

some of those who have faced this inhospitable country. From the time when Dr. Thomson, the associate of Cunningham and Henry Strachey in the Ladak boundary commission of 1847, first surmounted the Karakoram range, and that of the Schlagintweits, this wild region has always exercised a fascination peculiar to itself.¹

Of the region near Lanak-la he says:

Common to both sides of the border are the high plateaux, whose surrounding ranges reach over 17,000 feet There are also many ancient lakebeds plainly marked, where the evidence of previous glacial action may usually be traced.

And further:

For two days previous to entering the Baba Hatun valley, our way had lain over perhaps the worst ground we had to cross in Tibet. West of the valley we were following ran a magnificent range of eternally snowclad mountains, whose highest peaks, which later form one boundary of the Baba Hatun valley, reach over 21,000 feet. Such a landmark do these form that, though no new discovery was involved, we felt that as a geographical feature they ought to carry a separate name. We therefore took the liberty of giving them that of the Curzon range. Opposite to this latter, on the N. E. side of the same valley, stands a wonderful group of rugged peaks and ridges also covered with eternal snows. Both offer on either hand as grand and awe-inspiring a view as the human eye could wish for. We again felt that such a unique mass of peaks deserved recognition and a separate entity, so took the liberty of giving it the name of the Kitchener Group.

North of the Baba-hatun valley Bruce crossed a pass 17,750 feet high which he calls Ak-Su-La, a name that cannot be correct as it ought to be Ak-su-davan. Of the Gugurt plain he says:

This is a wide open expanse, some 18 miles in length from east to west, with a greatest breadth of 6 to 7 miles from north to south; and of the eastern portion of the same:

Both hollows and ridges are thickly sown with an outcrop of volcanic-looking black rock, which makes progress by no means easy.

The salt lake Ullug-kul, so called by DEASY, was at 15,200 feet. Then he passed Atchik-kul. »All the lakes are either shrinking, which does not appear probable from the surrounding indications, or at other seasons must be 5 or 6 feet above their true level.» This refers to the middle of October.

He does not give the name nor the height of the Kwen-lun Pass he used, but below and on three sides of us, stretching apparently without end, lay the wildest and most forbidding jumble of mountain ranges, peaks, and gorges imaginable.

And: The main gorge, known to the people of Polu at its northern end as the Zubéshic (Subashi?) gorge, was more like a gigantic railway cutting winding through solid rock

To judge from Bruce's map, he followed the same way as FORSYTH'S PUNDIT. From Lanak-la he went to Mangtsa-tso at 16,600 feet. At about $35\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. lat. and $81\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ East long. he has the »Probable sources of the Khotan R.».

¹ *A Journey across Asia from Leh to Peking. Geographical Journal. June 1907. Vol. XXIX, p. 597 et seq.*