on the brink of the 3 meter high bank, ready to topple into the stream; while others, recently undermined, lay prone on the surface, but still held fast by their roots. All along, the vertical face of the banks was corniced with roots hanging out over the current. In the shallow reaches the long kamisch roots projected from the bottom, and undulated like snakes on the surface. Here the river-bed was tolerably broad and shallow, and the current swift. At Jar-kotan there is a wide

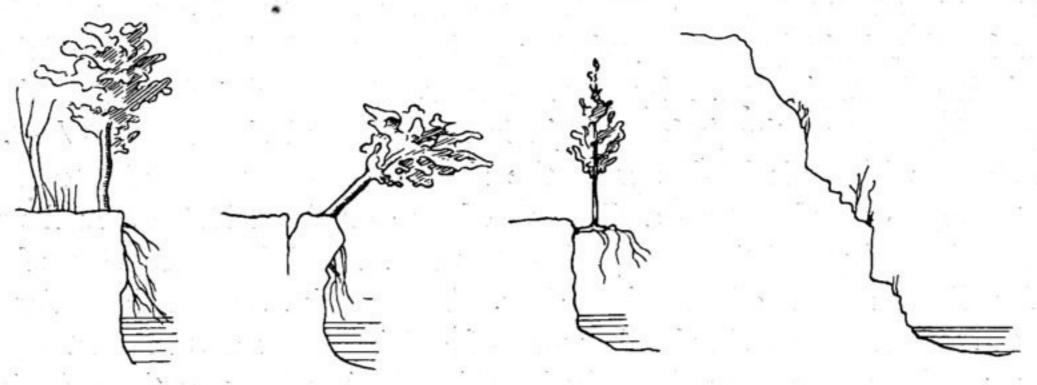


Fig. 65. ERODED BANKS; POPLARS READY TO TOPPLE INTO THE STREAM.

expansion, mostly filled with alluvial deposits. Just below this spot the width measured only 19.55 m., the mean depth was 1.204 m., the velocity 0.7744 m., and the volume 18.23 cub. m., in the second. After the influx of the Kara-jilgha-darja, though its volume is, it is true, slight, one would have expected to find a rather bigger volume than that given by the previous measurement. However, the increment was not powerful enough to affect the steady fall in the river.

