

and Beshtugemen on the eastern bank there are two ferries. A third keeps up the connection between Tuplik and Kökbash. The western bank is reached by means of it. The barge that carries people and animals consisted of a single hollowed-out tree-trunk of irregular lines; only the stern was pointed. The river bed is 40 fathoms wide, bottom firm and speed 10/9 m per second. No marshy places could be seen on the western bank. About a dozen fishing-rods were stuck into the ground on the bank with thick string as a line and corks of the most primitive kind. Frogs are used as bait. A boy had been set to watch them. The river turns eastward here, but we struck it again a mile or two further on, ever faithful to the western bank. It is only from the level of the village of Qosh Ingrak that it crosses to the opposite bank and we only saw it again at the bridge on the Kashgar—Maral Bashi—Aqsu road. The fields on the western bank seem to be about two miles in width. Mountains are visible in the background. Between the villages of Qarakul, Qarajantagh and Qosh Ingrak, lying slightly to the west of the river, there is a very considerable barren sandy plain.

Shortly before the bridge, we reached the Kashgar road with its telegraph line carried on very high poles at a great distance from each other. Between two of the poles the line hung down almost to the ground. The speed of the water at the bridge was the same as ten days ago, 10/6 m per second, but the quantity of water was larger, especially in the northern arm which flows about 2/3 of a mile north of the first, which we rode across.

It was still 11—12 miles to the Sart town and it was quite dark by the time we reached the house of the aksakal after quite 12 hours in the saddle. Ismail welcomed me with a plate of steaming soup, and the pleasant knowledge of having completed the survey of the river for a distance of over 220 miles contributed not a little to the modest pleasure of the repast. My diary was given a rest, also the thermometer and barometer in their cases, while I crept at once into bed without requiring any persuasion. Neither the aksakal's musical box, nor the bites of fleas were able to disturb my night's rest.

It has taken six days to copy my road maps, a piece of work that I would have liked to postpone until my return, if I was not afraid that my pencils might disappear and the map become unintelligible. Visits from the Taotai, Djentai, Shenguan and another mandarin made considerable inroads into my time. Besides, I was invited to dinner by the Shenguan to meet the Taotai and Djentai, an entertainment that was completely put into the shade by an entertainment with music, theatricals and target shooting that the Djentai arranged in my honour to-day. The general, who was so polite as to call on me in the old town, when he heard that I had intended to call on him (my card was not received in his absence), made a very good impression on me. A lively man of 60 of herculean build, who looked 50 at the most, interested in many social problems, but especially in his profession, and thoroughly convinced of the necessity of thorough-going reforms in all departments of the life of the people in China. His call on me at 9 in the morning was evidence of his not being in the ranks of the opium smokers, were his healthy appearance not sufficient proof. He spoke with interest of the last Russo-Japanese war, the causes of which he discussed with a clear perception. The course of the war, he maintained,

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Aqsu.*