

would appear to act as a deterrent also to the animals of the chase, for we saw not a single wild boar or antelope.

Just after leaving camp we passed on the right a large distinct boldschemal, and in the district of Kalta-tokaj yet another, which resembled an excrescence growing out of an almost completely circular loop. Indeed as soon as the river shall have cut its way through the very narrow stalk or neck of land at its base, as it will do soon, there will arise yet another example of the double boldschemal. Thus we have found that there exist three distinct types of this peculiar formation — (1) the single boldschemal, situated on either side of the river; (2) boldschemals in pairs, one on each side of the river, immediately opposite to one another; (3) double boldschemals, of which one is as it were a parasite or excrescence upon the other.

Next we came on the left to a second kok-ala from the Ilek; it begins at Sejt-uj below Kulatscha, and flows through the little lake of Tal-kirtschin. Its dimensions were — breadth, 7.25 m.; mean depth, 0.998 m.; mean velocity, 0.2168 m.; and volume, 1.57 cub.m. in the second, that is to say, a shade less than the volume of the first kok-ala from the same river. Below this point the Tarim's volume was 54.02 cub.m. — the slight fall which had no doubt occurred since the morning being disregarded. In this region of the inland delta of the Tarim these anastomosing connections between the largest arms of the system are by no means uncommon. Changeable and temporary branches of a similar character can be found in any true river-delta in all parts of the world. The sole difference between them and the Tarim delta is that, while the big rivers on the periphery of a continent are engulfed in the ocean proper, the masses of water which constitute the Tarim are swallowed up in the »ocean» of sand. Notwithstanding this its arms still form a delta which is subject to unceasing change as the years come and go.

For some distance below the canal-mouth the river forms none but gentle curves. On the right are two or three unoccupied huts. On the left we observed an old boldschemal, Taman-aktik-köl, connected with the river by a specially made canal, so that the pool within it, which is said to be a profitable fishing-ground, never dries up. At the spot where the lower extremity of the boldschemal strikes the river there are some huts, the former winter-quarters of the people of Sadak-köl, though they are now deserted, since their owners have taken to spending the winter at Tschigelik-uj. The containing banks are as a rule strongly scarped, with almost vertical faces, and up to 3.94 m. in height; they are crowned by magnificent poplar forests, now in jeopardy of being undermined at the windings of the river. One forest-tract on the right bank bears the comical name of Chodai Vär-di-kalmakgha-til-värgen, which being translated means that it is the place Where Chodai Vär-di (standing on the one bank) talked with a Kalmuck (who was on the other bank). Thus a circumstance of the most trivial character suffices to originate a geographical name, which thereupon becomes perpetuated. At an acute bend the tract adjacent

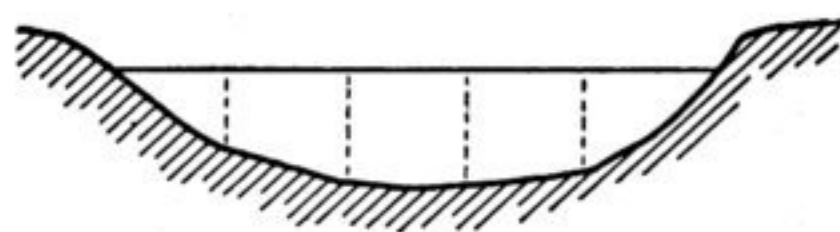


Fig. 176. Right. 0.90 1.41 1.45 1.23 = depth. Left.
 19 20 22 30 }
 22 21 25 22 } velocity.
 25 31 19 }
 Breadth = 7.25 m. Sejt-uj channel, June 6.
 Scale 1 : 200.