

to imply that at some time or other the river has here for a space shifted its course to the left, i. e. to the west, contrary to its habitual tendency, which is to select new channels for itself towards the right. This dry bed which leaves the river at Korum is unquestionably identical with the sheets of water which I chanced upon in the desert on 14—16th April 1895 about 30 km. east of Ala-ajgir.* Notwithstanding the name of Kona-darja given to them they did not constitute a regularly formed and connected river-bed. Were it the survival of a former overflow channel of the Jarkent-darja, its bed would still admit of being traced. Now the natives seldom err in their information with regard to such things, so that I am quite disposed to believe, that the sheets of water which I discovered in 1895 had their origin in some unusually extensive overflow of the river coming from the neighbourhood of Korum. In that case, the Kona-darja would really mark the beginning of a new, and not the beginning of an old, bed, into which the current will by degrees eventually transfer itself. And we shall soon find, that movements of this character towards the right have already taken place in other localities.

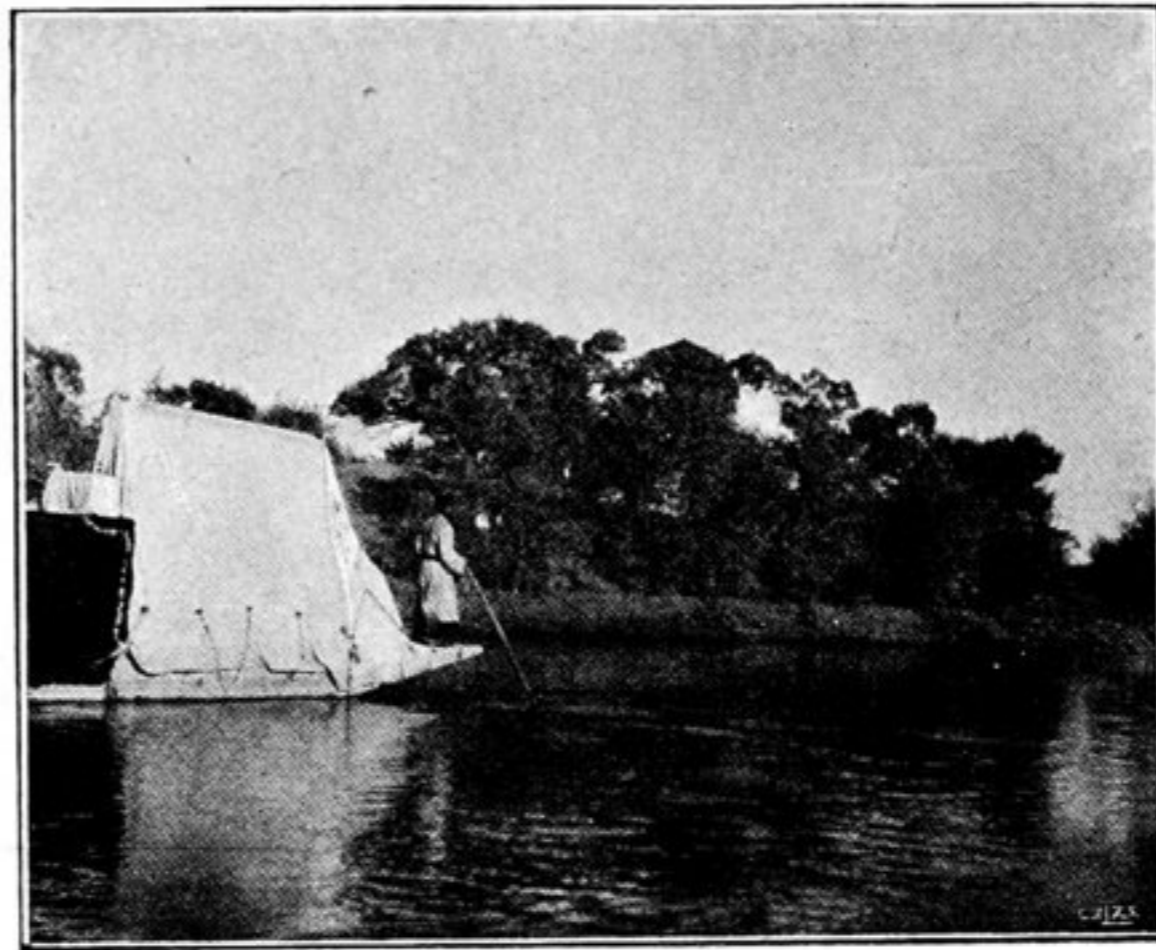
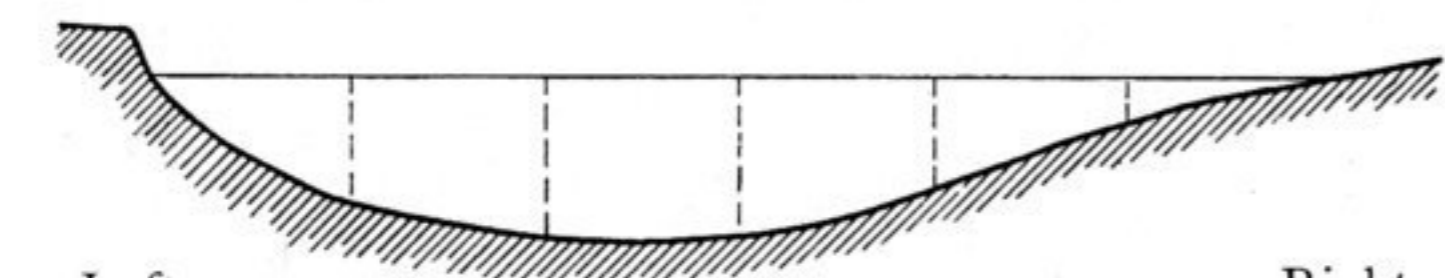


Fig. 16. FOREST ON THE LEFT BANK OF JARKENT-DARJA.

During the course of the day the river grew both narrower and deeper, while the current at the same time flowed more slowly. At Schakkal-otak, the breadth only amounted to 35.3 m.; the maximum depth was however 4.98 m. and the mean depth 2.965 m.; the mean velocity 0.6322 m., and the volume 66.16 cub. m., in the second. These results are not however altogether reliable, owing to the fact that for such an appreciable depth the velocity readings were not taken sufficiently close together along the vertical line; for in all probability the velocity at the lower depths was inconsiderable. Anyway an increase of 13 cub. m. in the volume on the previous measurement does not seem likely. The Schakkal-otak results are therefore too high.

September 23rd. In this part of its course the surface of the Jarkent-darja was copiously littered with driftwood. In many places an entire poplar had fixed itself in the river-bottom, and, by arresting the floating branches and brushwood, gradually given rise to islands as the silt and sand concentrated around them, binding them into a consolidated mass. On each side of these obstacles the stream had

usually scooped out a deep trench, building up a ridge of silt along the continuation line of the mass of driftwood. These accumulations of driftwood nearly all come from the projecting elbows of the sharp bends, where the current, eating into the



Left.					Right.
Fig. 17.	3.72	4.98	4.77	3.09	1.23 = depth.
	80	79	71	46	0
	86	78	71	61	9

Breadth = 35.30 m. Schakkal-otak, Sept. 22. Scale 1 : 600. where the current, eating into the

* See Petermanns Mitteilungen, Ergänzungsheft No. 131, p. 239.