

In the discussion after this paper BOWER stated that his experience in Tibet was »that nearly every lake showed obvious signs of at one time having been very much larger».

Deasy reminded of several problems which still remained unsolved. One of these is the course of the Khotan river from the source down through the Kuen Lun range, considerably to the west of where Major Bruce went.

... It has been of special interest to me to hear that Major Bruce has found another route from the south of the Kuen Lun range into Polu. It bears out I think, the statement which has been made by a good many travellers, that there is no caravan route either from Rudok or Lhasa into Polu and Chinese Turkestan. I have been constantly told that in days gone by there was a regular trade route from Lhasa into Polu, and I made every endeavour to try and verify that statement, but without success.

In his book on his great journey Major Bruce describes our regions thus:

Three days later (from Baba Hatun) found the caravan climbing from the great central table-land of Tibet towards the southern edge of the mass of mountain ridges which separate it from Chinese Turkestan. The former area comprises one of the grandest Alpine regions in the world. — The western portion is made up of the more or less fertile valleys of the Indus and Shayok rivers. North of these are the Ling-Zi-Thang and the Aksai-Chin, — vast highlands, like all North-West Tibet uninhabited and uninhabitable. To these uplands the Karakoram mountains form the northern buttress, elevating this unique series of plateaux thousands of feet above the central basin of Chinese Turkestan.¹

The expedition so well lead by Captain Bruce did not add very much to our knowledge of the Kara-korum.

¹ *In the footsteps of Marco Polo, being the account of a Journey overland from Simla to Peking.* Edinburg and London 1907, p. 54.
