

and Kosloff's work are considerably higher than the altitude at which they put the Kara-koschun. The well of Tschindejlik, close to the lake, is shown as lying 10 m. above it. My survey of the Desert of Lop indicates that Lâu-lan lies only  $2\frac{1}{3}$  m. above the level of the Kara-koschun. Hence a rise in the lake of only 3 m. would practically inundate the whole of the Desert of Lop to the north. But according to the map in question Tschindejlik would still lie high and dry; and the altitudes go on increasing towards the east-north-east. Koschalansa is put at 150 feet above the Kara-koschun, and farther on an unnamed well at 250 feet, while Chala-tschi is placed at 3500 feet, whereas the altitude of the Kara-koschun is 2,600 feet. This makes Chala-tschi have about the same altitude as Schah-jar, Ak-su, Kara-schahr, Boghuluk (on the Tschertschen-darja), Kara-dung (the old town on the Kerija-darja), and Altmisch-bulak. In his later book of travel Kosloff does not consider that the Kara-koschun extends all the way to Chala-tschi, but only to Toghrak-bulak, 142 versts west of Sa-tscheo. With regard to this he says (p. 110), »From the district of Latschin the road leaves the shore of Lop-nor, and runs along the southern edge of the belt of salt morasses, beside the old high shore of the lake very nearly as far as Toghrak-bulak. Between Toghrak-bulak and Sa-tscheo the valley gradually rises, forming a direct continuation of the valley of the river Sulej-che.»

But Toghrak-bulak itself will lie on a higher level than the Kara-koschun, and Kosloff, in assuming that the old shores of the Lop-nor reached to that point, carries us back to the distant epoch when almost the half of East Turkestan, and the parts of the Desert of Gobi which lie to the east of it, were under water. Putting aside the depressions north of the Tschöl-tagh, there is not, throughout the whole of Central Asia, any region outside the Kara-koschun which lies so low as the depression of Lâu-lan, south of Altmisch-bulak. I shall however return to this interesting problem in a subsequent chapter.

Here, as bearing upon the question of how far the Kara-koschun extends towards the east-north-east, it may be expedient to quote an extract from Kosloff's journey.

»For a distance of 70 versts, or a journey of three days, we travelled towards the east and north-east, along the southern shore of the lake Lop-nor. For almost the whole of this distance we were accompanied at close quarters by an open (reed-free) belt of water, in some places wide, in others narrow. In proportion as the water grew less the kamisch rapidly thinned, until near the district of Latschin the water came to an end, its struggle with the desert was over. The vegetation of the middle arm of the lake extended farther towards the north-east, until it became lost in the salt morass.»

»In the district of Latschin we turned away from the Lop-nor. Immediately south of the lake was a salt plain (schor), its surface crumpled with ridges like »petrified» waves; although we were close to the water's edge we found a strip of soft level ground, on which we were able to march with comfort. The zone of salt is 10 versts or more broad, and is backed by hills on the south; to the east it died away on the horizon. Here we advanced without keeping to any track, until we came to a belt of shore-terraces, superimposed upon the saliferous clay soil and stretching from south-west to north-east parallel to the shore of the Lop-nor, their