

2462



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: *H. I.*

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2462*

LOCALITY:

Maalaea Bay, Maui Id.

1900.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

F. H. Perkins

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Topography of Maalaea Bay Island of Maui, H.I.

The topography along the shoreline of Maalaea Bay may be conveniently divided into three sections, - from the southeastern limit to the town of Kihei - from Kihei to the landing at "Maalaea Bay" and from the landing to the south western limit.

The first section consists of a sandy waste sparsely scattered with scrub bushes and low trees about a mile below the limits of the sheet the surface rises in sand dunes from 20 to 30 ft in height but within the limits it is a rolling sandy region with occasional groups of dunes and ridges from 4 to 8 feet high, with scanty grass and vines. South of the old fish pond the water is extremely shallow and the bottom very rocky, the natives wading out a quarter of a mile at low water in search of crawfish, crabs and squids.

The town of Kihei is situated on a level sandy plain which rises slightly back of the town to the cane lands of the Kihei Plantation Co. The town consists principally of rows of rough shacks for the Japanese and Chinese laborers, with a few dwellings for the white employees on the N.W. side.

The narrow-gauge plantation railroad connects with the railroads on the north side of the island by means of the Spreckelsville Plantation railroad but a change of cars is necessary on account of the difference in gauge.

The middle section consists of a shallow lake in the center of a wide, level expanse of bare mud, separated from the sea only by a narrow sand ridge from 4 to 6 feet high. The level of the lake is considerably influenced by the tide, by infiltration through the sandy strip, and a light wind or rain may change its limits by a half-a-mile. In rainy weather the road becomes almost impassible, as it is entirely submerged, while in dry weather it becomes quite dusty with heavy deposits of salt in the wheel-ruts. The northern limits of the mud-flat are sharply defined by a growth of small trees, principally algarobas.

at Maalea Bay Landing the mountains of West Maui come down to the sea abruptly, following the coast line beyond the limits of the sheet with broken, rocky bluffs. From the sea to the summits of the mountains the slopes are cut by numerous gullies and are absolutely devoid of trees or any vegetation whatever.