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F. M. Thorn, Superintendent.

State: Louisiana.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 1654, 1655, 1689, 1823, 1824.

LOCALITY:

Coast of Louisiana & Atchafalaya River.

1888.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

E. L. Taney.

*Give here full address to which reply should be sent: Office

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Washington, D.C.

July 2d, 1888.

OFFICE OF THE
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U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY.

Descriptive Report

To accompany three topographical sheets of the survey of the "Chenier", between Calcasieu River and Vermillion Bay, La.; and two sheets, survey of Atchafalaya River from Batisman's Lake to Morgan City, Nos 1654 – 1655 – 1689 and 2 Sheets on Atchafalaya R. No. 1823, and 1824

The "Chenier" is a narrow strip of fast land beginning at the mouth of the Calcasieu River and running nearly eastward, - a few miles nearly parallel with the beach, continuing its course it becomes gradually more distant from the Gulf Coast until at its end it is about seven miles back from the coast, and separated from it by a very soft and in most places impassable marsh.

Its western end is not very high, scarcely more than 2 or 3 ft. above the surrounding marsh and not more than 4 or 5 feet above the high water of the Gulf. On this portion there is a scant

growth of trees and bushes. Further eastward the ridge as it recedes from the coast, becomes higher and is more densely wooded. After crossing the Mermentau River the native growth of trees is predominately oak. The front of the ridge toward the south is pretty well settled. The soil is fine. The principal crop is cotton. Vegetables of all kinds are raised but only for home consumption. Before the freeze of January, 1886, many thousands of oranges were shipped from Grand Cheniere to Galveston and New Orleans for New York market, but now there are none to speak of. However, the young trees are booming and with favorable weather they will soon produce a fine crop.

The people are very hospitable. From Calcasieu to Mermentau River they are generally Americans, also across the Mermentau River at Grand Cheniere, and perhaps six or seven miles further to the Eastward. But, from there the population is almost entirely Creole French.

The peculiar formation of the eastern end of the ridge and that of Pecan Island offers an interesting field for study to the Geologist.

On the Atchafalaya River, the survey consists wholly of shore line of river; and from Bateman's Lake to Morgan City was based upon a plane-table triangulation.

Bordering the river the ground was generally solid, but the shores on both sides are more or less thickly covered with a growth of willow, cypress and various small bushes.

Occasionally, along the river bank, is a house or two but there is no settlement of any account until Morgan City is reached.

Yours respectfully
E. L. Taney
Sub-assistant
C. & G. Survey.