

to be perfectly horizontal, and it would be quite impossible to tell in which direction it slopes. Several small, dry watercourses are crossed, which seem to be directed N. E., though even this cannot be determined. Large surfaces have no signs of erosion at all. The soil is perfectly barren and consists of fine, soft material, sand and sparse, fine gravel. Clouds of dust are driven by the wind to the lee side of the caravan. After a few hours' march, the mountains near *Camp VIII*, were easy to recognize, and we camped quite near the same place, perhaps 1 km. north of it, as soon as the grass on the sandy ground proved to be thick enough. The absolute height will be about the same; at any rate the undulations of the ground are very insignificant.<sup>1</sup> Pan. 391A and B, Tab. 69, gives an idea of the view from this camp, which should be compared with the panorama taken the year before from a point 1½ km. W. S. W. from *Camp VIII*.

On *January 11th*, we accomplished, for the second time, the march from the good grazing ground of *Camp VIII* and *Camp CCCI* to the Lake *Aksai-chin*, 17.5 km. in length. On this section the ground remains practically at the same level, the altitude of *Camp CCCI* being 4,916 m. and that of *Camp CCCII* 4,914 m. The temperature of the night was  $-23.9^{\circ}$  and the day was cloudy with a strong wind from the east. Of animal life, only three antelopes and one kyang were seen. The day's march was the same as the year before, though we did not follow any track of wild animals, and did not see any footprints or other remains of my first caravan. Two or three white patches, a few kilometers north of our route, could be salt as well as water. But *Camp CCCII* was certainly exactly the same as *Camp IX*, for there the old fireplaces and a heap of dry plants for fuel were still left at the side of the fresh-water spring at which we had camped in 1906. Very good grass was found in the southern hills near the spring, *yapchan* plants being abundant as well as dung of kyang and yak. We stayed here for a day. On the second night the temperature was at  $-18.6^{\circ}$  and it snowed so much that the whole country became white. This day the wind came from the west. The whole Lake *Aksai-chin* was open, its water being extremely salt.

From *Camp CCCII*, Pan. 390A and B, Tab. 68 was taken. It should be compared with Pan. 24A and B, Tab. 5, taken from the same point on September 6th, 1906. The small differences in details depend chiefly on the fact that the panorama of 1906 was made in the afternoon of a sunny day and that of 1908 on a cloudy day when the whole country was covered with snow. In Vol. III, opposite p. 316, is a coloured view to the N. N. W. from *Camp CCCII*, as it was before the snowfall had begun.

<sup>1</sup> In my personal narrative, the height is given as 4,937 m.; 4,916 m. is the mean altitude from the observations of both 1906 and 1908. The same is the case with *Camp CCCII*, where 4,929 was the result of the observation of 1906 only, and 4,914 m. of both years' observations.