

indicates, there is a spring, which has given rise to a pool, the water of which is strongly impregnated with salt. At the homestead of Tscherik we passed on our left a frozen boldschemal or abandoned river-loop. The great caravan road was about 4 km. away on our left hand, with some smaller dunes between it and us. The Tarim was estimated to be half-a-day's journey distant; that it was an appreciable way



Fig. 370. HUTS IN SCHEJTLER.

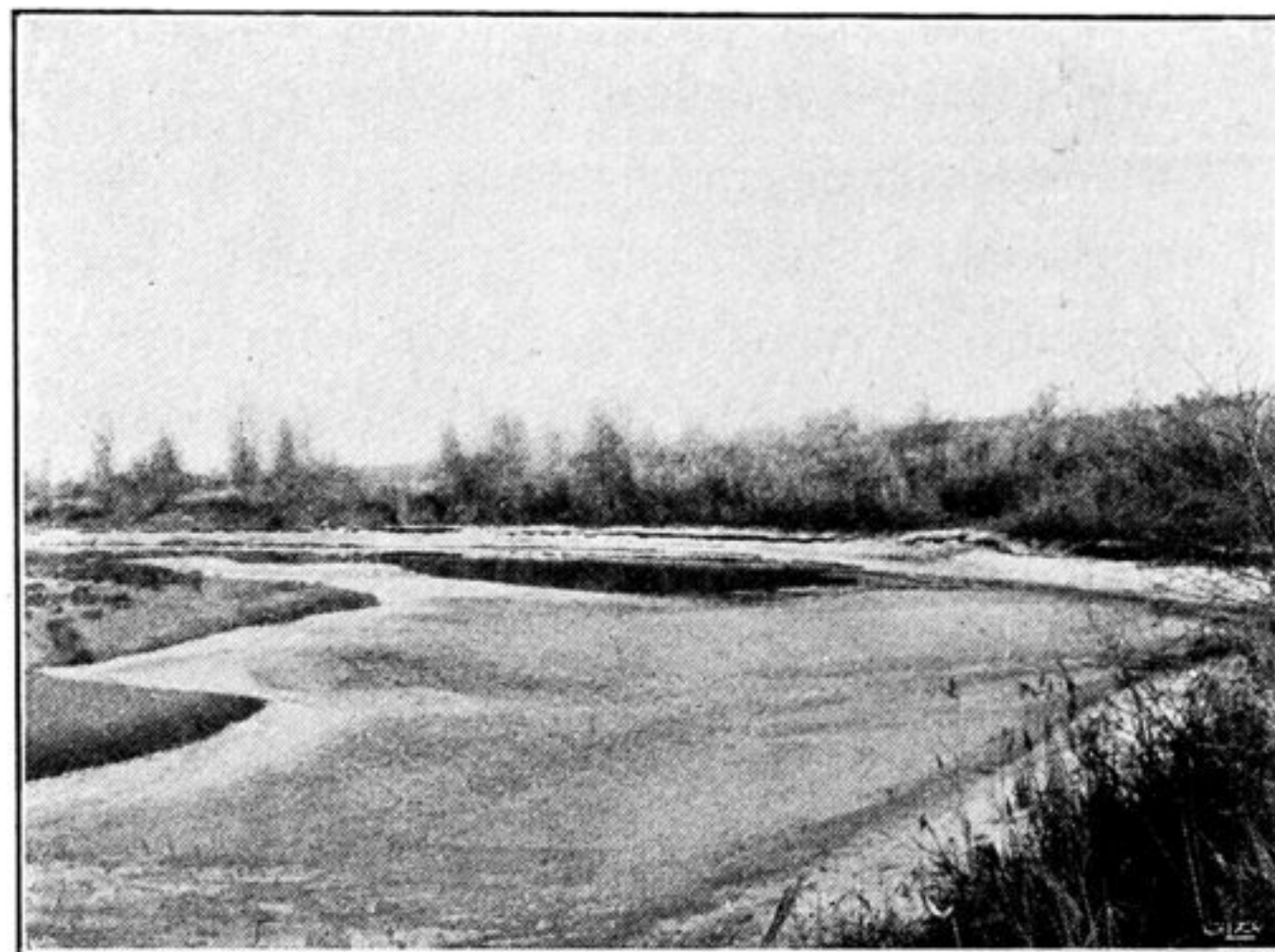


Fig. 371. JÄTIM-TARIM AT SCHEJTIER.

off was evident from the fact that we were unable to see the high sand. Ischtansalghutsch is the name both of a big boldschemal, with a frozen pool, and of a village of several homesteads, which was however deserted 3 years ago, when its inhabitants flitted to Jirim near Karaune, a short distance further west. The boldschemal last-mentioned is said to have been abandoned ten years ago. In the district of Berdischik the path touches the river-arm. Steppe, forest, and tangled thicket alternate with one another; these last make riding difficult and levy tribute upon the camels' hair. Aksakalköli, on the left of the path, is now dry. The kamisch huts of the next village, At-jegen, on the left of the river, are pleasantly situated in the shade of magnificent poplars. One of these had at the base a circumference of 3.40 m., and was lofty and well-grown, as may be seen from the accompanying photograph. In some of the open reaches of the river there were wild-duck.

