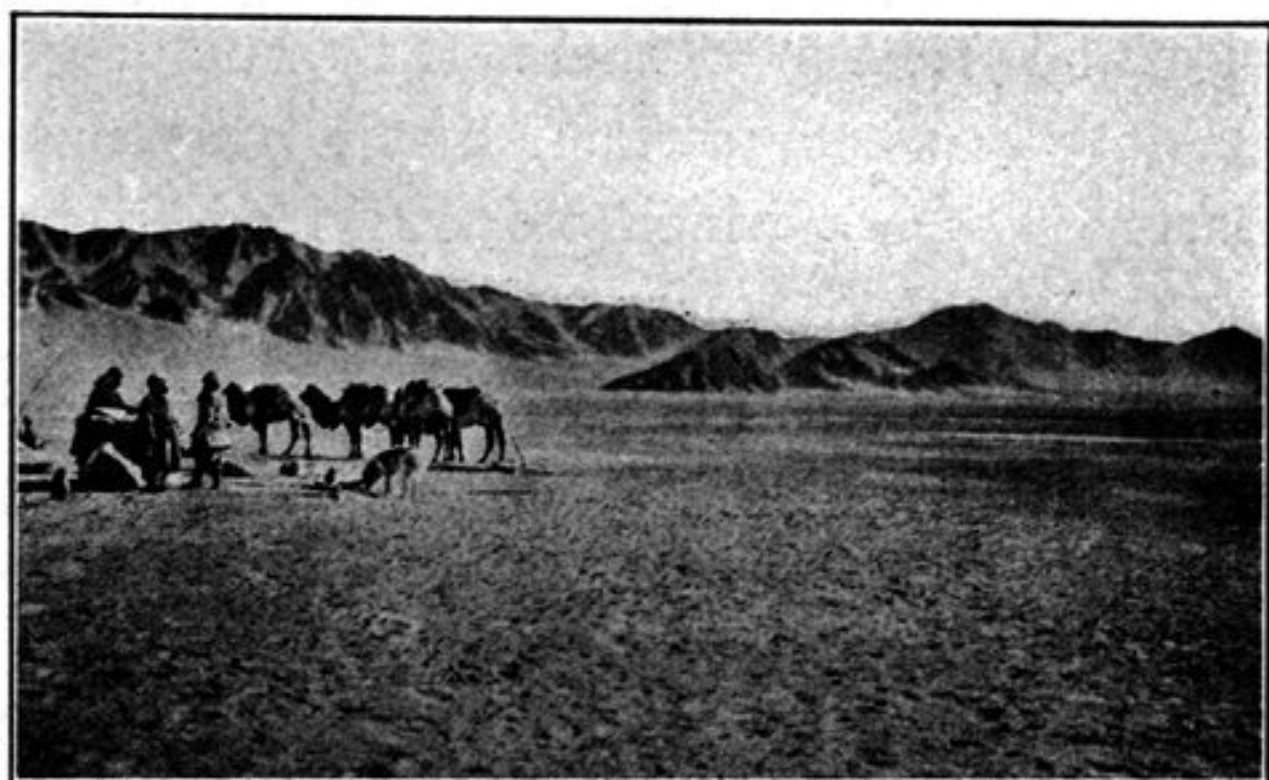


Fig. 141. LOOKING SW FROM CAMP CXXXI.

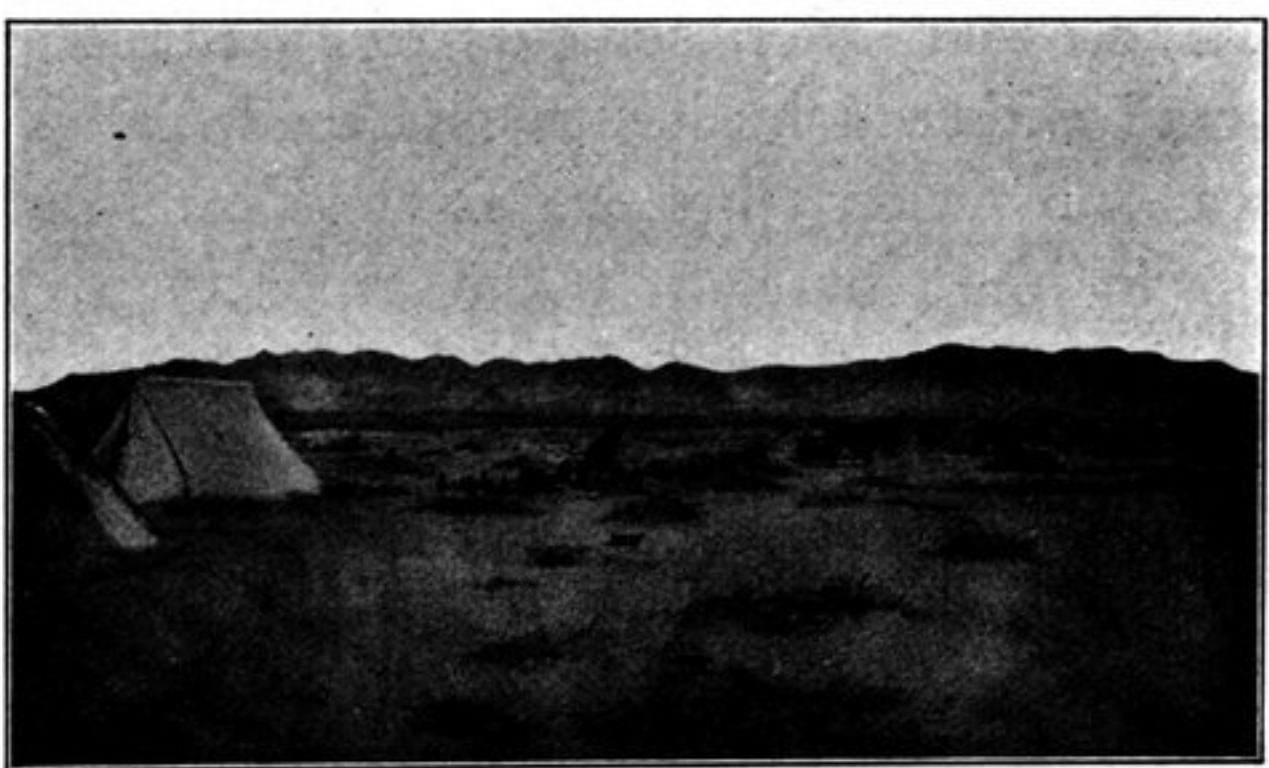


Fig. 142. LOOKING N 65° E FROM CAMP CXXXI.