

Fig. 83. TARIM BELOW THE CONFLUENCE WITH CHOTAN-DARJA.

According to what I was told by the natives of the locality, the Chotan-darja, after flowing all August and all September, had ceased to flow on the last day of the latter month. It first makes its appearance as a thin rivulet, but swells out to its maximum volume within a single week. The greater part of its water arrives during the last weeks of August; in September the volume which it contributes to the Tarim is altogether paltry as compared with what it brings down in the preceding month, and by the end of September it has dwindled to a tiny stream, which eventually fails altogether to reach the main river. Others of the natives affirmed that the Chotan-darja did not flow more than 40 days in all, but that its current is extremely violent, as well as heavily charged with sand and silt. So violent is it that upon bursting into the Tarim it thrusts the latter aside, forcing it close up against the opposite bank. The length of time during which it flows is no doubt dependent upon the amount of precipitation on the northern border-ranges of Tibet, and consequently varies from year to year. The difference between a year with a heavy snowfall and a year with a light snowfall is transmitted with accentuated force to the mouth of the Chotan-darja.

The following would appear to be the chief climatic peculiarities of this particular region. Every summer there come five or six severe burans or sandstorms from the north, each accompanied with darkness, and often lasting for the full space

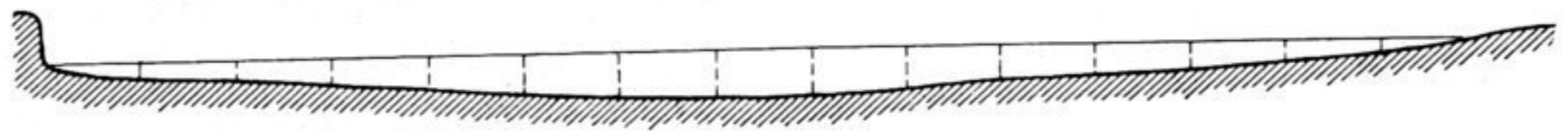


Fig. 84. 

0.85	0.93	1.17	1.48	1.88	2.05	2.20	2.16	2.00	1.66	1.40	1.12	0.90	0.51	= depth.
50	73	82	75	82	82	93	104	90	86	78	72	59	35	} velocity.
32	48	63	77	90	93	105	103	104	94	82	78	45	32	
		56	70	78	93	102	90	84	89	83				

  
 Breadth = 72.55 m. Busuk, October 30. Scale 1 : 600.