

August 28th. For a short distance we followed the western and southern shores of the lake, close to which stand small detached hills, thinly clothed with grass. In the narrow belt between them and the water-line stretches a chain of elongated lagoons, divided from the lake by merely a »braiding» of mud, about a meter across. These basins are excessively shallow, and barren, the water in them being slightly saline. The next ridge rises along the southern shore, but it is really nothing but a series of flattened hills. These, which consist solely of coarse sand and fine smooth gravel, are covered with a thin sprinkling of grass and moss. Upon reaching a large collection of quite small pools we turned away from the lake and travelled along the western side of a large pool, which stretches towards the south-east. In fact the pool ought perhaps to be regarded as a part of the lake itself, seeing that it is only separated from it by a low strip of mud. The pool or bay is very shallow; and so too is the entire lake, at any rate the greater part of it, for its colour is light green, an indication that the bottom is not very far down. On the west side of the pool there are again low sandy hills, more or less detached and with an abundance of grass. Immediately south of this pool came a number of others, all small, situated only about one or two meters above the level of the lake and entered by tiny rivulets; in these the water was perfectly fresh. Their immediate environs are furrowed by a great number of watercourses, which however only carry water after rain. Here in consequence of the vegetation the ground is firmer, and the greater portion of the rainfall runs away on the surface.

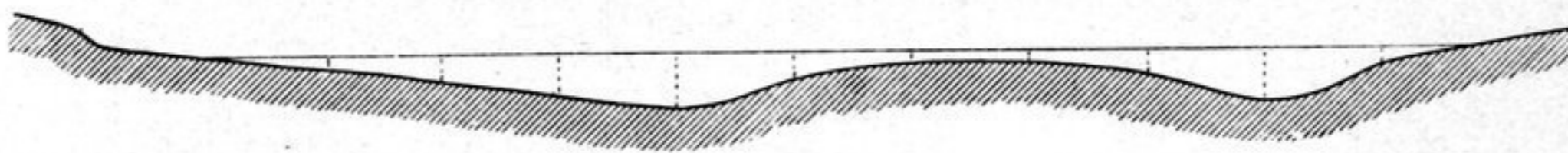


Fig. 90. Right. 0.36 0.73 1.22 1.69 0.87 0.40 0.40 0.74 1.67 0.58 = depth. Left.  
 1 93 121 132 100 92 91 115 111 2 } velocity.  
 97 136 156 80 80 82 100 122 1  
 127 167 137  
 Breadth = 39.8. Camp XXXVI, Aug. 26th 1900.

From a stretch of small hills we now saw in the south a perfect labyrinth of watery expanses. First we were forced by a bay to make a detour to the south-west; along its northern shore is a string of small pools, not more than 50 m. long, and extending east and west. Into the bay flowed a brook 16 m. broad and about 1 cub.m. in volume; its current was very muddy, and discoloured all the water in the bay. After that we continued southwards for a time, threading our way among an endless number of pools and across ground that was partly marshy, partly hard gravel, until we were again stopped by a large, reddish muddy stream, flowing into the salt lake, or rather into a broad sound which connects the salt lake with a fresh-water lake immediately to the south of it. This new river at Camp XXXVI (alt. 4847 m.), like the river between Camps XXXII and XXXIII, expands quite close to its mouth into two basins, the lower one being particularly large. The upper basin is full of sand-banks, the water being there able to accomplish its labour of sedimentation in undisturbed tranquillity. The larger basin was stained a reddish brown for a considerable distance out from the bank.