

## VII. STAY AT THE E D S E N - G O L

LARSON had reached the Edsen-gol five days before us, and pitched camp at Tsondol. Although autumn was on the way and the leaves of the trees had begun to turn yellow, summer still lingered. That the air at least felt warmer here at the end of September than it had done at the Khujirtu-gol at the end of July was perhaps chiefly due to the fact that we had come down from an altitude of 1595 m. to about 900 m.

Everybody took advantage of the opportunity to bathe in the river, even Dicky, our little antelope, who had never seen such a big stream in his life, swam quite fearlessly. Our dogs, on the other hand, were too cowardly even to enter the water.

Meantime, we discussed many plans for excursions that we hoped to be able to carry out before NORIN's and YUAN's columns arrived at our new head-quarters.

### RE-PACKING OF PROVISIONS

A job with which LARSON, MARSCHALL, MÜHLENWEG and several of the Mongols were occupied for some time was the re-arranging and taking tally of all our provisions. I wanted if possible to have only half loads on the camels that were to take us to Hami; and for this journey it would not be necessary to take more provisions than we should actually consume on the way. In Sinkiang we could very easily replenish our stock whenever we wished — and such fresh supplies would be only too welcome after the monotony of the eternal tinned food we had been having.

The provisions were sorted out in different groups. Everything that was needed for the first meteorological station for a period of at least one year was set aside, while the provisions that would be consumed by the main caravan on its way to Hami formed another pile. In a third heap were placed the goods that would be needed at the main camp for the ensuing month.

The provision chests were made smaller by those of our Mongols who knew how to handle carpenter's tools. The new chests were then reinforced with the old