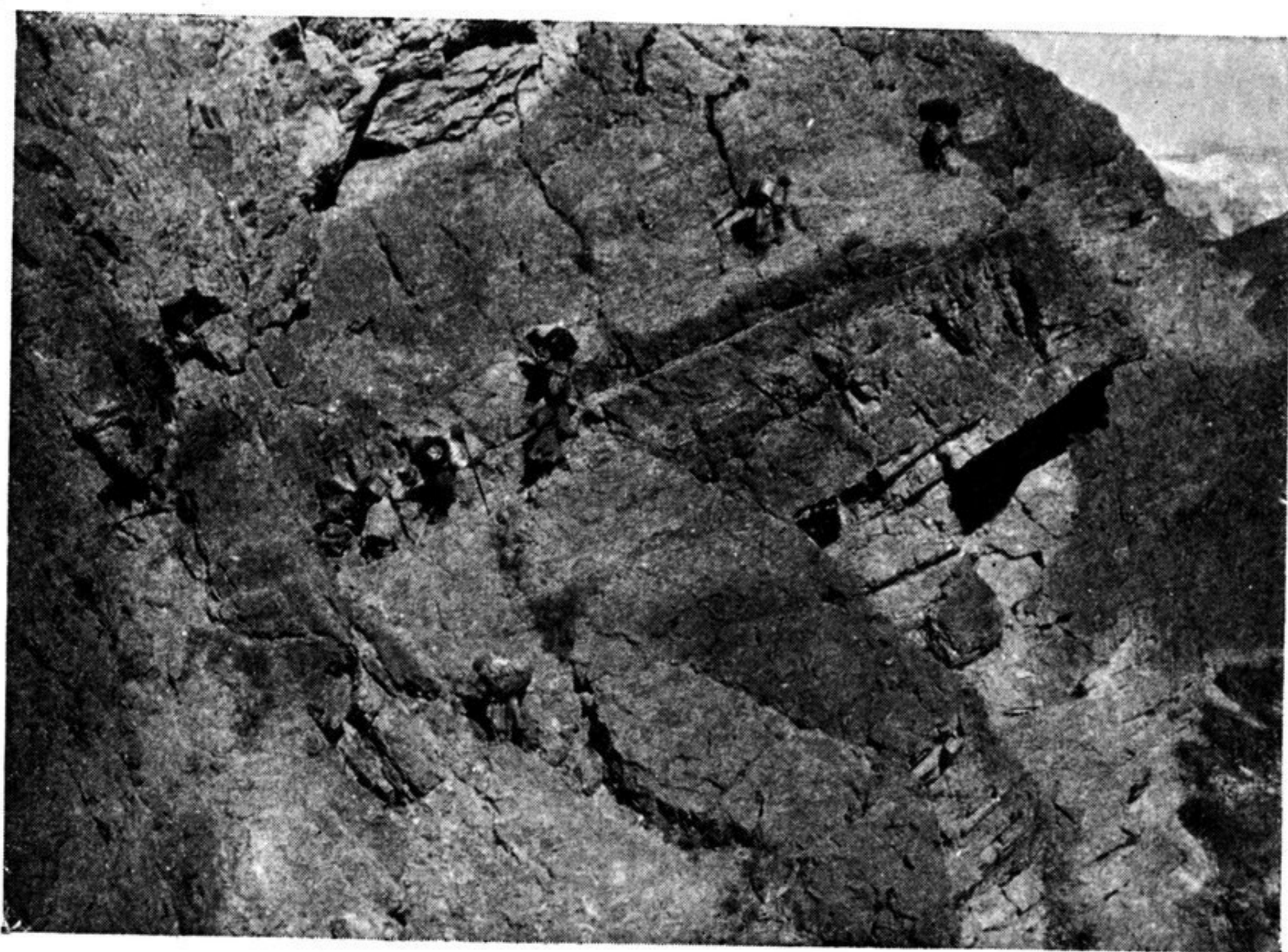


Soon after reaching Shiran Maidan, the last halting-place on the south side of the Kilik Pass, we were agreeably surprised at meeting Isidore Morse, an American, who had left Ladak early in the summer in search of wild sheep (*ovis Poli*). His description of the excellent and varied big-game shooting in the Ili Rich district so excited Cobbold, that as soon as possible he applied for and obtained from M. Petrovsky, the Russian Consul-General



KANJUTS CARRYING BAGGAGE UP A PRECIPICE.

at Kashgar, the necessary permission to travel in that land of promise.

Very fortunately there was but little snow on the Kilik Pass, which we crossed on October 20th, and none in the Taghdumbash Pamir, where we pitched our first camp not far from the Kukteruk nullah at an altitude of 13,950 feet. So long a time had elapsed since our setting out from Gilgit that we could not place much reliance on