

Fig. 18. DRIFT OF THE FERRY-BOAT UPON  
THE JARKENT-DARJA.

conversion of the power which is represented by the movement of the water into another species of energy, namely the erosion of the concave bank and of the river-bottom immediately contiguous to it. The sharper the bend, therefore, the greater becomes the depth of the river adjacent to it. On the opposite or convex side the work of depositing alluvium proceeds simultaneously at a corresponding rate. And in a country like East Turkestan, where the general inclination is so slight, and the surface consists of such soft and pliant materials, there exists practically no check upon the sinuous tendencies of the current. At the same time there is a period of maturity naturally prescribed for each bend; for if each loop or elbow is regarded as a peninsula, then its root, or connecting isthmus, becomes assailed from both sides at once; the opposite margins gradually approach one another, until there is only a narrow neck or mere strip of land left between them, and finally this becomes so weak that it is unable to resist the next flood, and is consequently cut in two. In this way what was originally a loop of the river becomes

forest, undermines the trees nearest to the edge, and so causes them to topple down into the water and be swept away. Every landslide in such places carries with it masses of intertwined roots. It is at these sharp bends that the erosive power of the stream is most conspicuously displayed, not only upon the extreme face of the elbow itself, but also in the river-bed at its foot. The sharper the elbow, that is to say the greater the change of direction in the river's course, the greater becomes the

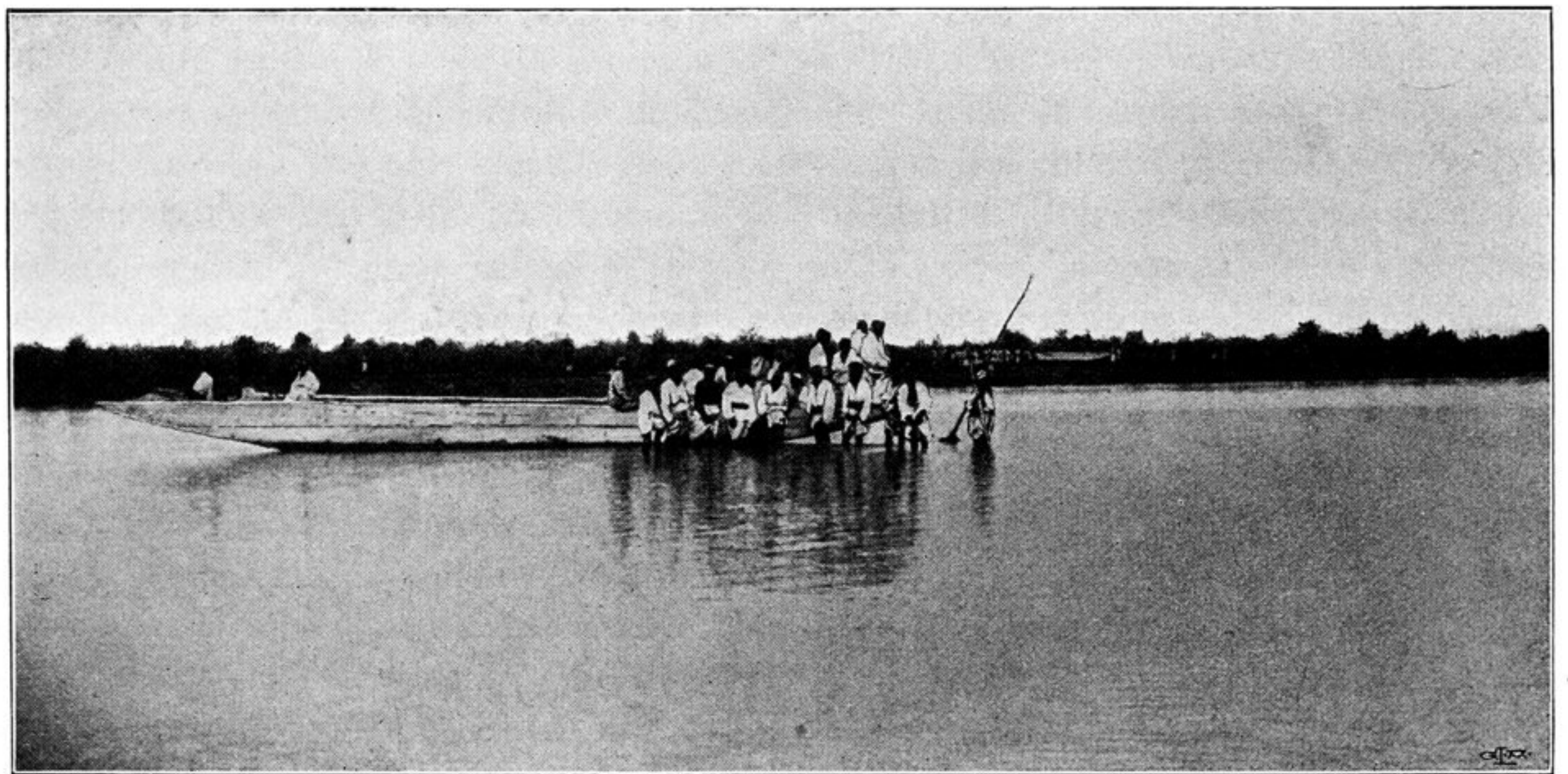


Fig. 19. ORDINARY FERRY-BOAT FOR PASSING OVER CARAVANS.