

From the camp nothing was seen of the landscape; everything disappeared in dust. Only the next morning, I was able to draw a panorama, 427, Tab. 78, from N. E. to south. It gives a view of the great plain to the S. E. which is bounded at a great distance by low mountains. On the other side of the hill of our camp, there was a tent inhabited by four men from *Senkor*, a well-to-do nomad with his servants. He had 700 sheep here and 300 at another place. His family and his large tent were at *Senkor*. He asserted that going S. 15° E., we would have only three days to the headquarters of the *Gertse* Pun or governor of *Gertse*. Going S. 40° E. we would come across tents from *Gertse* every day, provided that we would be able to find their dwelling places. His own tent was said to be the last from *Senkor*. The name of the place around *Camp CCCXLV*, was *Pankur*.

On *March 5th*, we covered 12.8 km. S. E. crossing the large plain which is a very flat basin. The first 5.4 km., we went down to the deepest point of the depression, being at 4,649 m. From this point the ground again rises to *Camp CCCXLVI*, at 4,704 m or 55 m. In the first case the rate is 1:55, in the latter 1:135. The minimum temperature was -16.8° . The morning was perfectly clear with sunshine and calm weather. At 8.30 o'clock a. m. the usual S. W. storm began, and within a few minutes, the whole landscape around again disappeared. On the way down to the lowest part of the depression, the ground is pierced by shallow erosion beds all of them containing snow. It will easily be understood how important it was for us to find snow nearly everywhere in these remote and dry regions of western Tibet. Sometimes we could march several days without finding open or frozen springs and if it had not been for the snow, our situation would sometimes have been rather critical. For the nomads this struggle for existence is easier. They are since generations familiar with the country and they know the location of every spring in the district they visit with their herds. From several nomads we heard that this winter, 1907—1908, was regarded as less cold than usual and more windy than other years. We had also found that the strong wind makes the temperature higher.

The shallow erosion beds we were crossing or following were directed to the lowest part of the depression where the fine silt brought down by the summer water, had formed a perfectly horizontal surface of yellowish clay. Here the last low hills to our right or west were left behind. As far as one could see, the country to the south appeared to be very flat and open. Here the plateau character is very pronounced. From the depression the ground slowly rises in the direction of a little low ridge where some snow had accumulated. Here *Camp CCCXLVI* was pitched, not far from a frozen spring, surrounded with poor grass and the usual plants. Nomads had dwelled here and had a sheepfold of stone.

The storm went on with enormous vehemence. It was as if a yellowish red or brown cover had been expanded over the whole country, consisting of these