

CHAPTER L.

RECAPITULATION OF THE VOLUME IN THE TSANGPO.

As shown above I measured the Tsangpo at seven different places. The season was very favourable in April, May, June and the beginning of July, and as there was hardly any rain at all during the summer of 1907, no irregularities occurred in the catchment area, and the volume of the river almost only depended on the increasing melting of ice and snow. Of course rain may have fallen in the higher regions, which was impossible to observe from my road.

I found the Tsangpo to contain the following amounts of water, in cubic metres: April 6th = 105, May 29th = 91, June 20th = 82, June 28th = 103, July 3rd = 93, July 6th = 44, and July 8th = 34. The volume therefore generally decreases from east to west, in spite of the progress of spring and summer. The tributaries are of course responsible for these relations. From June 20th to June 28th there is a great irregularity, but from June 28th again there is a regular diminution of the volume.

But if we consider the river at different sections of its course, and pay special attention to the greatest tributaries, we clearly become aware of the great influence of the advancing season. At the confluence with the Dok-chu the Tsangpo alone had, on April 6th, 75cub.m., which includes not only the joint Tsangpo and Chaktak-tsangpo with their 91cub.m., on May 29th, but also all the small tributaries on the section from Chaktak-tsangpo to Dok-chu. Here only the advancing season could account for the fact that the 91cub.m. at the Chaktak-junction became 75cub.m. at the Dok-chu junction. Had measurements at both places been carried out the same day, the result would have been quite different.

At the Chaktak junction the Tsangpo alone had 72cub.m., on May 29th though the joint river, on June 20th, carried 82cub.m. at the Tsa-chu-tsangpo junction, and in spite of other tributaries entering the Tsangpo on the section between the Tsa-chu junction to the Chaktak junction.

The 103cub.m. at Dongbo, on June 28th, become only 72cub.m. just above the Tsa-chu junction. Here some new factor seems to enter, disturbing the regularity. There are no tributaries worth mentioning between Tsa-chu junction and Dongbo but still the river could hardly lose so much as 31cub.m. on so short a distance. But below Dongbo and south of So-la Ryder's map shows a lake-like expansion of the river, where the evaporation surface must be very great, and where probably