

the lake froze before the opener and more exposed parts. This order of procedure certainly did not depend upon temperature relations peculiar to that winter, but is a matter of annual occurrence. It depends upon the circumstance that the climate does as a matter of fact grow milder towards the west. In the east the winter is of the severe, continental, Tibetan type; in the west the cold is of a more moderate character.

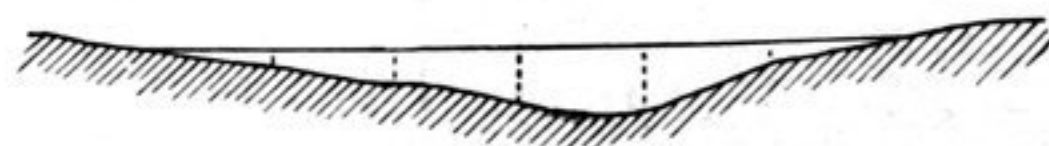


Fig. 210.

Leaving behind us the last spur of the mountains, at the foot of which a true dune was heaped up, we directed our course towards the south-west, and passed on our left hand a flat, blunted cape, on which soft, luxuriant grass was growing on tiny sand-hills, and a troop of 30 horses were grazing it. The lake was by this contracting, and finally it came entirely to an end. Out of the tapering cove at its western extremity flows the river, called by our guides Odschi-tsonjak. As it happened, in consequence of the wind there was a surface current running backwards towards the Tso-ngombo; but the Algæ at the bottom of the river proved that there was a gentle under-current flowing towards the Panggong-tso. A short distance below the beginning of the river we pitched Camp CXLIV; on the slopes of the mountains opposite numerous bushes were growing. There were wild-duck; but we saw no fish in this section of the river, possibly because of its nearness to the salt water of the Panggong-tso.

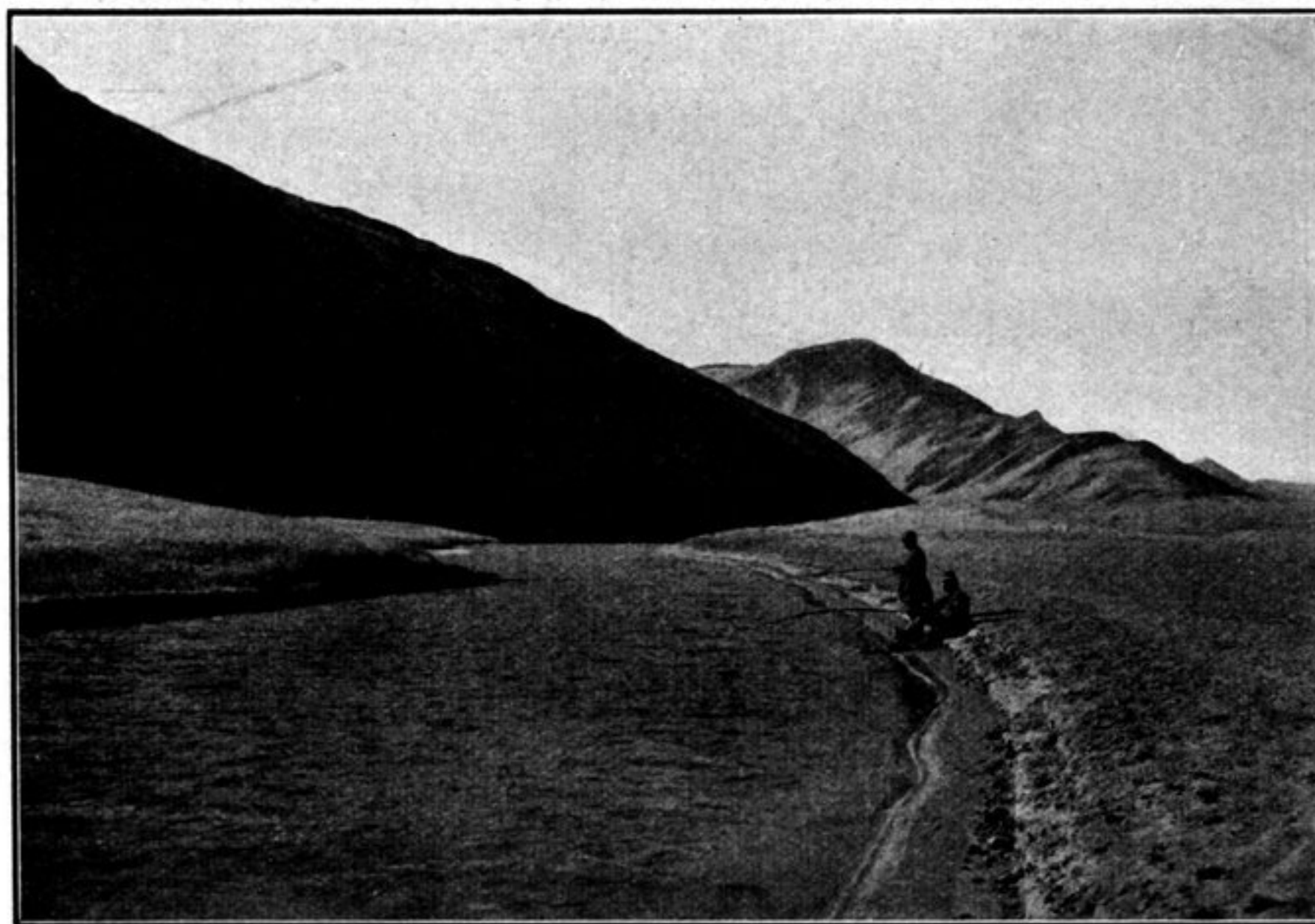


Fig. 211. LOOKING DOWNWARDS FROM CAMP CXLIV.

On 8th December I measured the volume of the river at this point, the result being the profile shown herewith (see fig. 210). The breadth was 11.2 m.; the mean depth, 0.475 m.; the maximum depth, 0.940 m.; the mean velocity, 0.591; and the volume, 3.14 cub.m. per second. This inconsiderable volume of little more than 3 cub.m. will, I dare say, remain pretty constant during the winter, and may be regarded as the quantity of water which the freshwater lakes receive during the