

were travelling. On the other hand the southern range grows higher, and the outlets of its side-glens are choked with extensive gravelly scree, down which their drainage-arteries radiate fan-wise. Between that particular range and the main range of the system intervenes a valley, parallel to the one which we were then in. The surface slopes gradually down towards a little flat expanse of sediment, which would appear to be at times overflowed with water from the main channel. It is a species of miniature marginal lake, dammed up by the detached butte that rises in the middle of the latitudinal valley. This elevation is elongated, and strangely

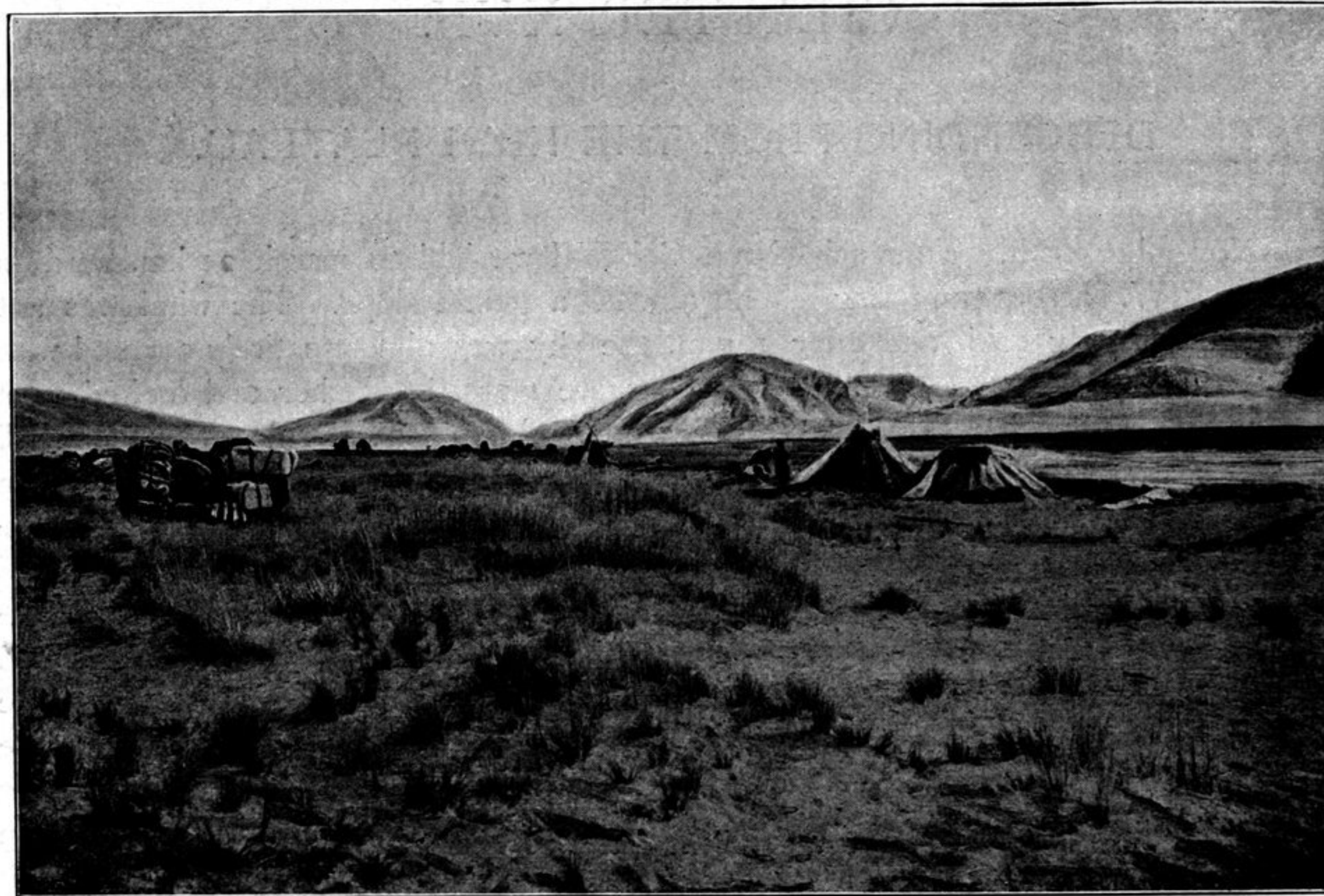


Fig. 143. LOOKING N 6° E FROM CAMP CXXXII.

enough elongated meridionally; at its eastern foot, that is on the leeward side, sand-dunes have been built up. After doubling the northern shoulder of this butte, the main watercourse makes a bend to the south. Immediately east of it is another similar miniature mountain, but it stretches from east to west. Strictly speaking both these belong to one and the same ridge, which has been sawn through by the watercourse, the breach by which it effects its passage being cut 2 to 3 m. deep through the gravel-and-shingle. In the middle of its bed small thresholds and bands of conglomerate crop out here and there. Instead of keeping to the watercourse we proceeded round by the north of the second butte, and after that travelled west-south-west across hard gently sloping ground, thinly sprinkled with gravel, and except for a blade or two of grass occasionally, it was almost barren. On our right we passed a free-standing butte, close at the base of the range on the north.