

2174

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Form 504	
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT	
Type of Survey	<i>Topographic</i>
Field No.	Office No. <i>2174</i>
LOCALITY	
State	<i>Alaska</i>
General locality	<i>Vicinity of</i>
Locality	<i>Situya Bay</i>
	<i>1894</i>
	<i>194</i>
CHIEF OF PARTY	
<i>John E. McGrath</i>	
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES	
DATE	



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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: *Alaska.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2174.*

LOCALITY:

Vicinity of Lituya Bay.

1894.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

John E. McGrath.

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Descriptive account of sheet showing results of work of
Boundary Survey Party employed in vicinity of Lituya Bay in
August, 1894-

The base line represented on this sheet was measured with a
steel tape and the topographical features were put in from sketches
and cuts skinned from the triangulation points shown on the map-

Between the base of the mountains (shown by the curve of hachures)
and the high water mark along the beach is a low flat, heavily wooded
and thickly strewn with loblots and pencils which furnish favorite
feeding places to vast numbers of ducks, geese, swans and other game
birds. From the hachured lines the mountains rise steep & rugged until
they attain the height of Fairweather, Lituya, etc-

The Kenai River is really a clear, shallow pretty creek which
furnishes a rather uncertain navigation for small canoes for a couple
of miles from its mouth - It is well stocked with fish - In the spring it
often breaks through the beach between the bluff of Miner Pt & the
Sand Ridge on which our North Base was situated but this
opening does not remain very long. A similar stream, I am told
comes pretty close to the beach a couple of miles above Miner
Point & then runs towards Cape Fairweather -

For about a mile (north) beyond La Poudre the beach is thickly
covered with loblots of various sizes that make walking extremely
unpleasant - but they give out near the upper end of the long sand.

spit which forms the left bank of the Huagui River near its mouth & thence there is a good sand beach along the coast up to Cape Fairweather.

Miner Pt is a sand bluff about 25 feet high, which is heavily wooded and makes quite a notable appearance along the shore.

There is a large cabin & inside the tall trees that line the front of the bank the miner who works the contiguous beach claims has started a garden. The sand of the beach between Cape Fairweather and Lituya Bay contains patches of a ruby variety which is at times very rich in gold.

One of the largest worked claims begins at Miner Point & extends to the Huagui River - Near Cape Fairweather a number of men are working on the same variety of sand. At times, after the weather has been good for a few days and a light off shore wind is blowing boats can land in front of Miner Pt. - The man who dwells there usually gets his lumber & provisions from the little steamer which comes up from Juneau, through the surf & thus saves the labor of packing from Lituya Bay.

On the sheet a small cabin is indicated near La Penne; this building is old & in poor condition - it belongs to Indians who live here for a few months in summer time & has no permanent occupants - The main

summer camp is on the opposite side of the Bay -

The station on this sheet called "Mt. G." plots in almost a straight line between La Perouse A. and where Dall's value would place Mt. Brillouin. Mt. G. being about three miles nearer the beach. As "Mt. G." is several thousand feet lower than Dall's value of Mt. Brillouin - it does not seem probable that Brillouin was sketched this time and if that is so Brillouin cannot be seen from the beach because on the days we got the vertical angles every mountain was visible from this beach was in sight -

John E. McGrath
Assistant, U. S. G. S.