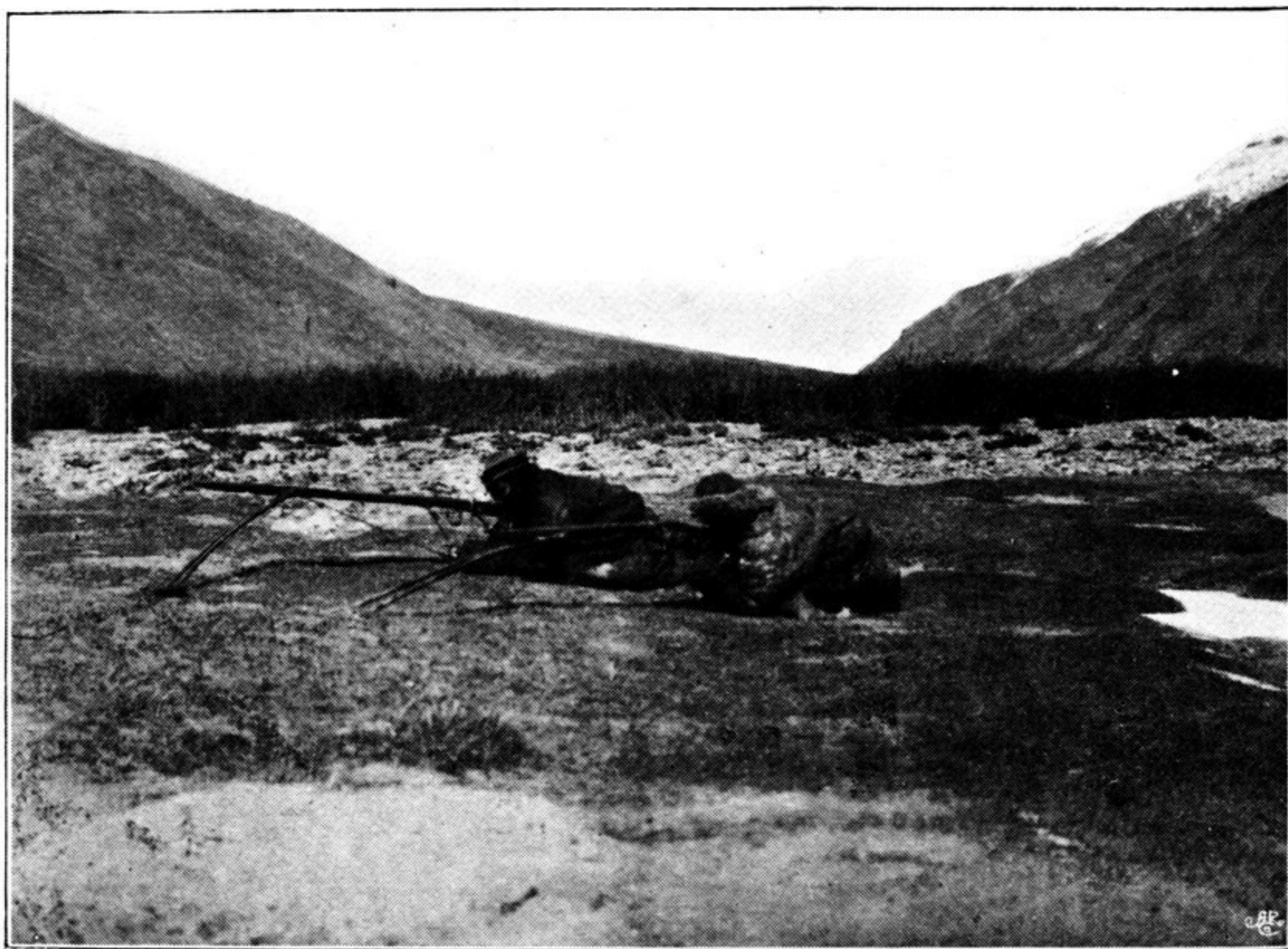


The mounted men continued to assemble, and their demonstrations had a very depressing effect on our timid Ladaki caravan men, who plainly showed that, if matters should proceed to extremities, no assistance could be expected from them. Threats, made by the Pombo and his people, were circulated, and we were warned that our progress eastwards could only be effected over their dead bodies. Underneath these attempts at intimidation there



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did not appear to be very much reality, and I had no doubt that if fighting became necessary our magazine carbines would be handled with sufficient effect to disperse the enemy. Leno had been able to get from the trader, Dilsuk Ram, some information, which at the time seemed credible, concerning the different routes, and we now hoped that this information might be serviceable. Abandoning our purpose to advance eastwards, we agreed