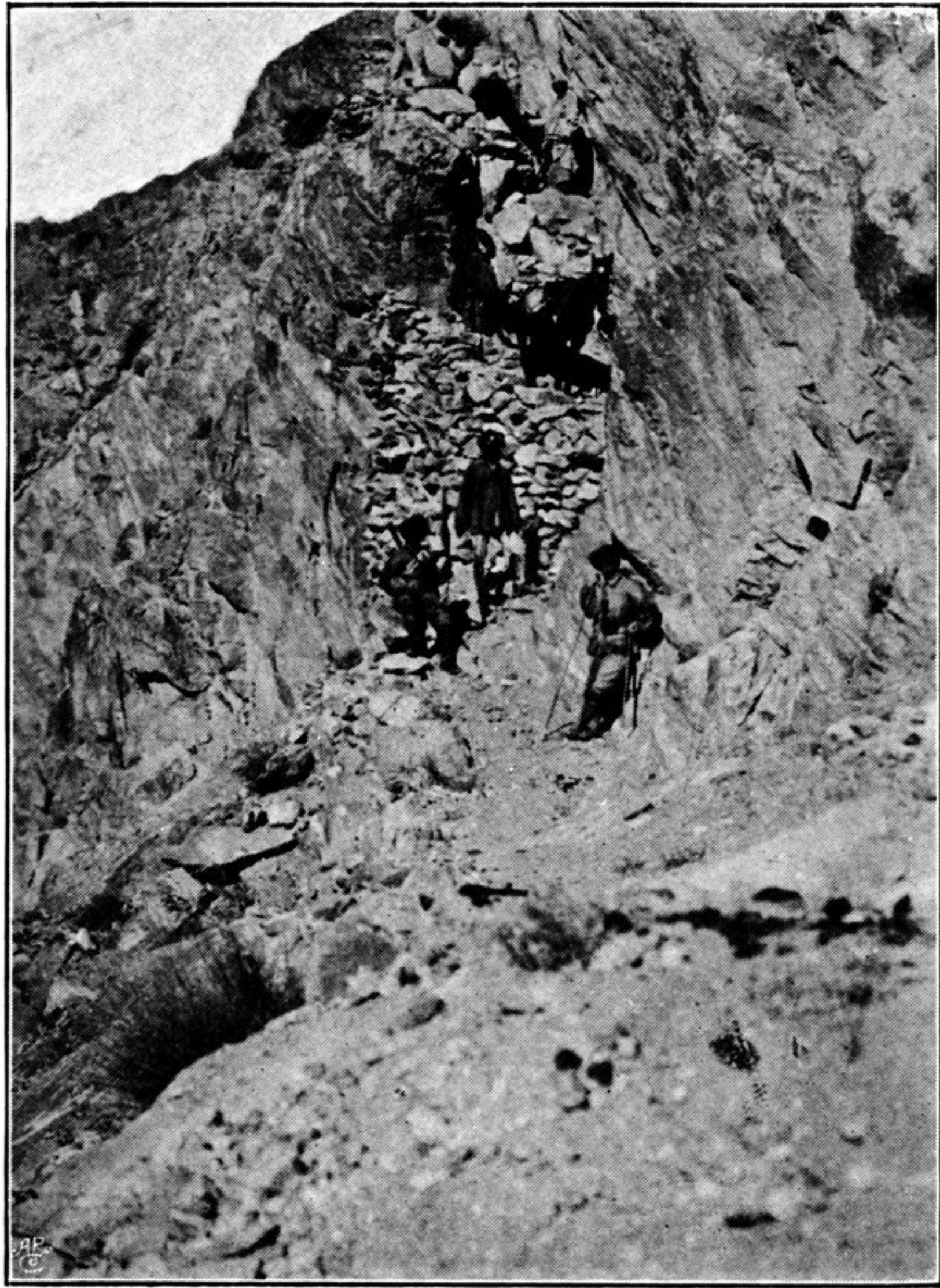


numerous yak and ponies for our baggage. I was now resolved to dispense with the services of the Astoris, and, knowing their contemptible character, I took the precaution of paying them in the presence of Mohammed Amin and his Pathans, as well as other witnesses, giving them, in addition, a small gratuity, providing them also



BAD TRACK IN HUNZA.

with the letter of discharge without which they could not proceed beyond Baltit, and making them the bearers of a letter to Captain MacMahon, in which it was stated that they had been paid off. Yet, on reaching Gilgit on their way home, they freely accused me of having sent them back unpaid.