

an der Uferlinie die Vegetation reichlicher ist, und deshalb sich Staub und Sand ansammelt, so dass ein schmaler Streifen Boden am rechten Ufer höher zu liegen kommt, als die weiter südlich gelegene Gegend, welche deshalb vom Hochwasser überschwemmt wird, doch so, dass die Schwelle sich immer ein wenig über die Wasseroberfläche erhebt.

Der Kara-buran war jetzt nur einige kilometer breit und von W. nach O. ausgezogen. Im Mai wird der See vom Fluss ganz und gar isoliert, wobei das Wasser salzig wird, dann trocknet es aus.»

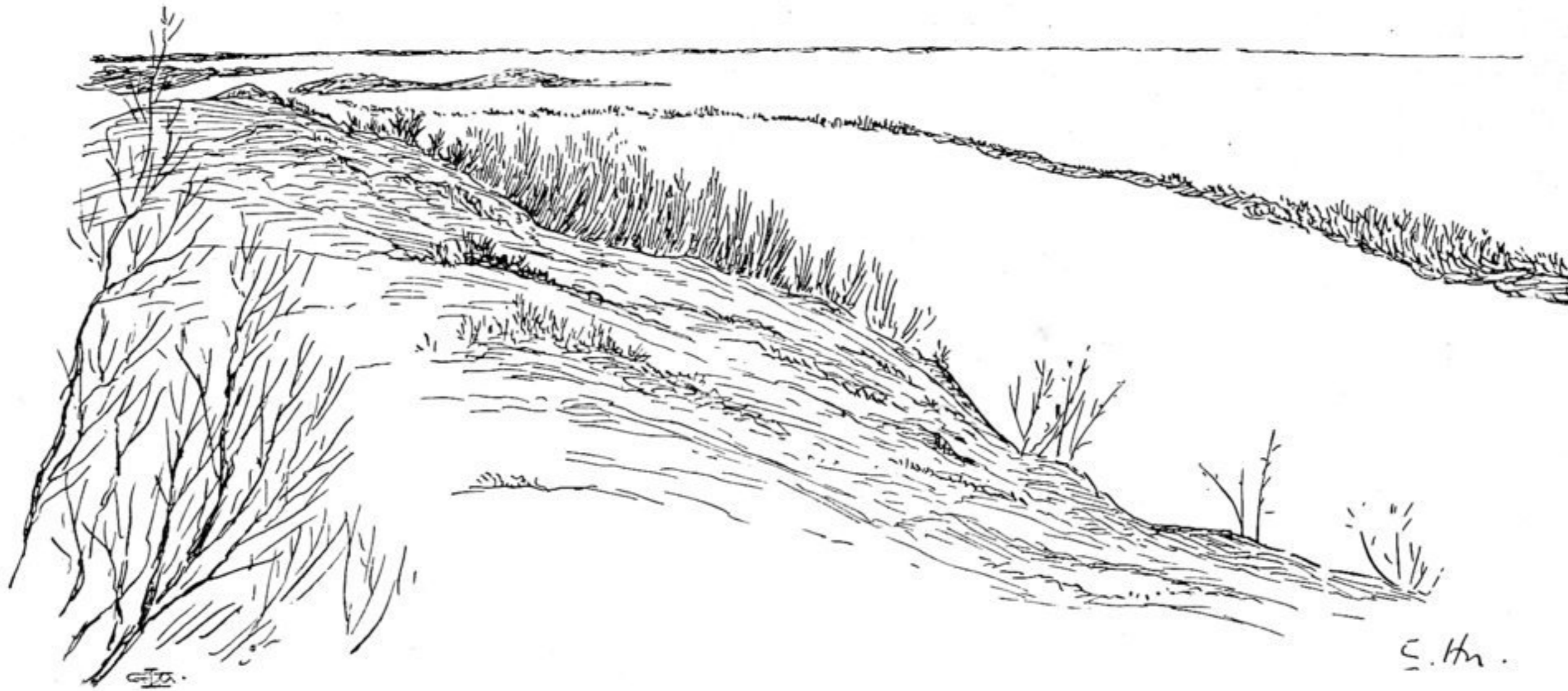


Fig. 126. VIEW TOWARDS S 70° E ACROSS THE KARA-BURAN, AS IT WAS ON 19 APRIL 1896; BETWEEN THE BANK TO THE LEFT AND THE NARROW KAMISCH-PIER TO THE RIGHT IS THE RIVER TARIM; BEYOND THE PIER IS THE LAKE.

If now we compare the exit of the arm C out of the Tschajnot-köl with this description, and compare the illustrations from the two places, there cannot be the slightest doubt that the same processes of formation are going on in both cases alike, the only difference being that the development has proceeded farther in the Kara-buran. In Prschevalskij's time (1876—77) this lake was still pretty big: — »Lake Kara-buran itself is from thirty to thirty-five versts long, and ten to twelve versts wide. Its area, however, depends a good deal upon the quantity of water in the Tarim; at high water the flat shores of the lake are flooded for some distance, whilst at low water the salt marshes on its borders are uncovered. Lake Kara-buran is not above three or four feet deep, and in places even less than this, although occasional deep pools occur, and the open space free from reeds is comparatively larger than in Lop-nor».*

According to Pjevtsoff the lake had in 1890 a circumference of 60 versts. If these statements be compared with my observations (see above), it will be found that the Kara-buran is a vanishing lake, having during the course of the last twenty-five years shrunk to a transitory sheet of insignificant extent, which dries up entirely in the summer. The shrinkage of this lake has advanced much faster than

* From *Kulja etc.*, D. Morgan's ed. p. 97.

Hedin, Journey in Central Asia. II.