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U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.
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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

F. M. Thorn, Superintendent.

State: Oregon.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812 & 1813.

LOCALITY:

From Yaquina Bay
to
Cape Orford.

1887.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

E. F. Dickins.

Eight pages containing 18 sketches of coast included in limits of survey.

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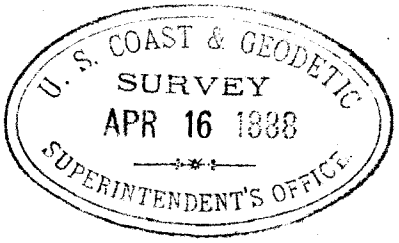
U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY
APR 16 1888
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE



Descriptive Report

of the

Topographical Reconnaissance

from

YAQUINNA BAY TO CAPE ORFORD,

OREGON.

Executed during the summer of 1887,

by party of

E.F.Dickins, Assistant C. & G. Survey.

5 Plane Table Sheets, on Scale of $\frac{1}{40,000}$.

Topographical Reconnaissance

from

Yaquinna Bay to Cape Orford,

Oregon.

Executed during summer of 1887, by

E.F.Dickins, Assistant C. & G. Survey.

Plane Table Sheet No. 1.

Yaquinna Bay to Alsea River. (1209)

On the South Spit there is a town laid out, called "South Newport" which, at present, consists of a general merchandise store, an hotel, a few scattered houses, and the work shops, stables and other buildings used by the U. S. Engineers in the construction of the Jetty, this place is connected by a steam ferry with the town of "Newport" on the North side of the Bay, and by a tri-weekly stage with the towns on the Alsea River.

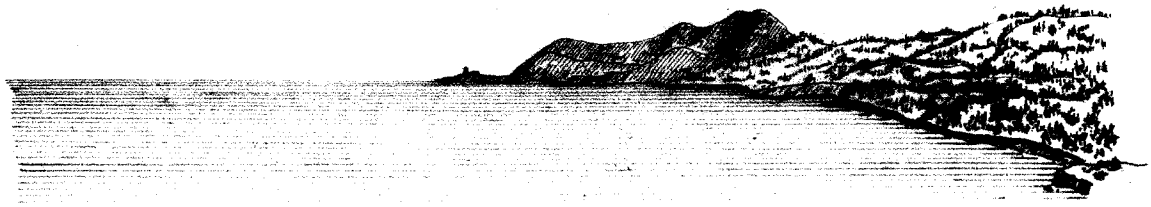
The South Spit is low and sandy and consists of bare and drifting sand dunes, extending back 200 or 300 yards from the beach to the edge of the timber, which is principally small

pines and underbrush; the country back is heavily timbered and rises gradually inland.

About 2½ miles South of the entrance to the Bay, the bluffs commence, these vary in height from 40 to 100 feet, and are backed by rolling hills rising gradually inland, covered with the dead gray trunks of burnt timber and a second growth of small green timber and chaparral, the bluffs are faced by a broad hard sand beach, extending to the Seal Bluffs 9 miles from the Bay, this beach is used as the wagon road to Alsea River.

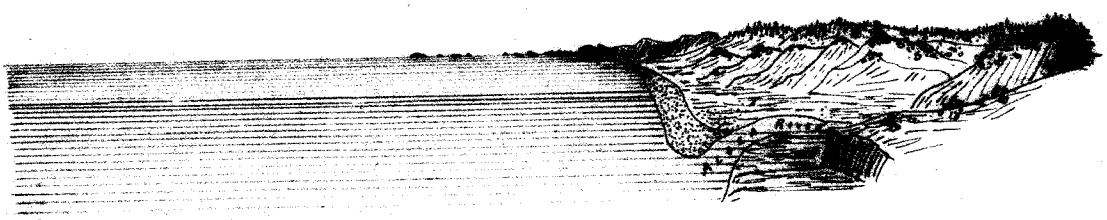
Beaver Creek, is quite a good sized stream, entering the Ocean about 7 miles South of Yaquinna Bay, up this creek there is said to be some good agricultural and grazing land which has been taken up by settlers.

Seal Bluffs, 9 miles South of Yaquinna Bay, is a low point about a mile in extent, the shore line of which is very rough and rocky; the road leaves the beach and goes over this point; the hills are smooth and rolling and comparatively clear of timber, except in small bunches; the land has been divided into villa lots and it is intended to build a large hotel, with the idea of making this place a summer resort. Off this point is a cluster of rocks, known as the Seal Rocks, the largest and



FROM SEAL BLUFF looking NORTH to YAQUINNA POINT

FROM SEAL BLUFF looking SOUTH to CAPE PERPETUA



FROM ALSEA RIVER looking NORTH to SEAL ROCKS

outer-most of the group is about half a mile off shore, it is about 30 meters in extent and about 20 feet in height.

