

salt. I dare say, that the streams which in this part of East Turkestan come down out of the Tien-schan form temporary isolated marshes, which become filled with water after copious rains, but are at other times dry. Still they are by no means so extensive as they are represented on our maps.

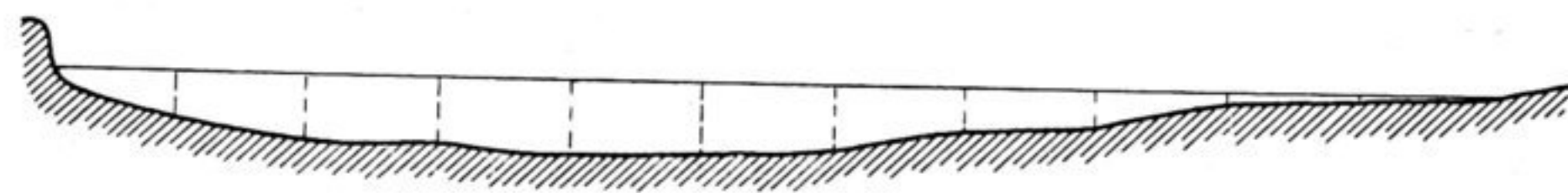


Fig. 94.

1.71	2.58	2.37	2.75	2.53	2.23	1.68	1.25	0.35	0.15	= depth.
26	85	91	91	90	79	96	79	0	0	} velocity.
49	96	100	97	98	90	83	62	0	0	
40	87	100	87	97	89	74	44			

 Breadth = 52.4 m. Peres, November, 9. Scale 1 : 500.

Below Peres the country still maintains its open character, the river is confined to a single distinct channel, and containing banks are almost entirely absent, or where present they do not exceed one meter in height. The current was swift, but the river-bed in general shallow, so that a relatively small rise quickly makes itself apparent. When I crossed the river on the ice at Peres (or Teres) in the winter of 1896, it had a breadth of 156 m., whereas now at precisely the same spot it was only 52.4 m. wide. Now it would of course be misleading to compare one year with another without taking other circumstances into consideration; for one thing, the precipitation is not the same every year. But the immense difference in the data quoted proves that the river actually does rise just before it begins to freeze, as the natives had all along asserted.



Fig. 95. CROSSING THE RIVER AT TSCHIMEN.

The banks still continued to be covered with kamisch and tamarisks, with an occasional poplar growing amongst them; and were dotted with numerous shepherds' huts and sheepfolds. But we only observed canoes at three places. The great forest was now a long way from the river, and only touched it at wide intervals with, as it were, an occasional projecting finger or promontory. The country on