

was destroyed about 15 years ago. On its banks there is still some forest left. The canal of Almontschuk-kok-ala contained a copious supply of clear water and was well stocked with fish. Near its mouth it is crossed by a simple pile bridge made by the shepherds. Between the Ilek and the Tarim this canal traverses a lake of medium size, the Karaune-tokkan-köl, which is practically overgrown with reeds, and also a smaller lake which possesses no name. At noon the water of the main river had a temperature of $23^{\circ}.5$ and that of the canal $24^{\circ}.2$ C. The dimensions of the latter were — breadth, 11 m.; mean depth, 0.794 m.; mean velocity, 0.2005 m.; volume, 1.75 cub.m. in the second. This then was the quantity of water which the dwindling Tarim received from the Ilek. After about the end of June, when the Tarim has dropped lower than the Ilek, the current in the Almontschuk is a little augmented.

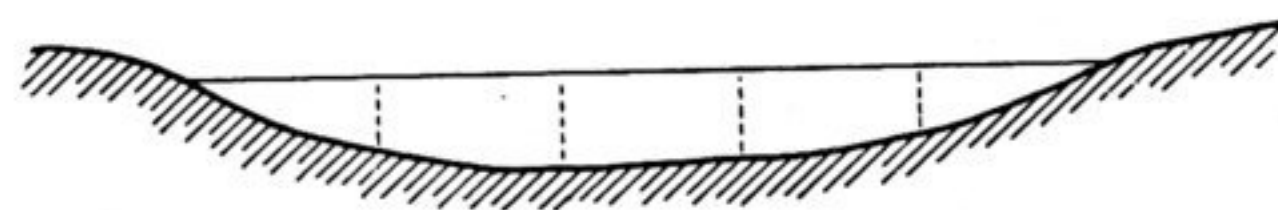


Fig. 174. Right. 0.94 1.15 1.03 0.85 = depth. Left.
0.12 0.20 0.25 0.23 = m. in a second.
Breadth = 11.0 m. Almontschuk, 6 June. Scale 1 : 200.

In the autumn, when the Tschong-tarim reaches its highest level, the current is said to flow in the opposite direction, that is from the Tschong-tarim towards the Ilek, the maximum of the latter being considerably retarded by the large lakes which lie above it.

Above the mouth of the canal the Tschong-tarim had the following dimensions — breadth, 38.10 m.; mean depth, 1.593 m.; mean velocity, 0.8353 m.; and volume, 50.70 cub.m. in the second. The diminution as compared with the measurement (55.24 cub.m.) taken at Arghan was the result of the daily drop in the level of the river. Below the canal mouth we found the volume to be 52.45 cub.m.

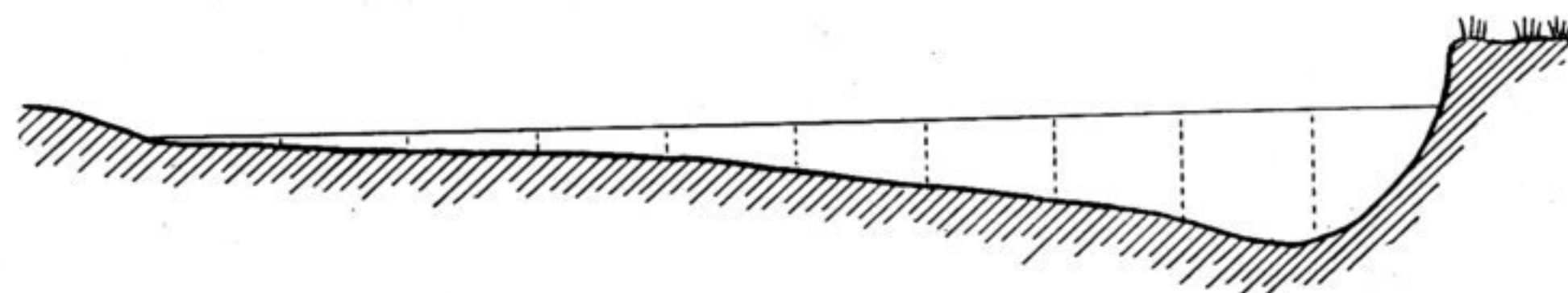


Fig. 175. Left. 0.28 0.52 0.72 0.98 1.44 2.00 2.69 3.30 4.00 = depth. Right.
28 50 65 78 85 91 95 110 115 }
24 44 61 73 82 90 93 105 107 } velocity.
49 59 80 89 91 99 99 104 }
72 85 90 97 96 }
86 98 97 }
Breadth = 38.10 m. Tarim at Almontschuk, 6 June. Scale 1 : 400.

This region was extraordinarily lifeless. Since we said good-bye to Supa Bek's people, who helped us through the reedy lakes, we had seen but one solitary human being, the old woman left in charge of the station-house of Arghan. Every hut we came across was empty, and both shepherds and flocks were entirely absent; indeed the last-named would have been tormented to death by the gad-flies, which at that season of the year make this country almost uninhabitable. And these plagues