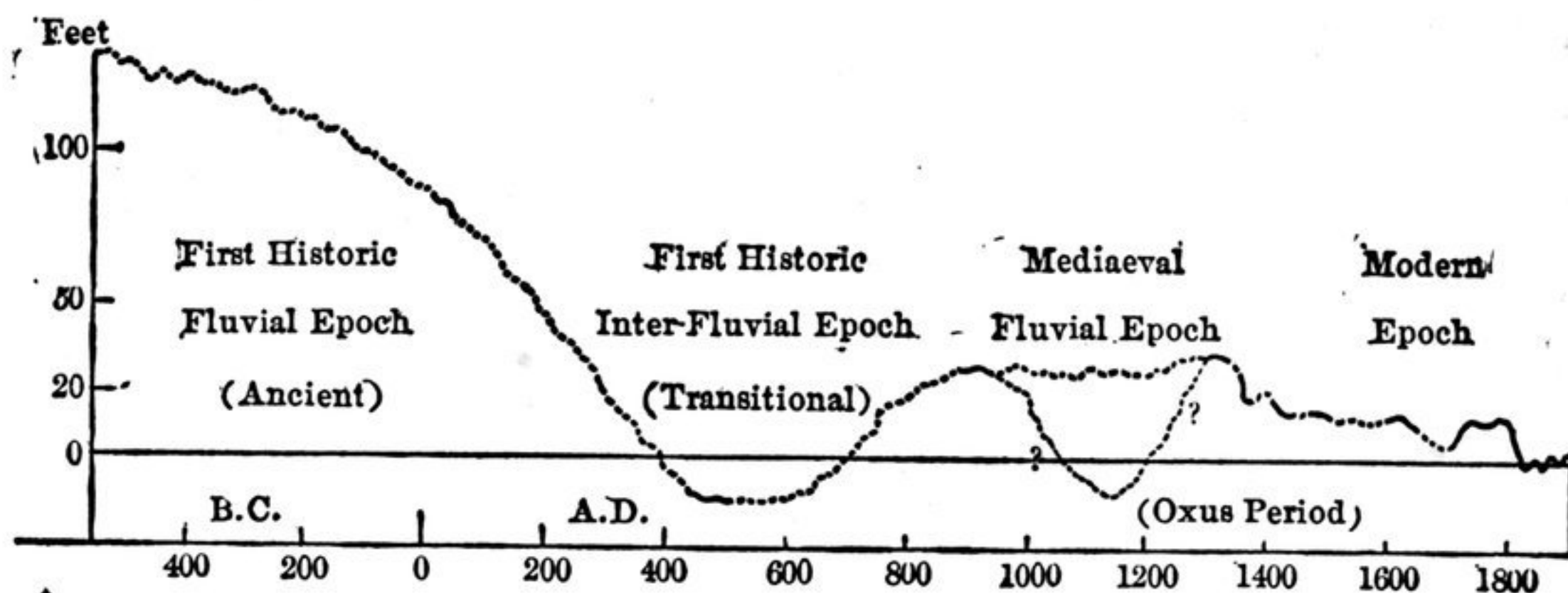


of Olearius stands; and truly the great clearness of the line speaks for a very long stand of the water at this height." If the high stand of the water at this time were due to the inflow of the Oxus, which had come to an end over eighty years before, there could not possibly have been "a very long stand of the water at this height." Unless the climate were different from that of to-day, evaporation would have lowered the sea steadily year by year until it was reduced to its modern level.

From the time of Olearius down to the present day, data as to the level of the Caspian become more and more abundant and trustworthy. As collected in Brückner's excellent summary, they show that there was a rather low stand early in the eighteenth century, followed by a somewhat higher



APPROXIMATE CHANGES IN LEVEL OF THE CASPIAN SEA
 Referred to Brückner's Datum-Level, 85± ft. below Sea-Level.

stand till about 1820. Since then the level has been low, with many minor fluctuations, as is indicated in the accompanying diagram.

The evidence of the high stand of the Caspian Sea during the Middle Ages is so abundant that there is little need of citing the maps of the period. The majority were drawn in Europe, and are based partly on ancient and partly on con-