

at the bottom of the lake. As they naturally travel with the current, they of course gradually close up the mouths of the drainage channels, and thus act as natural sluices, raising the level of the lake. Hence they afford an eloquent proof of the proposition, that it is the decaying vegetation which in an essential degree helps to fill up the depressions.

On our way back we measured the volume of the Ettek-sala or Ilek at Scharkurun, where the river gave the accompanying section and yielded the following measurements: breadth, 29.15 m.; mean depth, 3.081 m.; mean velocity, 0.4243 m., and volume, 38.11 cub.m. Of this large amount there was left in the Ilek at Camp No. XXXV on 25th April only 21.98 cub.m., so that, disregarding any oscillations of level which may have taken place in the interval, there was a loss of 16 cub.m. in this short distance. Of this loss the greater part consisted of water which went to augment the Jemischek-kok-ala that unites with the Jätim-tarim at Arghan; while the residue is absorbed by the marginal lakes and marshes situated on the right side of this same waterway. At all events, the Ilek of Kum-tscheke derives its water partly from the Ettek-sala, and partly from the Kara-köl *via* the Suji-sarik-köl, though in what proportion from each it is impossible to say: in both cases alike it is derived ultimately from the Tschivilik-köl plus the Bos-ilek (see below). Thus the water of the Ettek-sala is discharged along two main arteries — the Ilek and the Jemischek. Its volume constituted one-half of that of the Tarim at Kirtschin on the 23rd May; but Muhamed Emin was of opinion, that within a few years the entire volume of the Tarim would flow this way, unless in the meantime the authorities prevent it by constructing huge dams at appropriate places.

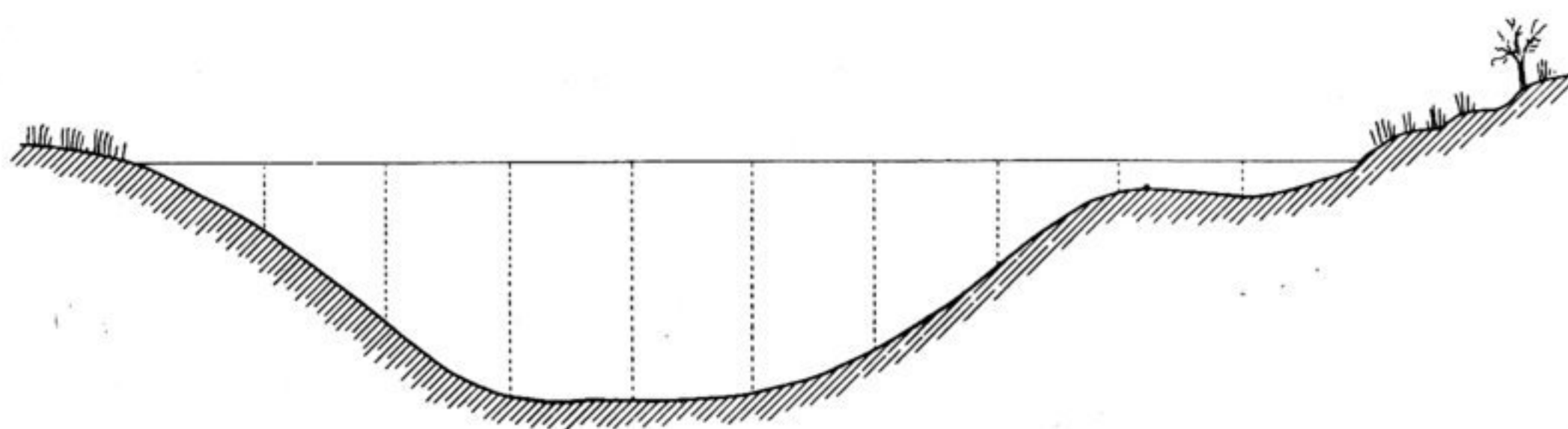


Fig. 428. Right. 1.55 3.90 5.54 5.78 5.56 4.39 2.42 0.71 0.96 = depth. Left.

52	55	51	51	42	39	40	3	1
60	66	63	57	46	48	61		
36	58	72	58	60	18	12		
	4	62	57	51	3			
		53	68	42				

} velocity.

Breadth = 29.15 m. The Ettek-sala at Scharkurun; April 28. Scale = 1 : 300.

On the afternoon of the same day I made a little trip by canoe on the Jätim-tarim to the upper kok-ala that issues from the Tschivilik-köl. These two kok-alas bear a striking resemblance to the two arms at Schirge-tschapghan. In both cases alike the emissaries issue from extensions of the lake, and spread out like the fingers of a man's hand, each forming at first a narrow, well-marked trench, which widens out in the middle into an elongated lake with an imperceptible current, and finally, after contracting again into a deep, narrow trough, plunges over a cataract. The lower kok-ala of Tägirmän forms however an exception in respect of this last-