From Seal Bluffs to the mouth of the Alsea River, about 4 miles, there is a broad smooth sand beach, backed by low sand bluffs and dunes and gradually rising hills densely timbered.

Alsea River.

The mouth of this river or bay is about 14 miles South of Yaquinna Bay and about 9 miles North of Cape Perpetua, the entrance is very narrow being only about 100 yards in width at low tide, and about 400 yards at high water, inside it widens out into quite an extensive bay at high water, but at low tide the mud flats are all bare and the channels narrow and crooked. The residents claim 7 feet of water on the Bar at low tide, there is a first class can buoy, with black and white perpendicular stripes S. W. by W. ½ W. from the entrance and about a mile off the Bar.

Collins (Post Office) is on the North side of the river about ¼ of a mile from its mouth, and consists of a salmon cannery and about half a dozen buildings, there is a wharf at the cannery. About a mile above Collins on the same side of the river, there is another wharf, salmon cannery, general merchandise store, hotel and a few dwellings.

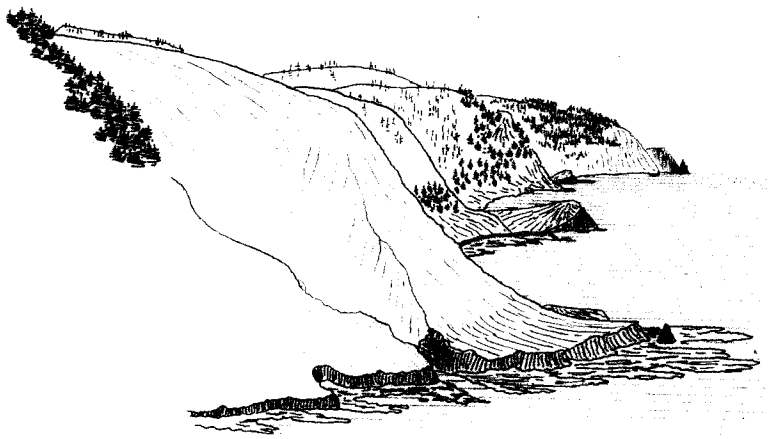
Waldport (Post Office) is situated on the South side of the river, about a mile from its mouth, and consists of a general merchandise store, a small steam saw mill, (with capacity of cutting about 8000 feet of lumber per day) and about a half a dozen dwellings, there are two small wharfs at this place, all along on both sides of the river can be seen the houses of settlers. It is about 10 miles from the mouth of river to head of tide, and I am told that there are some fine bodies of timber along the river and its tributaries. There is a weekly mail, and tri-weekly stage between here and Yaquinna Bay.

The steam-schooner "Mischief" (about 60 tons burden) makes trips from Yaquinna Bay at intervals, with supplies for the stores and canneries.

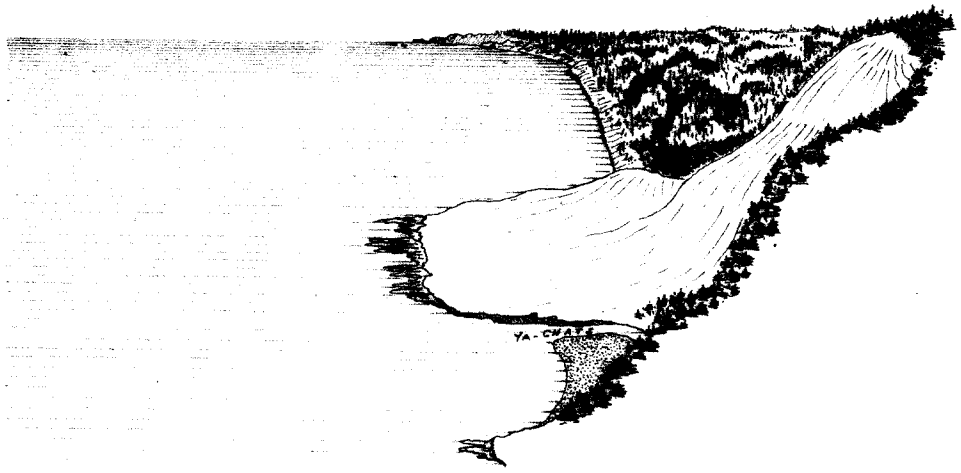
Plane Table Sheet No. 2.

Alsea River to Ya-Chats Creek.

From the mouth of the Alsea River to Reynolds' and Starr's place, about 6 miles, there is a broad smooth sand beach, backed by low bluffs, ranging from 10 to 40 feet in height, beyond the bluffs the country is comparatively flat for some distance inland, then gradually rises into rolling hills and ridges, the whole country is densely timbered as far back as the eye can reach.



