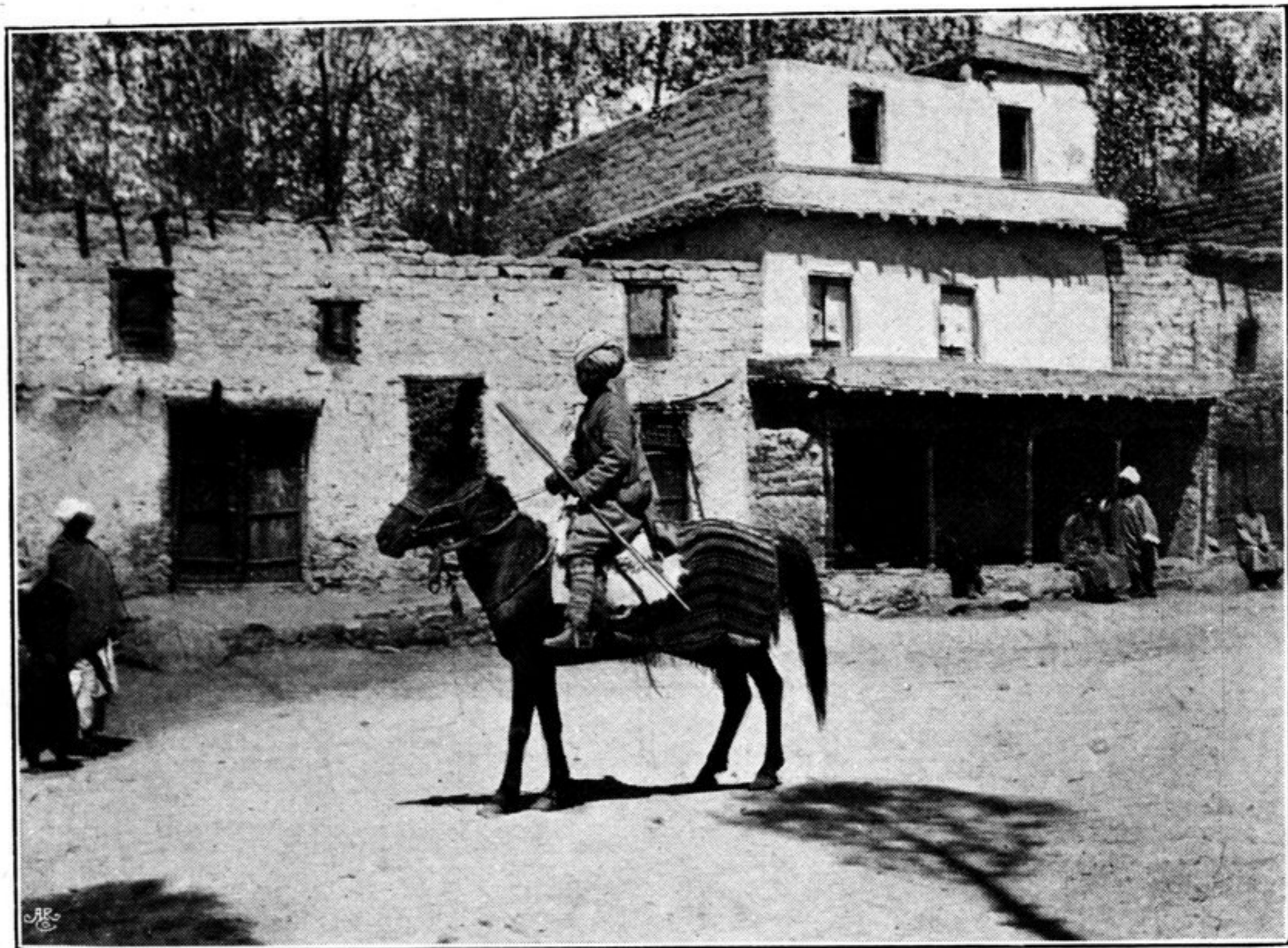


purpose, our promises of pay and of backsheesh had to be clear and large.

All the ponies purchased for us prior to our arrival in Leh were in very poor condition, while some of them were so old as to be of but little value. The mules had been very well looked after during the winter, and were in excellent condition. So fresh were they that for the



“DAN LENO,” MY FIRST SUB-SURVEYOR.

first few marches, even when fully loaded, it was absolutely necessary for each one to be led.

After a couple of postponements, due to convenient “burrah dins,” or holy days (literally, big days), no doubt arranged for the occasion, and to excuses from nearly all the men, the caravan at length, on May 25th, set out from Leh amidst a scene of great excitement.

The cavalcade, which was of imposing extent, was in charge of the sub-surveyor, S— D—, whom Pike