

fort of *Gez-kurgan*. At 6 o'clock we crossed the river on *Kara-moinak-köprüü*, and two hours later reached *Köürük-karaul*, which obviously is the same as the *Kuruk* of Dr. SCHULTZ.

In the night of April 29th the minimum temperature was $+4.0^{\circ}$. A short distance below *Köürük-karaul* we had a very difficult passage of the *Gez-darya*, which nearly cost the life of a pony. Light eastern breeze brought impenetrable yellow dust-fog up in the valley. The valley, which had been broad some distance, again becomes narrow. An hour later we crossed the river at an easy ford, and then again twice.

At *Konalya-tokai*, a place with bush vegetation, the river is very narrow and wild, forming a series of rapids; it is here crossed on a dangerous bridge 17 steps in length. The valley then becomes broader and its ground more comfortable. The mountains on the sides are steep and picturesque. In the midst of the valley a detached rock crops out. There is much vegetation; of grass, bushes, poplars and willows. From the belts of sand and gravel at the sides one gets an impression of the violence and force of the river during the highwater season. It is now divided into several branches, which often have to be crossed. The wind comes from the east and the mist conceals everything except the immediate vicinity. Human beings were nowhere seen. Only at *Ui-tagh*, where we passed the night, some Chinese soldiers were taking their rest in the *karaul-khaneh*.

In the night the temperature did not fall below $+5.6^{\circ}$. The dust-haze continued and obviously came from the east, for in this direction nothing was to be seen of the higher parts of the mountains whilst to the west the view reached farther. Leaving *Ui-tagh-kurgan* we passed three small miserable bridges during the first half hour. We met a caravan of 87 camels loaded with forage for *Bulung-kul* and led by Chinese soldiers. The valley becomes broader, its floor is sand and red clay with steppe vegetation.

At our last crossing of the *Gez-darya* the river flows in two branches, the first 13 m. broad and with 5 cub. m.; the second, 74 m. broad and with 33 cub. m. per second. After this passage the river is lost sight of to our left or west. The hills decrease in height and diverge. Passing through *Tash-malik* we ride between gardens, groves, fields and canals the entire way to *Sargon*. Here trees are planted on both sides of the road. Beyond *Sargon* we cross a level grass steppe. We camped in the large village of *Terem*.

On May 1st we rode through the large gardens of *Örtek* or *Örkesh*, and through the bazar of the little village of *Tokusak*. Having passed some more villages and cultivation, and having without the slightest difficulty crossed the *Kisil-su*, we reached *Kashgar* in the evening. The altitude at *Bulung-kul* being 3,405 m. and at *Kashgar* 1,304 m., the descent is in all 2,101 m. and the distance being 140 km., the rate of fall, as an average for the whole road, is as 1:66.6.