FROM CAPE PERPETUA looking SOUTH to HECETA HEAD



FROM CAPE PERPETUA looking NORTH to SEAL ROCKS

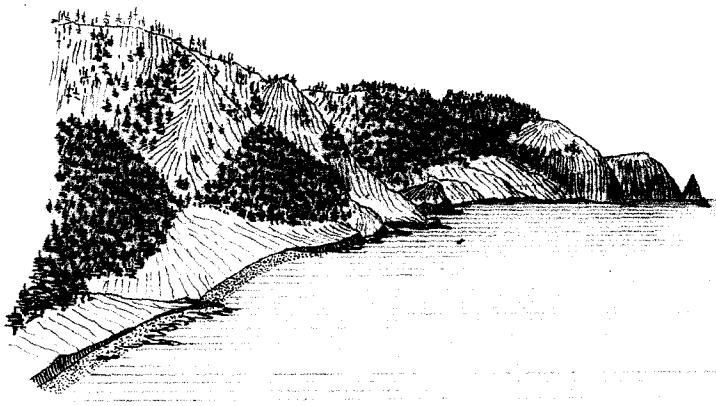
There is some mining done along this beach, by washing the auriferous sand, and those so employed seem to be making fair wages. The only means of wagon communication South of the Alsea is by using this beach as a road.

From the North end of Starr's place to the Ya-Chats Creek about 1½ miles is a low flat table, about 1000 yards in width, the shore line is rough and rocky; the bluffs are about 20 feet in height. The place now occupied by Reynolds and Starr was formerly the Headquarters of the Alsea Indian Reservation and is the only piece of land along this section of the coast that is under cultivation.

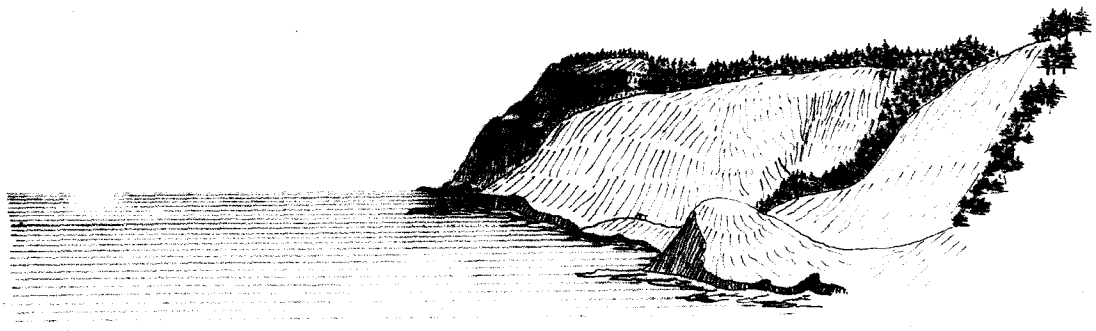
Ya-Chats Creek to Cape Perpetua.

The above named creek empties into the Ocean about 8 miles South of Alsea River and about 1½ miles North of Cape Perpetua, it is quite a good sized stream, the canyon is narrow and heavily timbered, for the first 5 or 6 miles inland, beyond which I am told the valley widens out and there is some good grazing land which has been taken up by settlers.

From the mouth of the Ya-Chats, to Cape Perpetua the bluffs are low and rocky, varying from 15 to 30 feet in height, and along the bluffs there is a narrow strip of grassy table land, ranging from 100 to 300 yards in width, and backed by



FROM GUYNN'S POINT looking SOUTH to HECETA HEAD



FROM GUYNN'S POINT looking NORTH to CAPE PERPETUA

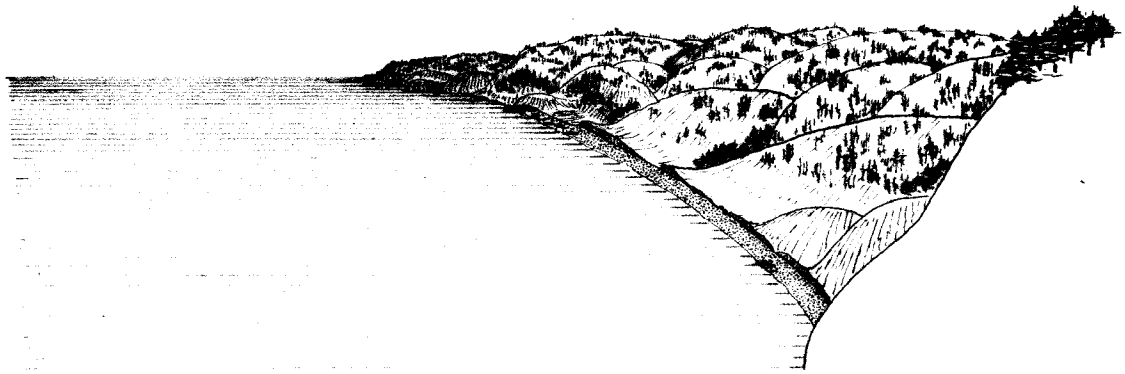
and broken, consisting of high steep ridges and deep ravines, their general course is at right angles to the Coast line, the ridges are covered with the dead, gray trunks of burnt timber and a small dense under-growth, what green timber remains is in the ravines, and in scattered bunches along the Western face of the ridges, there are a number of small patches of table land immediately along the Coast, all of which are taken up by settlers and used for stock raising.

