

trained eye there are pronounced terraces and others which are distinguishable by careful sighting only. Some slight accumulations have resulted from Turkoman irrigation, while large areas formerly irrigated by the Anau-li and abandoned only 50 years ago are now dissected with gullies 15 feet deep and over that in width, and other areas of Anau-li fields are still growing under Turkoman irrigation. As a whole the irrigation deposits of our Anau delta lie within an area spread out from its apex to irregular limits near the railroad. In its central portion this accumulation, exposed by a gully down into its underlying floor of natural sediments, attains a thickness of 15 to 20 feet, but from there outwards terraces down over broad fields with 2-foot drops.

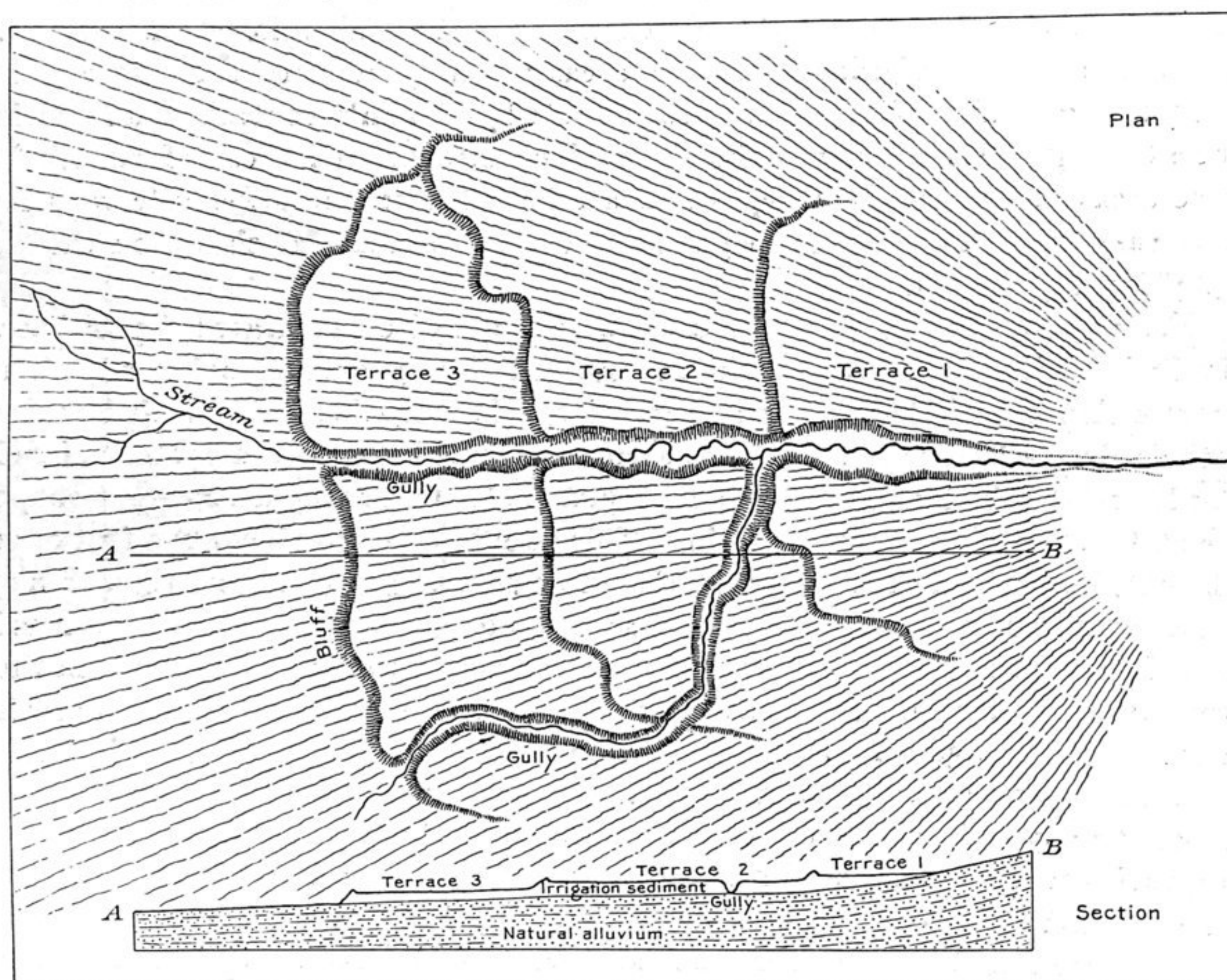


Fig. 486.—An Abandoned System of Irrigation Terraces.

The old through route of East and West crossed the middle of the delta and so determined the boundaries of Anau's ancient fields along it that a bluff from 1 to 4 feet high of irrigation limits follows much of the way along its southern side. Other irregularities are found in shallow rounded troughs, whose heading branches fade into the plain obliterated by more recent irrigation. These are old canals, bounded once by fields aggrading on either side while they remained unsilted till abandoned, now slowly losing shape. Each kurgan and the citadel has split the irrigation stuff around it, thus in part protecting an area directly north or