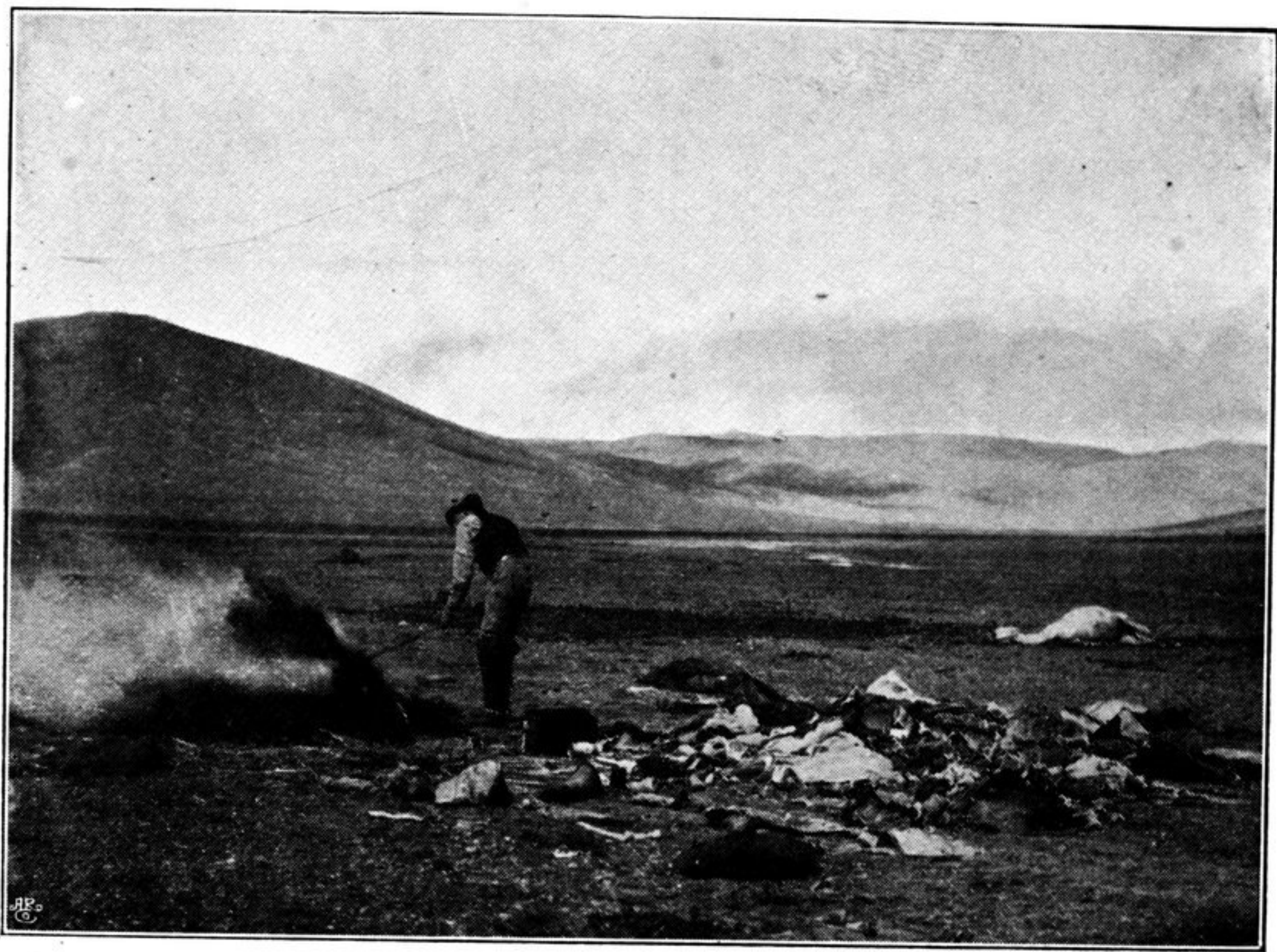


men in these circumstances is little better than murder, and it was undoubtedly our duty to protect ourselves and those dependent on us.

We lingered in the neighbourhood for several days searching for the missing animals, but without success. They had evidently been taken far beyond our reach, and, as it was impossible to carry all our luggage without them, we had to consider what could be abandoned with



BURNING THE BERTHON BOAT.

least risk to ourselves. Of the mules still left, four died at this place, so that we had many pack-saddles and jhools which were now clearly superfluous. The beautiful Berthon boat which, with much trouble, we had brought thus far was not indispensable; there were camp beds and chairs which, in the circumstances, we condemned as luxuries, and altogether a considerable reduction of the weight to be carried was found practicable. But,