Immediately under Guynn's Knoll, about 3 miles South of Cape Perpetua, there is a small cove and pebble beach, which would make a fair boat landing during the summer season.

Between Rocky Knoll and Heceta Head there is a broad hard beach, composed largely of black sand, where, at one time there was considerable mining done, but is now abandoned as not paying.

Heceta Head.

This is a very rough and rugged head-land of about 2½ miles in extent, the coast face is very bold and precipitous being generally covered with timber and under-growth to the edge of the cliffs, the head-land is cut by two ravines running at right angles to the shore, the high ridges back were formerly heavily timbered, but extensive forest fires have



FROM HECETA HEAD LOOKING NORTH TO CAPE PERPETUA

FROM HECETA HEAD LOOKING SOUTH

swept through this region and destroyed most of it, the gray dead trunks are still standing, and a very thick second growth is rapidly springing up. The bluffs along the shore are nearly perpendicular, rising from 100 to 200 feet in height.

Immediately under the most Western extremity of the Head is a sharp, black conical rock about 180 feet in height, and between 300 and 400 yards South are two other large rocks 100 and 90 feet in height respectively. Immediately inside the two latter rocks is a small cove which is well protected from the N. W. winds and swell which prevail during the summer months; the beach is hard smooth sand. This cove will make a very good boat landing, but not knowing the depth of water, cannot say whether a vessel would be able to haul in close enough to obtain shelter, although apparently no hidden dangers. In case of a Light House being erected on this head-land the material and supplies can be landed in this cove.

Plane Table Sheet No. 3.

Heceta Head to Siuslaw River.

From the Southern extremity of Heceta Head to Outer North Point (about 5 miles) there is a bread, smooth, straight, sand beach, there are two small streams which empty into the Ocean along this beach, Berry Creek at the North end

of the beach, and Sutton Creek about 2 miles to the Southward, the beach is backed by low sand dunes and hollows with very little vegetation and small clumps of trees scattered at intervals; the sand belt extends back between one and two miles from the beach, and the country back of the sand limit is generally heavily timbered; there are several small lakes or ponds among the timber.

Between Outer North Point and Cannery Hill, at the mouth of the river, the bluffs vary from 40 to 80 feet in height, and are backed by a flat sandy country, with a few low knolls and ridges, and is partly covered with small pines and low bushes.

Siuslaw River.

The entrance to this stream is about 8 miles South of the Western-most point of Heceta Head, and about 23 miles North of the mouth of the Umpquah River.

A Hydrographic Survey of the entrance was made by the party of Assistant Sengteller, in 1883, who found the depth on the bar to be 5 feet at low water. The residents here tell me that the channel across the bar works round from South to North every season, having a range of about a mile in extent, and having reached its Northern limit breaks out near the South Spit again, and claim to have an average depth of between 8 and

9 feet on the bar at low water; they say that Assistant Sengteller's survey was made just about the time of the change and therefore he found less water than usual.

While here I made a trip up the main river to the head of tide (about 20 miles) to which point I am told a depth of 10 feet can be carried; the width of the river varies from about 1500 feet near the mouth to about 100 feet near the head of tide. The shores are generally lined with pine and fir timber, but the forest fires which have swept through this section, have destroyed a great deal of fine timber, a very dense second growth is rapidly springing up. At intervals along the river are some fine pieces of bottom land, all of which has been taken up by settlers and is being rapidly cleared and improved.

About 5 miles above its mouth the river divides into 3 branches, the course of the Main River is nearly East, the North Fork bears off to the N. E. while South Slough bears off to the S. E. On both of these tributaries I am told that the country is very similar in character to that on the Main River.

