

after it had shortly before crossed over the river by a bridge. Then came an elongated boldschemal, Bos-köl, surrounded by thick reeds and containing water. The track hugs closely its northern bank, keeping along its former erosion terrace, 1 1/2 m. above the level of the water (see fig. 378). Now the existing river possesses no erosion terrace so distinctly and so deeply carved as this, nor could a boldschemal of such depth have been formed except at a period when this channel carried the main stream.

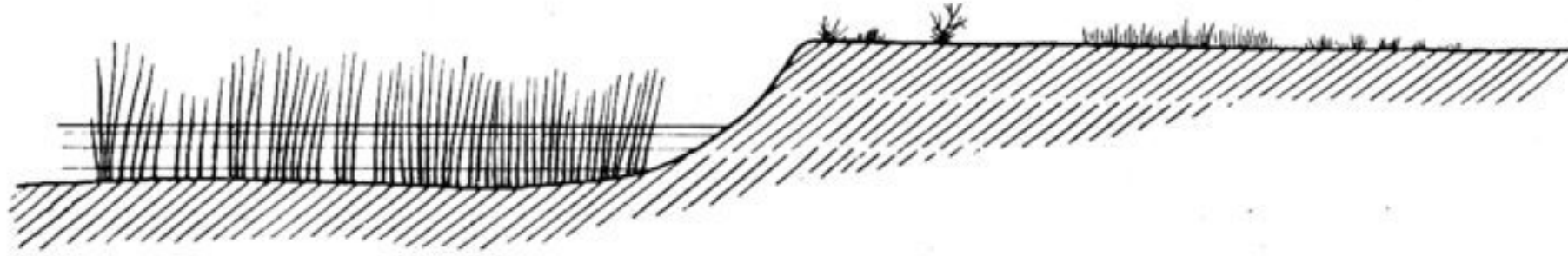


Fig. 378.

A short distance to the north-east is the lake of Julghunluk-köl. At Barkeni-arghaji there is a masar, with a sepulchral monument of clay of an unusual character, being in the form of a small terrace, with a number of semicircular curves like handles on its horizontal surface. To the south is a small patch of dunes, bound together by vegetation and known as Kara-kir. After that we reached the village of Ak-tarma, the principal place in the *tabäsi*, or administrative district, of Ullugh-köl, which is said to embrace 30 ujlik. Eight of these are in Ak-tarma. Beyond this village, again, there are some old abandoned river-loops, some with, others without, water. On the right of the track lies the lake of Karaunelik-köl, almost exactly opposite to the Tarim lake of the same name. The next bend of the river is called Tarascha-kotan, and in the same neighbourhood is Tungan-tüschken. On a steppe diversified by small tamarisks, without the usual mounds, we found the burial-place (*ghuristanlik* or *saratlik*) of Masar, as it is simply called. The soil hereabouts was everywhere impregnated with salt (*schor*); it is evident it was formerly a lake-bottom. To the north of the Tarim stretches a long, narrow belt of forest (poplars), marking beyond all doubt the site of an old river-bed, now long vanished.

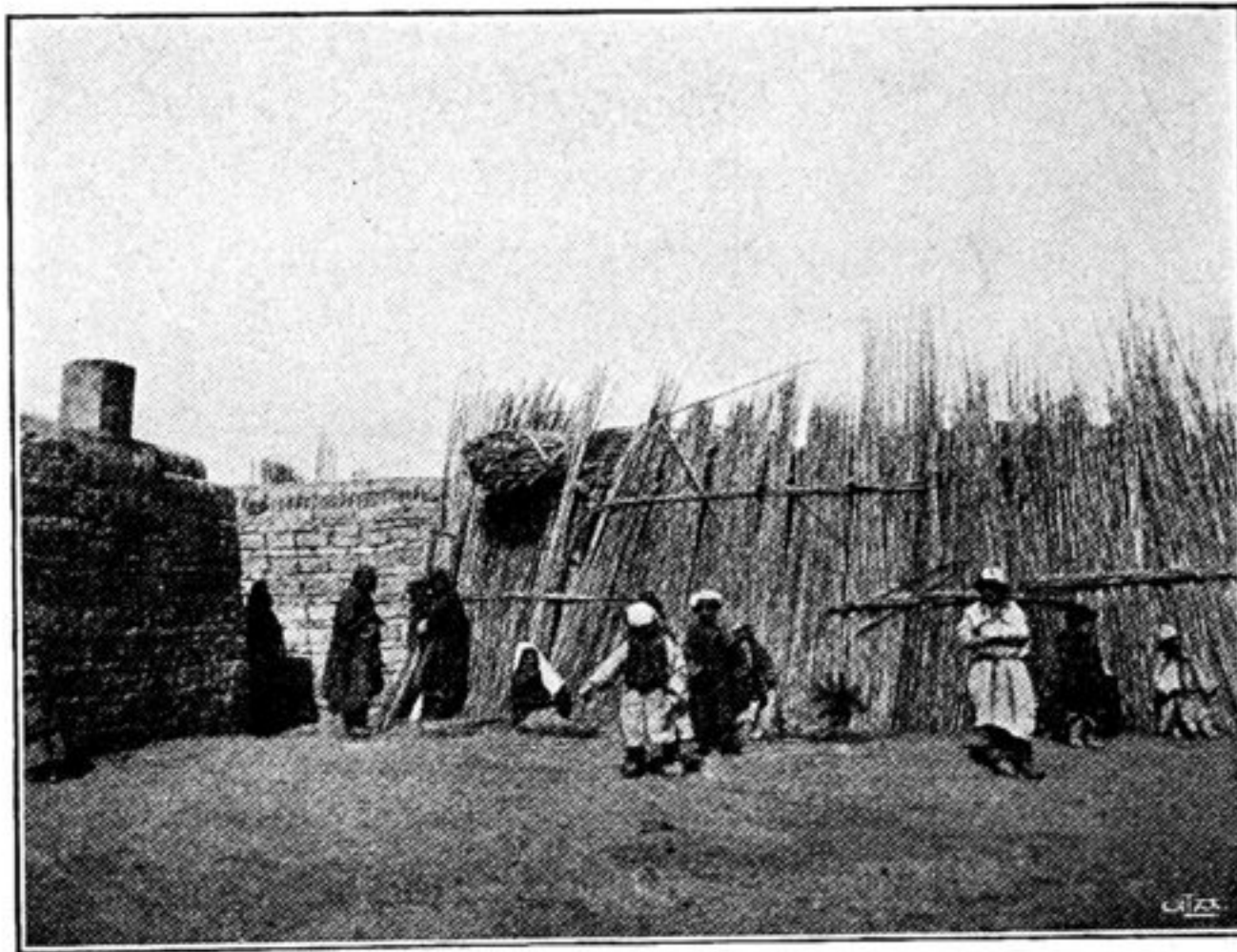


Fig. 379. HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE OF AK-TARMA.

At Idek-ilek, a river-bend encircled by poplar woods, the great high-road continues on towards the north-west, whilst we struck into a smaller track leading west-south-west. North of this lies the salt pool of Ävulluni-daschi, and near it is a solitary grove of poplars known as Haser-ölgen. Here too are the two cultivated districts of Tongusluk and Nias Supa Bajning-uji. At the point where we turned away from the great highway we crossed the little stream of the Idek-ilek. This, known higher up as the Jaman-ilek, is said to start at Arelisch, just below Aghis (see above, p. 160). In this particular locality the hydrography is more complicated than