1847 1848

1848

1847

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey Topographic

Field No. 1847 Office No. 1848

LOCALITY

State California

General locality Suisun

Locality Bay

~~1865~~

CHIEF OF PARTY

L. A. Sengteller

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DATE

B-1870-1 (1)++

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

F. M. Thorn, Superintendent.

State: California.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 1847 & 1848.

LOCALITY:

Suisun Bay.

1888.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

L. A. Sengteller.

Give here full address to which reply should be sent: P. O Box 2512 San Francisco Cal

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Sub Office San Francisco Cal

Oct. 20th, 1888

Th. J. M. Thom

Superintendent Coast Survey

Washington D.C.

Sir

In the Br. Survey (Topographic) of Suisun Bay Sheet No 1 of the eight executed by me, this day forwarded, presents perhaps the most marked and important subject in the Series and for which I respectfully submit the following descriptive Report.

The essential features in changes or improvements as compared with the original works of locality, (Executed about 20 years ago) are first, the great and rapid formation of Tule, bordering the marsh, and Second the reclamation of marsh lands and attendant constructions of levees and dams.

Regarding the rapid formation of tule and its consequent Encroachment, I would call Your [illegible] attention to the results recently obtained at the Head of Suisun Bay.

From the mouth of Roaring river, Northerly and Passing the entrance to Grizzly Slough, thence along the shore of Grizzly Island to Newton (2) Sta, upon examination, the greatest encroachment of tide will be found to Exist off the mouth of Grizzly Slough, the Head of the Bay, when since the Grading Survey was made, it has not only and Practically appraised, but so rapidly advanced into the waters of Suisun Bay that now it Extends at that Point one mile outside of the original Shore lines. Again from Roaring river, Gaping Grizzly Slough and following the tide shore of Grizzly Island there Exist a half dozen little tide islets, which it is quite apparent in but few years will become connected with the present defined tide line or shore.

The formation of tide as represented by the Topography, naturally includes but a part of the encroachment for the settlement of mud, Sand and all characters of debris flowing in or out upon reaching, as it is natural to Expect at the Head of Such a Bay, waters un-influenced by currents must become rapidly deposited, but this determination can only be obtained from Hydrographic operations as the rise and fall of bat one inch in the tides or Such gradual slope, may make a difference of many

yards in distance, which I would also state from the soft character of mud, landing or treading are impracticable to the Topographer and consequently low water lines indeterminate.

High water lines are equally unapproachable or indeterminate from the same reasons, but from my observation, generally speaking, at ordinary or mean high tide, but little, if any water flows in or beyond the edges of tide lines, while this latter, is usually found bare one hour after H.W.

Regarding the reclamation of these marsh lands, it is quite evident, the constructions of levees and dams, prove a serious factor in the apparent destruction of natural ways, with an attendant effect in proportion at their sources of outflow. The reclamations upon Grigsby and Hammonds Islands have existed for some years, and I find the streams of both, below existing dams to have much filled up with sediment, while above the dams warm brooks exist upon one or both sides of a creek its filling in is seen greater, but upon Simmons Island un-reclaimed, its creeks much more nearly retain their original values. This Island however, since the work was done, has been reclaimed by a thorough construction of levees and dams, the material for which is obtained from the marsh, cut into blocks of mud, cut as near as possible to the site of construction and in the levees, from within. Such

which eventually flank them by ditches.

The commercial interests or values of these lands are entirely confined to stock raising and dairying, and seem to be specially adapted to the purposes, green feed being available through the entire year by occasional change of pasture upon which exist many varieties of nutritious grasses, Cyperaceae, Gramineae, Juncaceae, Liliaceae and others.

When the pastures during the Summer and Fall months are said to afford good feed to stock, it is well known it is well known within the above periods the adjacent or proximate up. lands affor little or no food to stock. The Winters are not essentially severe, excepting that during the prevalence of rain storms, the only shelter available to stock is the lee of tule, which under the ill conditions they may not necessarily reach or find.

Periodically and subsequent to rain storms, a cold spell may prevail for two to three days, and very exceptionally, as during last Winter a cold wave prevailed for about ten consecutive days.

From my observation during the prevalence of storms or subsequent cold spells, stock is so exposed, that heavy losses are not infrequent. Protection or greater comfort and safety to stock could be readily brought about

by the interspersed or grouped introduction of any form of rapid growth susceptible of cultivation upon such lands, as they would at small expense and very soon afford stock necessary shelter, as well as relieve the owners from unexpected and perhaps large losses.

Upon such lands I have observed the Eucalyptus Willow, Pear and Some varieties of fruit trees, the first mentioned is doubtless the most applicable, its growth being particularly rapid would soon furnish the desired shelter and doubtless after a few years fuel.

The tide lines upon this sheet will be found embodied by a faint line, owing to the fact that the taking of the sheet was commenced before the Circular directing otherwise was received.

Sheet No 2 also transmitted is practically a part of Sheet No 1 and does not seem to call for a special descriptive Report.

Yours very respectfully
Louis A. Bengtsson
Asst. Actg. Survr.