



Fig. 8. Young Edsen-gol Torgut, the son of Targhan Tserchi

## TWO EXCURSIONS START

On October 4th HUANG, the archaeologist, set out on a twenty-five days' excursion down to Ghashun-nor and the tract to the south-west of this lake, where he hoped to find the town of Chü-yen, mentioned in the older Han-annals.

On October 5th HEMPEL and ZIMMERMANN started out on a little excursion along the river to the north-east. We had heard talk of a mud house on the left bank, that had been built by a Chinese merchant and was now owned by the prince of the Torguts. It might prove suitable as a store-house for station I, which in this case ought to be established there. However, the house turned out to be unsuited to the purpose and a new excursion was planned to the lakes to see whether a better site for the station was to be found there than the one we had already marked out at Tsondol.

All these excursions and future plans entailed long conferences, for our expedition was, it must be remembered, an intricate and complicated piece of machinery, and all preparations had to be made as wisely and effectively as possible.

## THE CAMP-FIRE

Every evening, after supper, LARSON lit the huge fire of dry tree-trunks he had got his Mongols to collect. Felt mats were then spread out in a semi-circle on the side nearest the wood, and here we made ourselves comfortable.