

Gertse. As we had only 3 ponies and 6 mules left, we bought 12 sheep to carry the remaining part of our provisions and some luggage.

From *Camp CCCXLIII*, Pan. 425A, Tab. 77, was taken.¹ N. 61° W., it shows low hills at the southern side of the valley, the open prolongation of which is seen to the N. W. To the north, N. E. and E. N. E., is a flat mountain group that from here seems to be rather isolated, though it is in connection with the range between our old and new latitudinal valleys. To the east, E. S. E. and S. E., the country is open.

Regarding the weather, the S. W. storm began on *February 29th*, at noon with the greatest violence. In the night the minimum temperature was only -13.4° , the highest since December 6th. On *March 1st*, the storm continued as strong as before and broke out at 8 o'clock a. m. Its violence at 1 o'clock p. m. was undescrivable and magnificent. The sky was thickly overclouded, and of the surrounding country nothing could be seen, not even the tents of my men which were pitched at a distance of 6 m. from mine. The next night the temperature was at -19.9° , it snowed, and at 7 o'clock a. m., *March 2nd*, the S. W. wind was blowing again as hard as ever. The whole sky was covered with dark, heavy clouds, and heaps of dust, mixed with snow, were driven across the highlands. The weather was such that it would have been impossible to continue our journey. In the evening the wind dropped low and the night was nearly calm. The temperature now fell to -23.4° . In the morning, *March 3rd*, the weather was good and clear, but already before 7 o'clock a. m. the wind began with the same force as before. Still I decided to make an attempt, and started to the S. E.

This day we accomplished 10.7 km. S. E., rising 127 m., as *Camp CCCXLIV* had a height of 4,760 m.; the rate being at 1:84. The little fresh-water lake, *Lumbur-rigmo*, therefore, indicates the lowest part of a basin, to the S. E. edge of which we were now proceeding. We had not been so low down as at *Lumbur-rigmo*, since December 19th. The contour-line of the lake is very irregular, sending narrow apophyses in all directions. At several places, »ice volcanoes» have been formed where springs come up and freeze gradually in the shape of cones. Amongst the clear blue ice are terraces and platforms of clay, reminding one of the *Luma-ring-tso*, which I had passed in 1901. The ground then consists of grey clay and fine gravel, probably inundated in summer. After crossing a belt of good grass, the ground is hard, fine gravel, and the ascent, though very slow, becomes perceptible. The great latitudinal valley continues eastwards, whilst our course continues S. E. in the direction of a threshold in the mountains which bound the valley to the S. W. Grass, though scanty, grows everywhere. Several small erosion furrows

¹ Pan. 425^B is, by mistake, noted as taken from *Camp CCCXLIII*. It cannot now be identified.