

of the higher portions, but entirely worn down in some places. From a distance they were seen to cut the steep slopes coming down to the lake on the west.

From the eastern shore of Lake Kara Kul the land rises with a slope of 1 foot or less in 100, and holds this till it meets the fans from the bordering mountains. whence it rises more and more rapidly and bends up sharply at the mountain's base

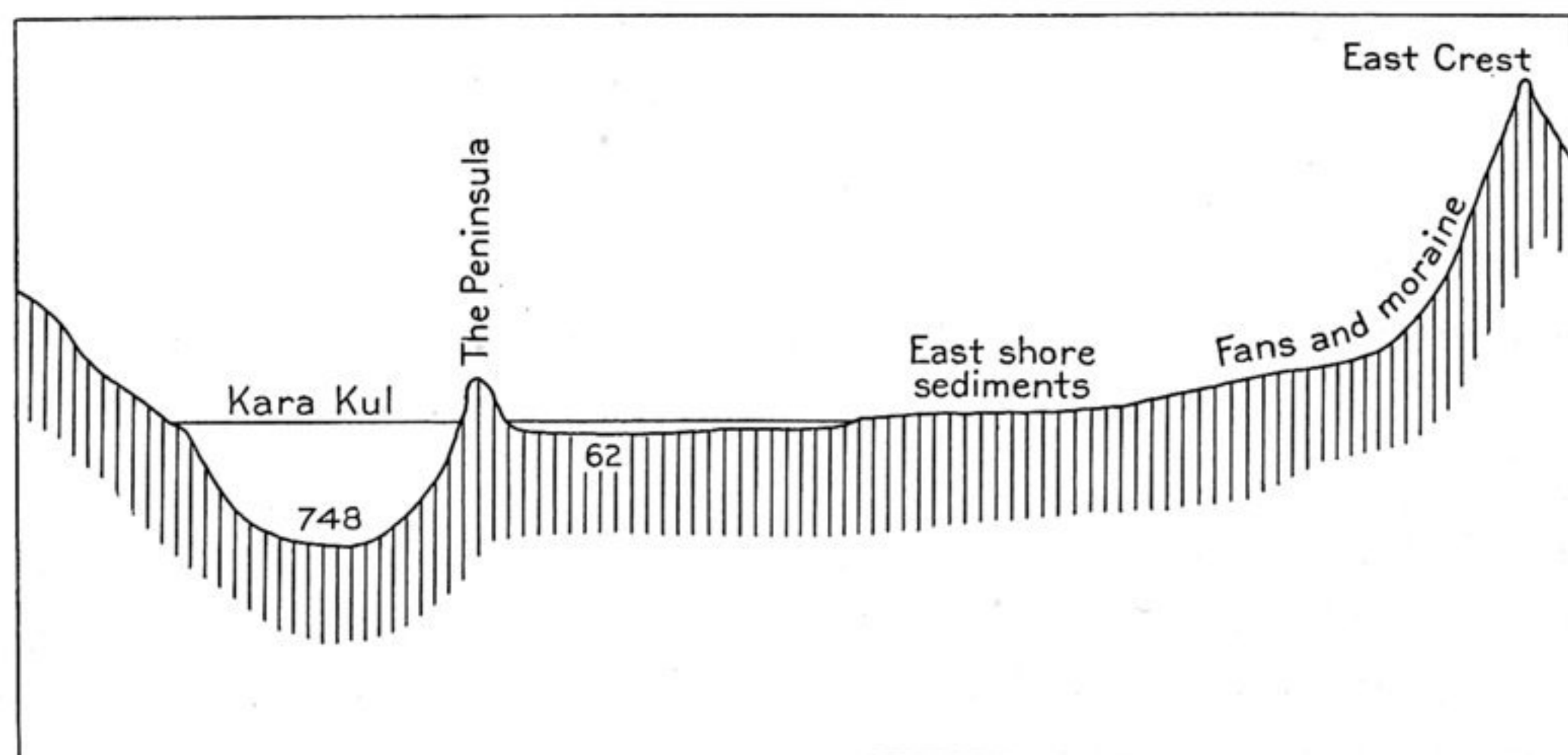


Fig. 101.—An east-west section of the Kara Kul Basin.

(fig. 101). The surface of large areas between the lake and these eastern fans consists of nude, finely stratified, blue-gray clays. A considerable depth of these sediments is well matted with tape-like grass lying flat and varying in width from $\frac{1}{3}$ mm. to 3 mm. The roots are about $\frac{1}{3}$ mm. in diameter, and spring from the bottom of the wide blade, the fine leaves sprouting just above them. The leaves are light brown and although very thin will bear a tension of one-half ounce and are very pliable. The clays are, as a whole, of the finest flour, but contain minute flakes of

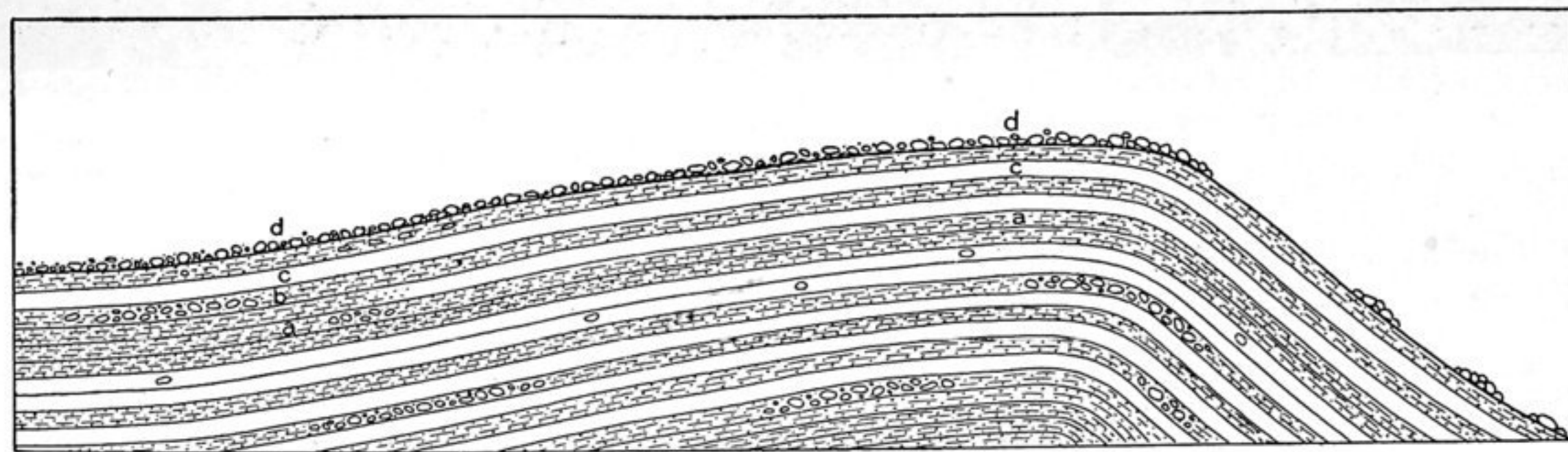


Fig. 102.—Section of Kara Kul sediments exposed in Hillock Bluff about 100 feet above Lake.

mica and here and there a layer with small angular pebbles. The lamination is very perfect; it is easy to split off pieces a foot in area and only half an inch thick, although the same piece can be crumbled between the fingers.

A large proportion of the Kara Kul sediments lie horizontal, but there are also areas of very much disturbed stratification where the surface is broken into irregularly disturbed mounds or little hillocks, among which deflation and wind carving have formed miniature bluffs exposing the structure. The layers seen in