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2153 2154 2155
See also 2126

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey Topographic

Field No. 2122-2123 Office No. 2153-2154 2155

LOCALITY

State Florida

General locality Caloosahatchee

Locality River, West Coast Of Florida

~~194~~ 1893

CHIEF OF PARTY

W Irwin Vernal

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DATE

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U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
JUN 17 1893
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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: Florida.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 2122 + 2123,
~~also Hydr. Sheets Nos. 2153,~~
2154 + 2155.

LOCALITY:

Caloosahatchee River
West coast of Florida.
See also 2126

1893.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

W. Irvin Vinal.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
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Desc. Refs. JUN. 5. 1893. 007726 Sebrarian B&C 6.8.93

UNITED STATES COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

Assistant in Charge

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 5th, 1893.

Dr. T. C. Mendenhall,
Superintendent U.S. C. and G. Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The Caloosahatchee River, Florida, within the limits of the survey of 1893, from Shell Point to Beautiful Island, varies in width from one-half of a mile to two miles. At its mouth and for a distance of five miles above Shell Point, i.e. as far as Red Fish Point, there are numerous oyster bars. Many of these bars are exposed at a low stage of the river. From the mouth of the river to Red Fish Point the channel is narrow and winding; above this point the river increases in width, the channel is quite direct, there are no rocks or reefs and no sudden changes in the depth of the water. At Beautiful Island the river narrows in width and divides into several channels. It is navigable for small steamers to its terminus in Lake Hickpochee and by canal to Lake Okeechobee. Crossing this lake these small boats can pass up the Kissimmee River and through a chain

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of lakes and canals to the town of Kissimmee in central Florida.

The work of draining Lake Okeechobee has had a marked effect on the flow of water in the lower river. The main channel just south of Beautiful Island became so shoal that it was necessary to build a jetty in 1891-2. This jetty, although unfinished, answers (at least temporarily) the purpose for which it was constructed; the scour of the river, caused by the deflecting barrier, being sufficient to keep a narrow channel open.

Large deposits of pebble phosphate have been found in the bed of the river about twenty miles from its mouth. A company was formed for dredging this fertilizing material but active competition, overproduction and a large percentage of shell have caused the shipments to fall off greatly.

The land on either side of the river is low, not exceeding ten or twelve feet above high water in the vicinity of Myers and New Prospect. There are a number of shell mounds however that are about twenty feet in height. The low marsh lands along the river

are bordered by a dense growth of mangrove.

The timber is chiefly resinous pine, with live oak, buttonwood and occasionally maple. There are large cypress swamps back from the river at distances varying from one half mile to two miles.

The richness of the soil in the neighbourhood of Myers, and the almost entire absence of frost, offer great inducements to growers of tropical and semi-tropical fruits which flourish here in great variety and luxuriance. Tarpon fishing is a kind of sport peculiar to this ~~vicinity~~ and attracts many visitors during the spring months.

Myers, properly Fort Myers, was a military station during the Seminole Indian War and was garrisoned from that time until about 1861.

The present settlement was begun in 1867 and the city now has a population of about 800.

There is a daily line of steamboats running from Myers to Punta Gorda, (Tabue), at the head of Charlotte Harbor and, during the tourist season, from December to May, one of the Plant line of steamers

makes semi-weekly trips to Tampa, Florida.

Yours respectfully,
W. Irving Vinal,
Assistant U.S. Coast & Geod. Survey.