From the head of navigation on the Main River there is a road just completed to Eugene City, the County-seat of Lane County, distant about 56 miles, and after July 1st, 1887, there is to be a semi-weekly mail and stage line between the two

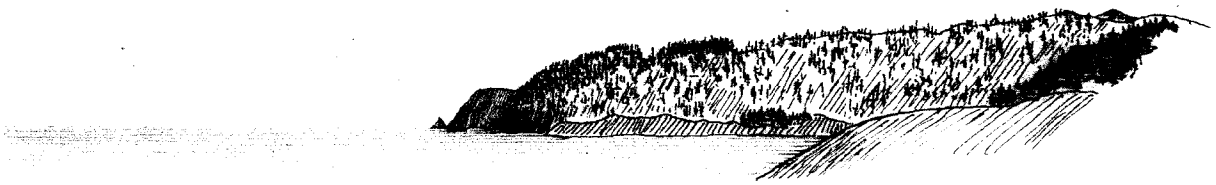
places.

Florence, the only town on the river at present, was named after a vessel wrecked near the mouth of the river several years ago, is located on the North side of the river about 3½ miles from its mouth, and consists of 2 general merchandise stores, 2 hotels, 1 salmon cannery and about a dozed shanties; there is a tri-weekly mail and stage line to Gardiner, on the Umpquah River. About a mile above the town on the South side of the river, a new salmon cannery is now (July, 1887) in course of construction, and about 3½ miles above the town of Florence, on the North side of the Main River there is another salmon cannery and also a steam saw mill capable of turning out about 8000 feet of lumber per day.

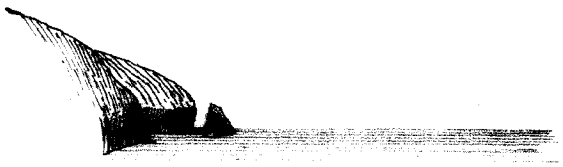
At present the stores and canneries get their supplies by a small steam schooner, (The "Mischief" of about 60 tons burden) which makes occasional trips between this place and Yaquinna Bay.

Siuslaw River to Umpquah River.

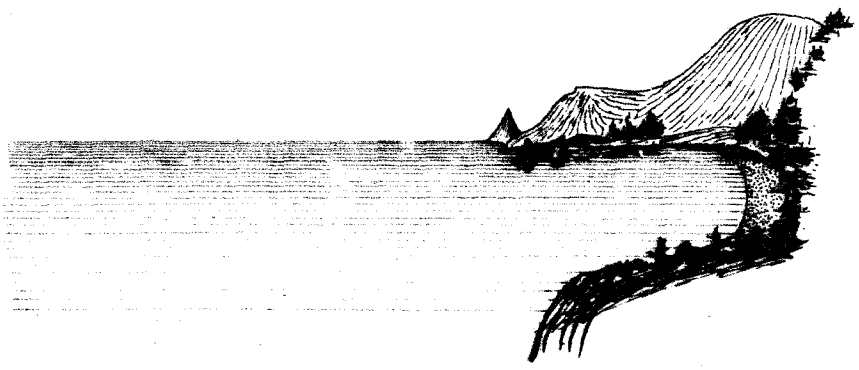
Between the above named rivers the sand beach is nearly straight for the whole distance (23 miles) and is used as the stage road between the two places, this beach varies very much in character at times, during calm, smooth weather it is broad, hard and smooth, but whenever there is a heavy sea and after a



FROM TEN MILE CREEK looking NORTH to HECETA HEAD



COX'S ROCK (100 ft high) SOUTH END HECETA HEAD



CAPE COVE, under N.W. extremity of HECETA HEAD

gale, it washes out badly, and becomes steep, rough and soft, making it almost impassable for wagon travel.

Between Siuslaw River and Ten Mile Creek the beach is backed by a belt of soft drifting sand extending inland from 1 to 1½ miles from the beach, rising in knolls and ridges along its Eastern edge from 100 to 200 feet in height, then falling off very abruptly into the low timber lands bordering the lakes.

From Ten Mile Creek and Five Mile Creek (about 5 miles) the general characteristics are the same in regard to the sand belt, except that it is narrower ranging from 800 to 1200 yards in width to the edge of the timber, the crest line of the first timbered ridge is about a mile from the beach, running nearly parallel with it, and varying from 300 to 600 feet in height.

From Five Mile Creek to Three Mile Creek (about 3½ miles) the sand dunes extend back from 500 to 700 yards from the beach to the edge of the timber, the crest line of the first ridge, which is heavily timbered, is less than a mile from the beach, and varies from 300 to 450 feet in height.

The whole sand belt between the Siuslaw and Umpquah Rivers, is composed of loose drifting sand, piled in knolls and ridges of all shapes and sizes, which are continually changing, its general drift is from N. W. to S. E. and is gradually encroaching on, and covering up the green timber; within the limit

of this sand belt there is hardly any vegetation and only occasional small clumps of timber.

