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U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
SEP 21 1896
50975

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: *California*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2353*

LOCALITY:

*Resurvey of San Francisco Bay
Alameda Creek to Beards
Creek*

1896

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Ferdinand Westdahl

2353

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Descriptive Report to accompany topographic sheet entitled

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

W. H. Duffield, Superintendent

Pacific Coast

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
NAVY AND ARMY
SEP 21 1899
50975

Re-survey of San Francisco Bay
Alameda Creek to Brando Creek
California

Topographic survey under the direction

of Assistant Aug. J. Rodgers

by

Ferdinand Westdahl, Draughtsman

From Aug. 10 to Sept. 12, 1896

Scale $\frac{1}{10,000}$

This is a re-survey only in part. All improvements made since the preceding survey are shown and they are carried beyond the former limits as far as the sheet would admit. On the salt-marsh only the bloughs used for navigation, the shore-line, the area between

the old and new bay-shore, and improvements, such as dykes, houses, and salt works, have been surveyed. All houses, except large ones, are determined by one rod reading only or by intersections. All small fences surrounding houses or barns are sketched or omitted. Fences along the roads and bounding fields and orchards are accurately determined. The outer edge of cultivation is shown, and within this limit all land not used for railways, roads or streets, is either grain field, vegetable garden or orchard. Even the railway reservation, on either side of the track and within the fences, is in many places used for raising vegetables.

The main group of the Coyote or Red Hills is still unimproved and used for grazing purposes only. The salt marsh to the westward of them is in its natural state and therefore not surveyed. To the eastward of them a large area of former saltmarsh has been dyked and is now used for grazing cattle. The old ploughs within this area still remain but will soon disappear from the constant tramping of cattle in the dry season when the fresh water

accumulated in them during winter has drained off or evaporated.

The wooded area shown on the sheet reaching eastward from the head of the Coyote Hill Creek is a thicket made up of willow, poplar, alder and other deciduous trees growing in moist ground. There are numerous springs within this area and the waters from them are conveyed in ditches to irrigate the adjoining fields which are mainly cultivated by Chinamen and produce fine vegetables. The soil is a rich black loam in the vicinity and within the wooded area where many patches have been cleared and drained. It is reported that new springs frequently break out and fill the ditches with water holding a fine white sediment in solution. A similar sediment is found in the water from the artesian wells near Alvarado. The Alameda Creek, running through Kites Canyon, has probably in ages past run through this region and formed the Coyote Hill Creek. The numerous bridges on the roads and culverts on the railway span dry channels carved.

by this erratic stream in general east and west directions across the low land between the mouth of the canyon and the bay-shore. These channels, although cultivated like the neighboring fields, are liable to be filled with freshet overflows during the wet season.

The town of Newark, shown on this sheet, contains the repair shops of the South Pacific Coast Railway. It has also a Passenger-car factory and two stove foundries. The older and larger town of Centerville lies about three miles northward from Newark, and one mile northward from the upper right-hand corner of the sheet along the county road. It is connected with Newark by a branch of the narrow-gauge railway and is the center of a large area devoted to horticulture. The branch of the railway formerly running from Newark to Dumbarton Point on the Bay shore is no longer operated, the rails are removed, and it is now used for a wagon road as far as the crossing of Newark Slough. The flume carrying the water pipe of the Spring Valley

Water Company runs parallel to this abandoned railway and is built on trestles over the marsh.

The shore line bordering the bay is, like that on the adjoining sheet to the northward, jagged and although apparently receding away is really growing at a most rapid rate. The new marsh formed since conditions favorable to its growth began^{*}, is entirely different in character from the old and the line of demarcation between them is very distinct. The old marsh is smooth, spongy, full of salt ponds, and covered with short marsh grass with bushy growths along the sloughs. The new marsh is harder, uneven, full of lumps and holes, has no ponds, and is covered with long grass now like the tules of Suisun Bay and lighter in color than the old growth. There are several patches of broken shells on the shoreline between Brads Creek and the next large slough to the northward in addition to the long shell bank shown on the sheet, the formation of which furnishes a clue to the

* See Descriptive Report of Topographical Sheet from Roberts Landing to Alameda Creek, 1896.

manner in which the numerous small sloughs have been filled up along this stretch of the bay shore.

Beards Creek, or more properly, Slough is rapidly filling up and is no longer used for navigation. One of the contributing causes for this action is the fact that the flood tide enters it first from Newack Slough, which has a deeper entrance than Beards Slough, and the two flood currents meet about midway in the latter. At extreme low water a small skiff can only with difficulty pass there now. The flats at the mouth of this slough uncover some time before low water thereby stopping the scouring force of the ebb current at its most effective stage.

This sheet and the adjoining one to the northward contain all the salt farms in existence on the shores of San Francisco Bay.

The Plane-table stations on the banks of the navigable sloughs are marked with red circles and a small red flag is left at each place for the guidance of the hydrographic party.

Of the old triangulation points within the limits of this sheet the following have not been found and are probably lost:

Uncle Edward Δ

Union Island Δ

Peak Δ

These were not particularly searched for as I had no descriptions of them, but no surface marks were visible.

Of the new triangulation points recently determined Coyote House Δ is a stove-pipe projecting from the building. This stove-pipe has since been removed to an addition built on the southwest end of the house. Coyote Hair Ho. Δ is the south gable of an old building on piles. It is abandoned, about to fall, and leans to the southward. Coyote Creek Oyster Ho. Δ is a substantial building on concrete piles with a wharf around it. I did not have a suitable boat to visit it which is the reason for that improvement not being shown on this sheet.

Respectfully submitted

Ferdinand Westdahl

Draughtsman C. & G. Survey