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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2498*

LOCALITY:

*Norton Sound - St. Michael
to Ikikiktoik*

1900.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. J. Gilbert

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

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Sheet No. 8.

The section embraced by this sheet, extending from St. Michael Bay to the Eskimo village of Ik-ik-ik-Toik, consists of a broad, gentle slope, bare, devoid of topographical features or trees, and covered with a uniform layer of tundra. This slope rises to a broken range of hills, consisting of a detached summit, Crater Mountain, four miles South of St. Michael Bay, and a roughly continuous line beginning about seven miles South of the center of the sheet, and approaching the Eastern extremity to a distance of two miles, - Going Eastward therefore, the slope becomes narrower and steeper, and disappears altogether just beyond the limits of the topography, where the shoreline bends sharply to the South to meet the hills.

The regularity of the surface is broken only by a broad low ridge running down to the rounded sweep of shore-line in the center of the sheet, and by slight local irregularities.

In contrast with the surface uniformity, is an extremely ragged and broken shore-line. The upper slope terminates in a smooth rounded terrace varying from ten to twenty-five feet in height, and covered with tundra and grass. It is broken, occasionally, by small gullies running back a few hundred feet, and filled with low bushes three or four feet high. Occasionally the underlying boulders protrude through the tundra in patches,

Below this terrace is a narrow rocky beach, varying from a few feet to several hundred, - on the points. The shore-line is characterized by a continuous succession of low jutting rocky points,

or tongues, and deep narrow coves, sheltered by the surrounding terrace. The beach consists of a basaltic lava, -both compact and vesicular. The points are low and bare, but elsewhere the shore shore is covered with fragments and boulders from one to three feet in diameter.

Sandy beaches are unknown, but at a few places in the coves, a few feet of beach may be found, consisting of coarse, broken, pebbles of basalt.

At the extreme Western end the sloping terrace changes into banks of clay, with muddy beaches at the heads of the coves.

Close to St. Michael Bay are a few scattered Eskimo huts, and fifteen miles to the Eastward is the village of Ik-ik-ik-Toik, but the intervening coast is devoid of habitations.

During the progress of the survey it was found that coves could be selected to afford shelter in nearly all weather, for small boats,

Driftwood is plentiful, and although there are no streams, yet the tundra supplies ample water,

Report by E. R. Frisby,

J. J. Gilbert
Assist. C. & G. Survey, Chief of Party.