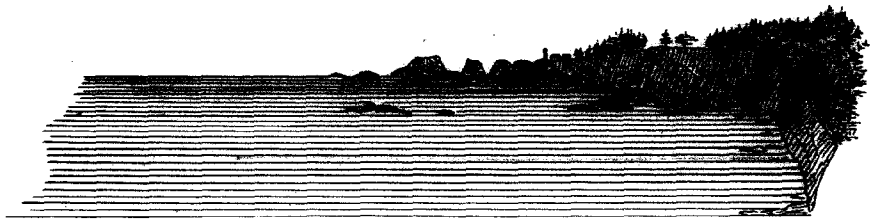
Back of the first timbered ridge, are a series of fresh water lakes and ponds of all shapes and sizes, some connected by small arms or creeks and others only separated by narrow low divides, this chain of lakes extend from within a mile and a half of the Umpquah River to within about the same distance of the Siuslaw River, the lakes cannot be more than 20 or 30 feet above the sea level, both Five and Ten Mile Creeks are the natural outlets of these lakes; their shores are generally heavily timbered with pine, fir and spruce and a very dense under-growth; the country is rugged and broken; what little bottom land there is has been taken up by settlers and is being cleared and improved; the lakes are full of salmon trout and the water is deep and clear.

From Three Mile Creek, N. of Umpquah River to Ten Mile Creek, S. of Umpquah River, the Triangulation and Topography was executed by party of Assistant Sengteller, between 1882 and 1886, for description refer to his reports.

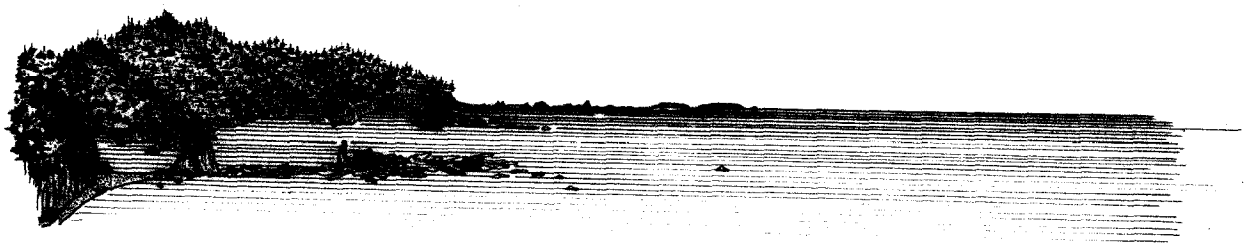
Plane Table Sheet No. 4.

Ten Mile Creek to Koos Bay. 1812

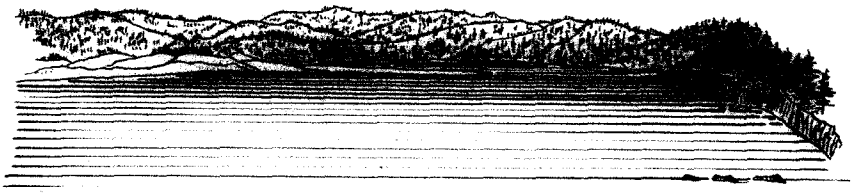
From the above named stream to the North Spit of Koos



FROM WESTERN EXTREMITY OF CAPE GREGORY
looking NORTH, towards LIGHT HOUSE (distant 3 miles)



FROM LIGHT HOUSE, looking SOUTH towards CAPE GREGORY



KOOS BAY ENTRANCE from CAPE ARAGO LIGHT HOUSE

Bay, a distance of about 15 miles, there is one continuous sand beach, which is used as the stage road between the two places, this beach varies in character, at times it is broad, hard and smooth, while at other times it becomes steep, rugged and soft making it nearly impassable for wagons. It is backed by a sand belt, extending inland from half a mile to a mile in width, consisting of loose drifting sand dunes of all shapes and sizes which are continually changing, the general drift is from N. W. to S. E. there is very little vegetation, except occasional clumps of timber, and a few small patches of bunch grass, back of the sand limit the country seems to be heavily timbered, and consists of rolling hills and ridges.

Koos (Coos) Bay.

The original survey of this Bay was made by the party of Assistant Lawson, between 1861 and 1865; as it is intended to make a re-survey of the Bay to show the improvements, which are quite extensive, I left out the Bay work and took up the reconnaissance again at Cape Gregory (Arago) Light House.

Cape Gregory (Arago) to Coquille River.

