

extent that there has been a general rise of level throughout the entire eastern system of waterways. The Tschivilik-köl is said to drain in three different directions. The emissary which unites with the Bos-ilek, and thus is destined to enter the Avulluköl, is called the Kuntschekisch-sala.* The second emissary, which proceeds to the Suji-sarik-köl, is called the Ghol-sala, or Kok-ala, and unites with the Jätim-tarim. The third emissary, the waterway we last paddled down, which likewise becomes for a short distance lost in the reeds of the Suji-sarik-köl, is called first the Ettek-sala, then the Jangi-tarim, and finally the Ilek. Hence the second emissary and the third intermingle their waters in the Suji-sarik-köl before they again separate. Properly speaking, the Ghol-sala consists, at all events it did that year, of several branches, and of these two are large, and form falls of more than one meter in height. The lower of these two branches discharges immediately above Camp No. XXXVIII, the upper one a good bit higher up, while a third branch, quite small, is the one that drives the mill of Tägirmän. All three branches issue from lakes and marshes, which are directly connected with, or rather constitute, the lowest and most southerly extensions of the Tschivilik-köl. The Jätim-tarim has its own bed from Arelisch to Arghan, and in the vicinity of this last picks up on the left (see pp. 192—193) the Jemischek-kok-ala, the beginning of which we passed on our left just below Scharkurun. This river, the Jemischek, and the branches of the Ghol-sala carry all the water that goes to Arghan; the rest of its discharge flows into the eastern waterway, and so eventually into the Karaunelik-köl, near Schirge-tschapghan. And as the Kara-köl at all events discharges into the Suji-sarik-köl, it results that not all of the discharge of the Kontsche-darja finds its way into the Tajek-köl and Arka-köl, and the Kok-ala of the latter. As a matter of fact, the Kontsche-darja by no means forms a hydrographical system to itself, but is distributed, and mingles with the water of the Tarim. How far the circumstances in 1896 were the same as they were in 1900 it would be difficult to say. One thing at any rate is certain, namely that in the former year the Laschin-darja was nothing like so big as it was in the latter. By my journey of 1896 I determined the whole eastern boundary of the Tarim delta, and proved that no water proceeds farther to the east. On this present occasion I was in the heart of the watery labyrinth, which I succeeded in disentangling, though it was a trying and wearisome task. Nor should I be one bit surprised to learn that the distribution of the water in that delta is now at the time of writing (1904) different from what it was in 1900.

My informant then went on to tell me, that he had come to Schejtlar and Tägirmän 24 years before in quest of fresh pasture-grounds. What he was in search of he indeed found, but there was no water; and it was not until two years had passed, or about 1878, that the water began to make its appearance there. Shortly before it did so, the depression of the Tschivilik-köl became filled, and simultaneously with this the Jätim-tarim originated at Arelisch in a district which had hitherto borne no name. In the autumn of 1896 the Tschivilik-köl had risen a great deal in consequence of the very considerable increase in the volume of the Laschin-darja. Nevertheless the level had never been higher than it was in 1900; it had

* The word *sala* means in this locality »river-arm».