

consequently the current is pretty swift, as appears from the section appended herewith. Thence our course was south-west as far as a point where a not inconsiderable portion of the volume turns into the Barat Kulning-köli. Although the entrance (*aghis*) is single, the stream soon divides into two canals, one broad, the other narrow; both traverse a broken poplar forest until they reach the lake, which is so far distant that it cannot be seen even from the top of the high tamarisk-mounds. A little above this point we encamped (No. XXXV) amongst the sand-hills, tamarisk-mounds, and dead toghraks. Thence we saw N. 55° E. the southern part of the Arka-köl, with a pretty large area of open water, which became lost to sight northwards amongst the reeds. The space intervening between the Ilek and the Arka-köl is occupied by long ridges of sand and by tamarisk-mounds, with an occasional toghrak, dead or living, amongst them. The eastern shore of the lake was lost in the haze, but I knew what it was like from having seen it in 1896.

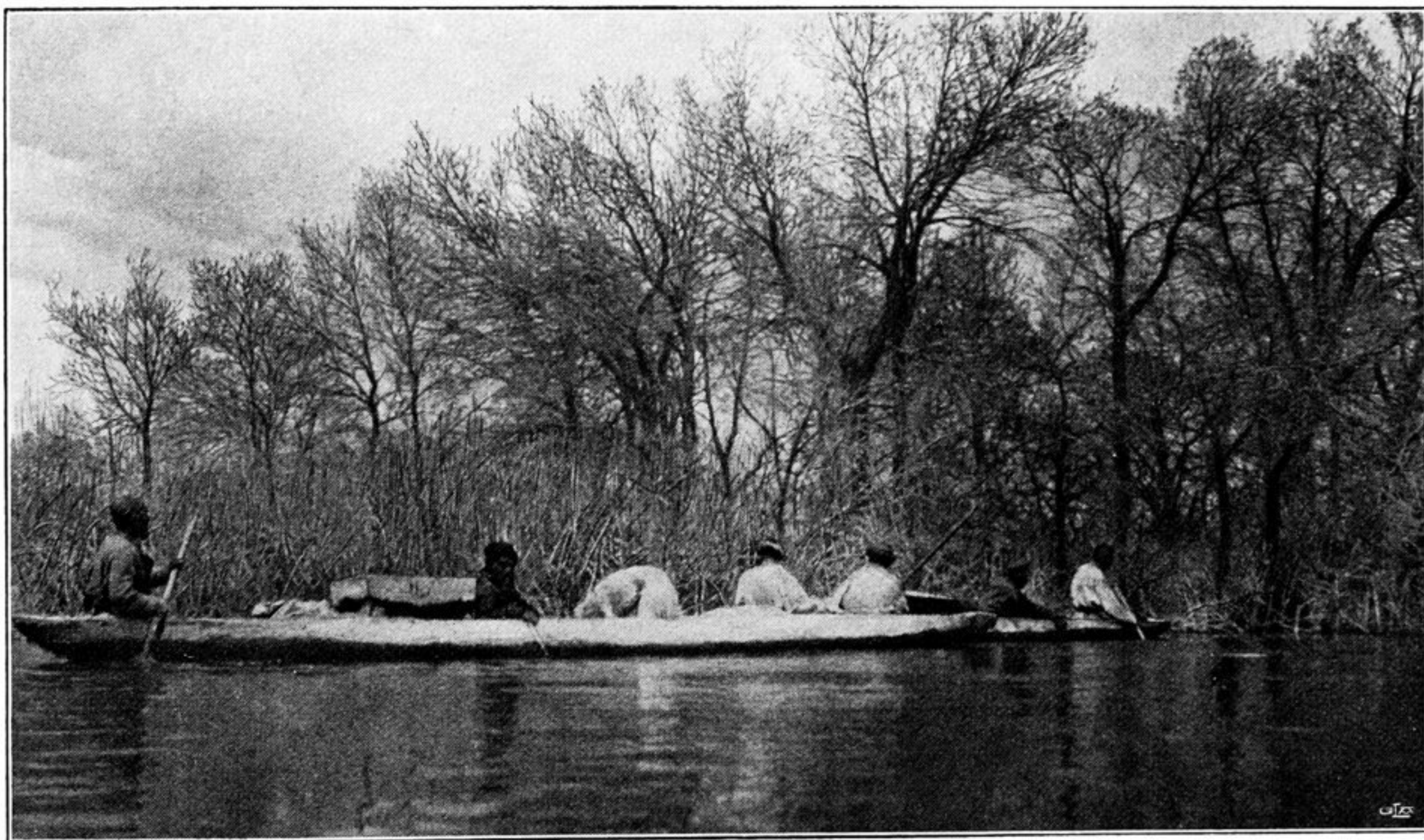


Fig. 416. THE ILEK NEAR TOGHRAK-TSCHEKE.

During the course of the day I obtained the following measurements: at Kum-tscheke, breadth, 16.75 m.; mean depth, 2.760 m.; mean velocity, 0.5134 m.; volume, 23.73 cub. m. in the second. The last preceding measurement below the Sadak-köl had resulted in a volume of 18.60 cub. m. in the second. Adding to this the 6.36 cub. m. of the Märdäk-köl stream, we get a volume of 24.96 cub. m., or 1.2 cub. m. more than at Kum-tscheke. Considering the loss of water by the way, one would have expected the contrary; but possibly the Ilek had dropped somewhat during the three days. Anyway the river had lost 5.13 cub. m. between the Lajlik-tarim and Kum-tscheke.

The canal from the Arka-köl was difficult to measure because of the kamisch. Although its embouchure was 25.66 m. across, the actual current was only 3.65