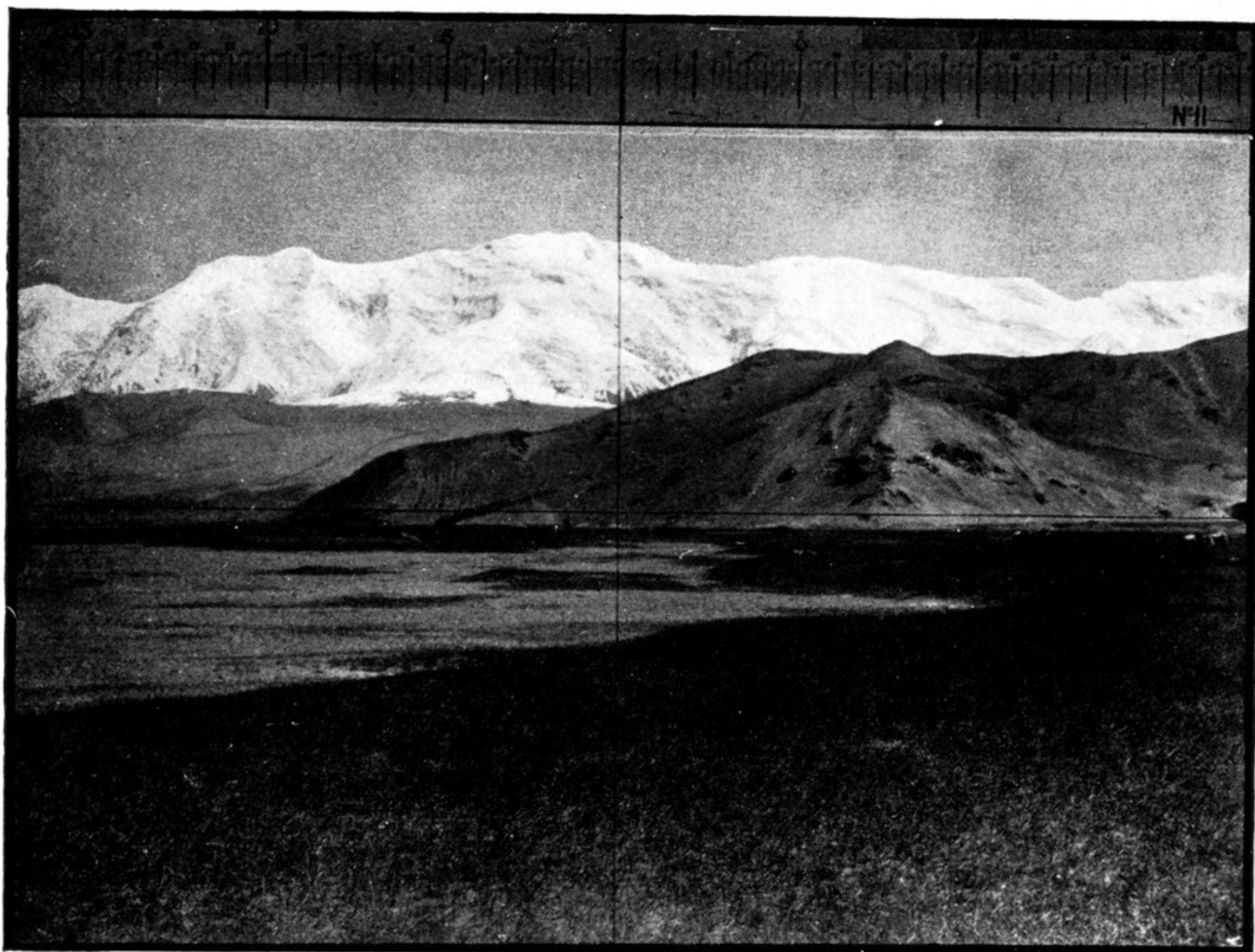


scarcely be repaired before the autumn. But there is another, if more difficult, route round by the northern spurs of Muztagh-Ata and over the Karatash Pass, and though this was represented as nearly blocked by snow, I made it clear that if the Amban and his people wished to get rid of me, it would have to be by either of the above two routes. On both of them



ICY RANGE, WITH SARGULUK PEAK, TO NORTH-EAST OF KARAKUL LAKE.

there was surveying work to be done, which explains my insistence.

When I had finally dismissed my visitors with a clear notion of what I expected from them, I set out for the Karakir Hill, east of the lake, which by its central position promised to be a good station for work with my photo-theodolite. The rain had stopped during the night, but the clouds were still hanging around the peaks, and icy gusts of wind were shifting them