

the heart of the Desert of Lop, or precisely in that part of it in which we now find the newly formed lakes. If now we consider the meridional line which represents my route across the Desert of Gobi, between Anambaruin-gol and Camp CXLII, a distance of 168 km., it will be seen to exhibit in an excellent manner the same trough-like shape as the country of Lop, though the trough is much more energetically indicated, not so much because it is deeper, as because the bordering mountains are very much higher. But for the purpose of comparing the flat lands in question it will be sufficient to consider that part of the line which lies between Camp CXXXVI (1006 m.) and Camp CXXLI (826 m.). We then have a fall towards the north of 180 m. in a distance of 60 km., measured in a straight line, that is to say, 3 m. in the km. or 1 m. in every 333 meters. But this line cuts a point that lies yet lower still, namely Toghrak-kuduk, which has an altitude of 822 m., or only 6 m. above the surface of the Kara-koschun. The altitude of Atschik-kuduk is, according to Dr. Ekholm's calculation of my observation, 833 m. With these two last-mentioned determinations the values given by Kosloff are so far in agreement that they may be regarded as probable. But I should at the same time observe, that for the Kara-koschun he retains Prschevskij's altitude, which is 24 m. too low. For the space between the Kara-koschun (792 m.) and Atschik-kuduk he gives the following altitudes:

Tschindejlik . . . . .	802 m.
Koschalantsa . . . . .	838 »
Korat-bulak . . . . .	811 »
Kuduk . . . . .	869 »
Tatlik-kuduk . . . . .	808 »
Toghrak-kuduk . . . . .	(819) »*
Atschik-kuduk . . . . .	829 »

All these points are situated in the depression which forms the immediate eastward continuation of that which begins in the Desert of Tschertschen, southwest of Basch-köl, and stretches across the Kara-koschun, which indeed occupies its lowest part. This deep trough is curved like a bow; its most westerly part lies close to the foot of the mountains on the northern side of the basin, its middle part under the foot of the Astin-tagh, that is at the southern side of the basin, and its eastern part at the foot of the Kuruk-tagh, that is back again at the foot of the northern mountains. To the north of it runs, and on the whole parallel to it, the curve of the depression to which all the marginal lakes of the Tarim belong, as also Markat, the lakes of the eastern waterway, the bed of the Lop-nor, and the deepest hollow along our levelled line.

Between these two lines of depression there exist also several others like them, but lying at right angles to them, that is they extend north and south. I mean the bajir depressions which are occupied by certain parts of the Tarim and its lakes. Setting aside Markat, which, with an absolute maximum depth of 14 m., lies higher up, we obtain in this part of the region the following maximum depths.

\* This figure is wanting on his map; it is the mean between the two adjacent stations.