

Upper Yarkand-darya from that of the Oprang. »When the map is drawn we perhaps shall be able to judge what relation this chain has with the Aghil and the Karakoram.»¹

Seven years after the paper of DE FILIPPI was read to the Royal Geographical Society, Lieut.-Colonel H. WOOD published an important article on his survey in the Upper Yarkand valley, being a part of the Italian expedition.² WOOD points out that previous to 1914 our knowledge of this region was based on the sketches and reports of JOHNSON of the Survey of India in 1864—1865, and of HAYWARD in 1868, but that SHAW had, in 1876, expressed doubts as to the accuracy of this mapping. He returns to the interesting fact that the Shayok and Yarkand rivers »have a joint origin in one glacier». In the following words he explains the mistake committed by HAYWARD regarding the presumed source of the Yarkand-darya: »He reached this place in December, when the whole country was deep in snow, and his description therefore is somewhat misleading in places. No glaciers extend into the basin, nor are there any on the adjoining slopes. His visit was very hasty, and it is certain that he could not have seen the large western valley at the south end of the amphitheatre, for he was a careful and accurate recorder of everything that he saw. Nor is the basin a lake, as he surmised, though a small tarn, entirely disconnected from the river system, actually exists in it.»

The source of the Oprang (or Uprang) valley, which was not explored, is supposed to be situated some 30 or 40 miles further east than YOUNGHUSBAND had suspected in 1889.

From south of the Dapsang plateau to Kirghiz-jangal in the north the only formations are limestone and sandstone, which, at least for the southern portion of this belt of land, agrees with my results farther east.

The little sketchmap accompanying WOOD'S article gives a very clear idea of the important geographical discoveries made by the Italian expedition so far as the source branch of the Yarkand-darya is concerned. Unfortunately we could not make use of it when the map in 1:1,000,000, accompanying the present work, was drawn by Colonel BYSTRÖM. A comparison between Sheet VII of our map and WOOD'S sketchmap clearly shows how necessary the exploration of this nearly unknown region was.

When the detailed account of the work of the Italian expedition in due course will be published we will no doubt be able to improve our general orographical maps of this extremely complicated and difficult region. Of particular interest it will be to learn in how far the importance of the Aghil Range in its relation to the Kara-korum System will be cleared up.

By his strictly scientific methods DE FILIPPI has inaugurated a new era in the history of exploration in these parts of High Asia, and he may indeed be said to have maintained the place of honour held by Italy in the great continent ever since the days of MARCO POLO.

¹ Geographical Journal, Vol. XLV, p. 229.

² Geographical Journal, Vol. LIX, p. 375.