On the right of the track comes, next, the boldschemal of Jachija-tschapti-köl, which, although it contained salt water, was nevertheless frozen over. I am told that, as soon as a loop is abandoned by the river, its water becomes salt, even though year after year it is renewed by a fresh supply at the season of high flood.

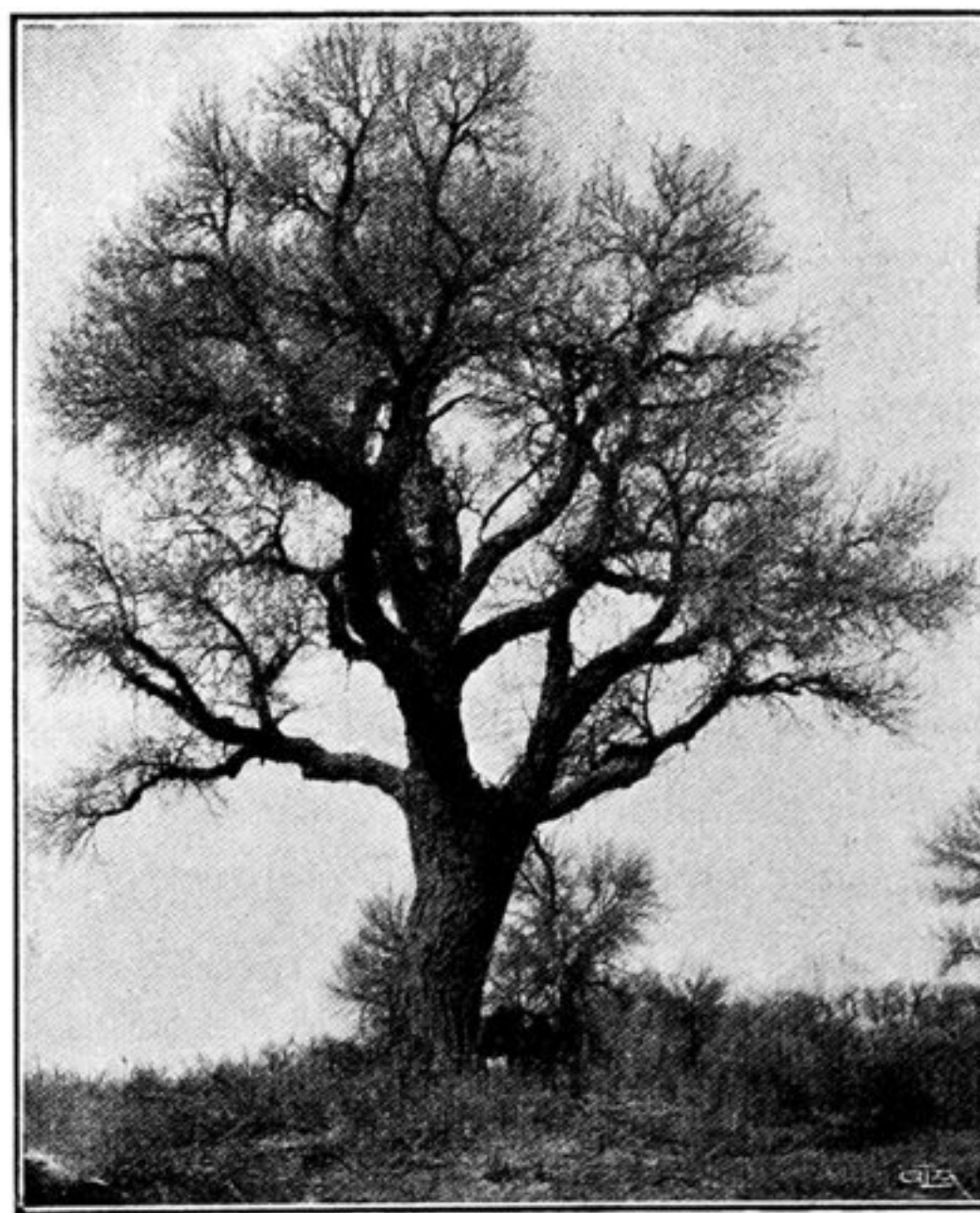


Fig. 372. A POPLAR (TOGHRAK) AT AT-JEGEN