

The Taldic Valley increases in depth from about 500 feet near the source to about 3,000 feet just above Gulcha; a little below Gulcha it emerges into a relatively shallow channel on the lowland plain, and finally joins the Kara darya, a branch of the Syr. It varies greatly in width, according to the hardness of the rock. For about 15 versts, part in black silicious limestone, part in granite and hard slate, it



Fig. 113.—Taldic Valley Terraces, looking up the Taldic Valley from Floor B, about 63 versts above Gulcha. Floor A is high up on the right.

narrows to a deep canyon, where the stream is a roaring torrent running partly on ledge bottom. Where cut in the gypsum series it broadens out, with sides sloping back in successive steps over extensive terraces. Except where in the above-mentioned canyon, the Taldic darya, from about 20 versts below its source to Gulcha, is directly contained in a channel of often rectangular cross-section, averaging some-

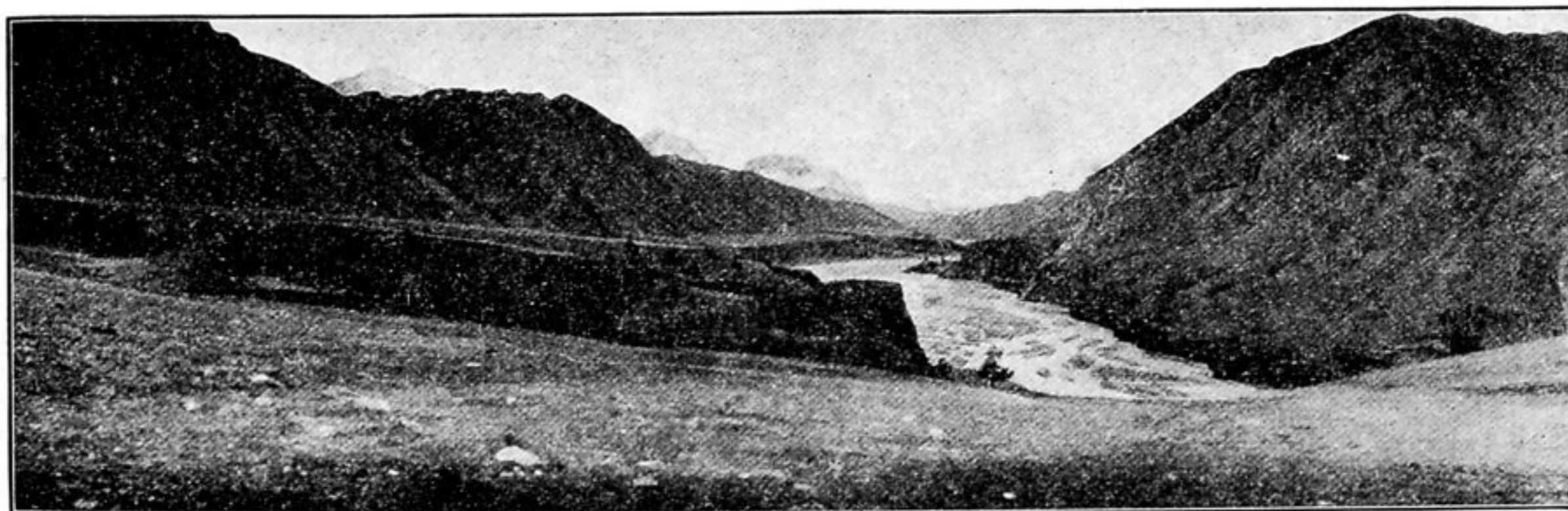


Fig. 114.—Taldic Valley Terraces, looking up the Taldic Valley from Floor C, about 46 versts above Gulcha,

thing like 500 feet in width and 100 feet in depth, and cut in partially cemented alluvial conglomerate. When in high flood the stream covers the whole breadth of the bottom; at other times it is largely split into smaller streams rejoining each other on its irregular gravel flood-plain. The accompanying profile of the stream has been constructed with the aid of Russian leveling notes, and the characteristic terraces have been projected onto it from my approximate measurements. These terraces have been lettered A, B, C (figs. 112-114).