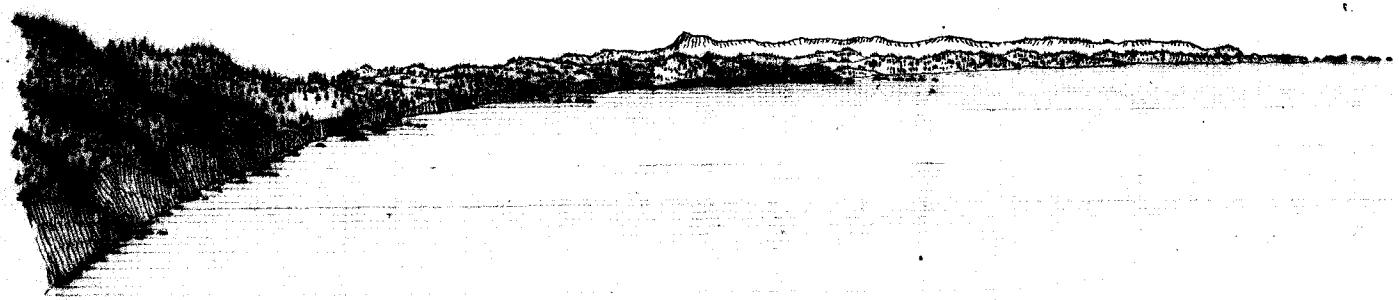
From the Light House, which is situated on a small island at the N. W. extremity of the Cape, to the outer and

most Westerly point of the Cape (about 3 miles) the Coast is very irregular and broken, with perpendicular bluffs varying in height from 40 to 100 feet, and the shore is lined with rocks of all shapes and sizes, the timber and under-brush come down to the very edge of the bluffs, and the ridges back are densely timbered.

The Arago Life Saving Station, is situated on the S. E. side of the island on which the Light House is located, and bears S. E. ½ E. distant 360 yards from the tower, this island is separated from the main land by a channel about 100 yards in width at high tide, but not more than 20 yards in width at low water, it seems to be filled with sunken rocks and looks like a very bad place for launching a boat in heavy weather.

Baltimore Rock, is a sunken rock or ledge on which there is a break during a heavy swell, it is a little over half a mile N. W. from, and on the line of the reef extending out from the Light House. It derives its name from a schooner which was wrecked on it a number of years ago.

To the N. W. of the outer extremity of the Cape, there is an extensive reef of rocks, extending a little over half a mile off shore, and visible at all stages of the tide, although in rough weather the sea breaks completely over the outer ledge, which consists of a series of low flat rocks extending N. & S.



FROM CAPE GREGORY looking SOUTH to COQUILLE POINT

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nearly parallel with the coast for about three quarters of a mile.

South Bay, just under the outer extremity of the Cape, to the Southward, is an indentation locally known as South Bay, which is so well protected, from the N. W. winds and swell, by the headland and above mentioned reef, that the water in the cove was perfectly smooth during the strongest Northwester, and if there are no sunken rocks, would make a good summer harbor or shelter for small vessels.

The Seven Devils, this is the local name, for the first three miles of coast South of the Cape, the bluffs are nearly perpendicular and range from 100 to 250 feet in height, the hills back of them rise to over 500 feet, covered with dense timber and under-brush and cut by deep ravines, running at right angles to the coast, the shore is lined with rocks of all shapes and sizes. To the Southward of the "Devils"the coast is more regular, the bluffs ranging from 40 to 80 feet in height, and backed by low rolling hills densely timbered.

About 4½ miles South of Cape Gregory are two outlying rocks, the outer one is about 900 meters off shore, showing bare at low water, but at high tide the seas run completely over it, showing a heavy breaker. The inner rock is about 700 meters off shore, this is a sunken rock and only breaks at low

water. About 6 miles to the Southward of the Cape there is another rocky ledge, extending about 500 meters off shore, most of these rocks show well above water, ranging from 10 to 50 feet in height.

Plane Table Sheet No. 5.

The bluffs end about 4½ miles North of the mouth of the Coquille River, and from the end of bluff to North Spit is a straight sand beach, backed by low barren sand dunes, this region was formerly noted for its rich gold mines, and at that time there was a small town at the upper end of the beach, but there is now no vestige of it left, there are still, however, a few men camping along the beach, engaged in washing out the black sand for gold, and claim to be making fair wages.

Coquille River.

This stream empties into the Ocean about 12 miles South of Cape Gregory, and about 20 miles North of Cape Orford; the entrance is only about 120 yards in width. Rackliff Rock (about 12 feet in height) is at the extremity of the North Spit. The U. S. Engineers are building a stone jetty out from the South Spit, with the idea of confining the channel to one place and hope to obtain a depth of 10 feet on the bar at low water,

at present, (October, 1887), they have only 5 feet on the bar at low water. The jetty is now extended about 120 meters beyond the high water mark.

