

On the 16th December we at first followed the shore for a space, passing a cape and a bay; but at the base of the next cape we turned away from the shore, and went up a sort of ravine between rocky heights, which took us to the west-south-west, though afterwards we travelled for the most part on soft detritus, having quite close on our right the upper course of the deep-cut erosion channel. The pass itself is flat, and scanty scrub was growing. The snow increased in quantity the farther we advanced west: at the west end of the lake it even lay on the level ground, and not on the crests and slopes of the mountains only. The western de-

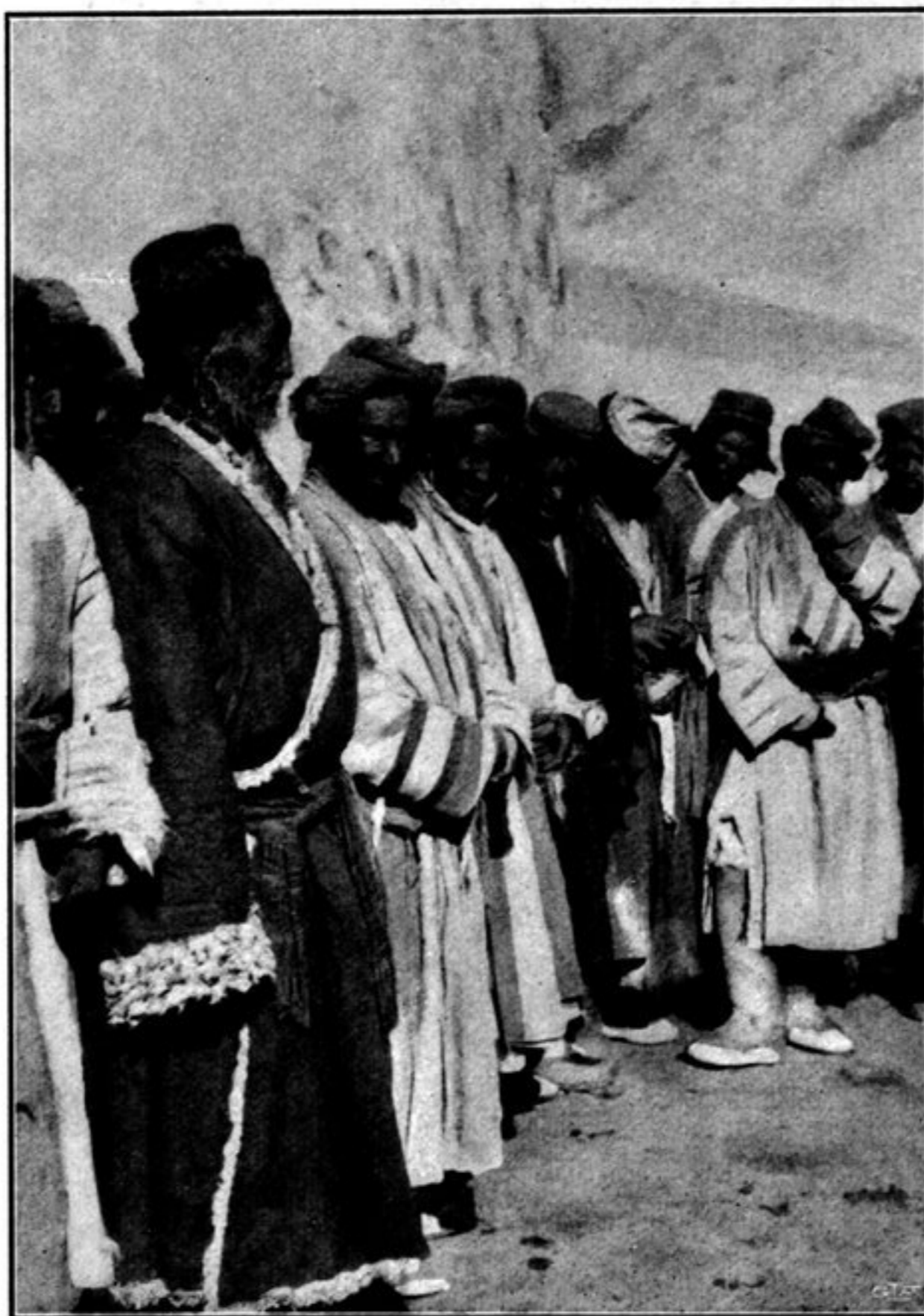


Fig. 260. SOME GROUPS OF THE LADAK RELIEF EXPEDITION.

clivity from the pass is more gentle than the eastern, and is smothered under sand, both soft and deep. This brought us over the great spur that borders the big bay on the west. It would probably be impossible to get round its extremity. From Camp CXLIX we counted on its eastern side also six capes, one after the other, and all having a steep descent into the lake. All the same the route *via* the pass means a considerable detour.

After passing the outlet of a considerable glen coming from the east, we again approached the shore. Looking back towards the east we then saw only one less accentuated cape of the big spur, the reason being that the last bay on the north side of the lake does not penetrate very far inland. After passing yet one more cape, we turned our backs upon the extreme north-western bay of the Pang-gong-tso and crossed the lacustrine plain towards the outlet of a glen which we