

maximum stage. On the 15th March the river began to subside, and it continued to subside steadily all through the spring. When I returned on the 8th May I had another gauge-rod put down, and on the following day this showed a drop of 0.8 cm., and on the 10th it registered another 4 cm. Between the 8th and the 16th of May the river dropped altogether 15.1 cm., but by 9 p. m. on the 18th it had again gone up 7.1 cm. The natives, who have their own empiric indications, say, that when the *Eleagnus* begins to open its blossoms and the young wild-geese begin to provide for themselves, a slight increase becomes noticeable in the volume; though this increase is no doubt purely fortuitous, being rather connected with the pressure of the atmosphere.

On the 16th May 1900 I measured the river at the same place as I measured it on the 2nd March, with the following result — breadth, 84.59 m.; mean depth, 1.160 m.; mean velocity, 0.6729 m.; and volume, 66.03 cub.m. in the second, or 24.25 cub.m. more than on the 2nd March. Thus notwithstanding the passage of the spring freshets as early as the 12—14th March, the volume at the end of another two months was still considerable, almost precisely equal to the volume on the 28th Nov. at a place a little higher up the river. In the sequel we shall find various indications of the course which the spring freshets take through the bed of the Tarim, and of the effects they produce. Meanwhile, however, we have ascertained that in the locality where we now are, the river remained frozen three months almost to the very day, a result that was in perfect agreement with the statements which had been made to me by the natives at various points all along the river.

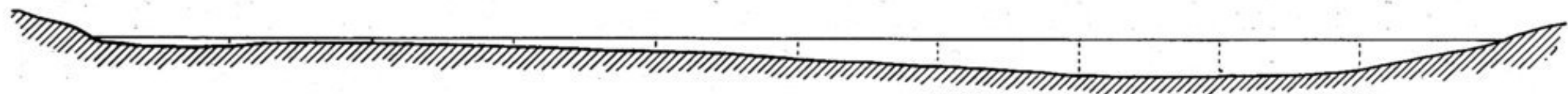


Fig. 139. Left.	0.58	0.37	0.53	0.89	1.27	1.87	2.11	2.12	1.86 = depth.	Right.
	12	19	33	40	71	91	106	100	91	} velocity.
	12	10	24	36	65	89	97	98	81	
					47	73	82	90	72	
						76	85	90		

Breadth = 84.59. Jangi-köl, May 16. Scale 1 : 600.