

time-signals according to a preconcerted plan. In 17 months the whole program was carried through, and all that has been done by other travellers and expeditions in this region, and all that will be done there in the future will have to be corrected from and built upon the solid ground conquered by the Italian expedition.

Just as Forsyth's mission de Filippi's Expedition was subdivided into a series of separate undertakings and excursions, *e. g.* to the valleys of the Sind, Dras and Indus, the basin of Skardu, the valleys of Shigar, Braldoh and Basha, the valleys of the Shayok, Saltoro and Kondus and parts of the largest glaciers of the Kara-korum, the Biafo, the Baltoro and the Chogo-lungma.

At Leh the expedition had its headquarters for two and a half months, and then crossed the Chang-la and entered the Shayok-valley which was thoroughly investigated.¹ The Murgo-valley was passed, and the geologists visited the snouts of the Chong-Kumdan, Kichik-Kumdan, and Aktash Glaciers, but it does not appear from the report in the Geographical Journal whether the ordinary caravan road was closed by the glaciers or not. For in 1909, 1910 and 1911 the road was closed according to news I got from Gulam Rasul of Leh.² Two marches above Murgo they arrived at a spot called Kisil Langur³, and nearly at the centre of the partly snow-covered Dapsang plains they made their choice of a new headquarter and base of supplies which had to serve nearly the whole summer of 1914. In the following words DE FILIPPI gives a very good description of this dreary region: »All around us, for a radius of 12 to 15 miles, stretched a vast and hillock-strewn plateau with shallow depressions inclining to the north-east, and merging to the east into alluvial plains which form part of the vague watershed between India and Turkestan. The edges of the plateau are uncertain and ill-defined, and shade off gradually into gentle slopes, except towards the south-west, where towers a majestic glacier-covered mountain which completely dominates the region. In the far distance, and on every side, rise a circle of lofty mountains, whose peaks just appear above the edge of the plateau, those to the south and west are dazzlingly white from their covering of snow and glaciers, and are in startling contrast to those in the direction of Asia (?) and Central Tibet, which have the forbidding appearance of bare rocks. The surface of the plateau is a mass of minute detritus, and is entirely devoid of vegetation, except for occasional patches of a yellowish-green plant which at first view suggests, more than anything else, some malignant disease of the soil. There

¹ The altitude of Leh was determined to 3506 m., exactly the same as I had got from observations during 3 1/3 months in 1901—1902. Cp. Scientific Results, Vol. V, Part Ia, p. 308—316. On the other hand there is a considerable discrepancy for the Chang-la, where the Italians have 5600 m., whereas I found 5360 in 1902 and 5355 in 1906.

² Cp. Vol. II, p. 197.

³ Probably identical with my Kisil-ungur, »The Red Gorge», where I found the altitude of 5128 m., the Italians 5000 m. The base camp was at 5305 m. In the same region I had 5227 m.