Bandon; just inside the mouth of the river on the South side is the town of "Bandon" which consists of 2 general merchandise stores, 2 hotels, 2 saloons, 2 livery stables and about a dozen dwellings, they have a daily mail and express. About 2 miles to the S. E. of the town there is a small steam saw mill, with a capacity of sawing about 8000 feet of lumber per day, which has to be hauled by wagon to Bandon for shipment. This town is the shipping point for most of the country as far South as New lake.

Randolph, is a small town situated on the North bank of the river about 5 miles from its mouth, and consists of a general merchandise store, hotel and about half a dozen houses.

Parkersburg Mill, a steam saw mill with a capacity of cutting about 30,000 feet of lumber per day, is situated on the South bank of the river about 7 miles above its mouth, there is also a store, Post Office and about a dozen dwellings.

Coquille City, a town of about 500 inhabitants is situated on the North side of the river, about 23 miles above its mouth, and seems to be quite a thriving town, it is connected by wagon road with Koos Bay and has a daily mail and stage;

From "Tupper's Rock" at Coquille River looking North to Cape Gregory

FROM TUPPER'S ROCK AT MOUTH OF COQUILLE RIVER looking SOUTH to CAPE BLANCO

there are also 2 little steamers running up and down the river daily. There is a steam saw mill located here, with capacity of cutting about 15,000 feet of lumber per day.

There are 2 salmon canneries on the river between Bandon and Coquille City, and several fine farms scattered along at intervals. The timber is principally fir and white cedar, and above Coquille City there is some fine agricultural land.

A fleet of 5 schooners is steadily employed in carrying the lumber and produce from the river to San Francisco, these vessels draw about 8 feet when loaded and as a general thing have no trouble in crossing the bar at high tide. A small tug (the "Katie Cook") is stationed here for the purpose of towing vessels in and out across the bar, and up and down the river to and from the saw mills.

Coquille Reef.

This reef or rock, bears N. 84° W. from Tupper's Rock and is 2 miles off shore, it only breaks at low water, when there is a very heavy sea running, and is supposed to have 3 or 4 fathoms of water on it, I never saw it break but once during my stay in the vicinity.

Tupper's Rock, (sometimes called Rock of Gibraltar), is a large mass of rock 155 feet in height, and is situated on the

bluff about 500 yards South of the mouth of the river, it is the most prominent land mark in this vicinity.

Coquille River to Cape Blanco.

For the first 3 miles South of the river is a high bluff headland, the shore line is rugged and broken being lined with rocks of all shapes and sizes extending for half a mile off shore, with one low outlying rock bearing S. 60 W. by compass and distant 1½ miles from Tupper's Rock. The bluffs vary in height from 40 to 100 feet; the country is comparatively flat for some distance inland, and covered with timber, with small grassy openings at intervals. There are a number of white houses scattered along near the edge of the bluff which ought to show well to seaward.

From the end of the bluffs, 3 miles S. of the river to within 2 miles N. of Blacklock Point, a distance of about 13 miles, there is a low sand beach, slightly curving to the Eastward, this beach varies in character, at times it is broad, hard and smooth while at other times, it is steep, rough, and soft. Just back of the beach are several long shallow lagoons which receive the waters of New River, Flore's Creek and other streams; the country back of the sand belt, which varies from 100 to 800 yards in width, is generally low, covered with tim-

ber for some distance gradually rising as you go inland. In the vicinity of New Lake and Flore's Creek, there is some fine grass land, which is used for dairying and stock raising, on the inside of New Lake about 2 miles from the beach there is a store, hotel, blacksmith-shop and Post Office known as "New Lake."

The bluffs for 2 miles North of Blacklock Point, vary in height from 40 to 150 feet and are backed by a comparatively flat country for some distance inland, and covered with small timber and chaparral. There is a fair quality of sand stone, suitable for building purposes, in the bluffs at Blacklock Point, and several years ago a company was incorporated to quarry and ship this stone to San Francisco, they expended considerable money in opening the quarry, building a pier and tramways, placing mooring buoys &c., but their anchorage was very unsafe and after losing several vessels they abandoned it.

At Blacklock Point (called Rocky Point by Assistant Chase) I connected with the Topography executed by party of Assistant A.W.Chase, in 1869.

Redwood drift logs are found all along the beach as far North as Yaquinna Bay, although there is no redwood timber known in Oregon, the first clump of these trees is found just South of the California and Oregon Boundary, this shows that

the current along shore is to the Northward.

Respectfully submitted,

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Assistant C. & G. Survey,

Chief of Party.