

2518

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey

Topographic

Field No.

Office No.

2518

LOCALITY

State

Alaska

General locality

Northern Shore

Locality

Bering Sea

1900

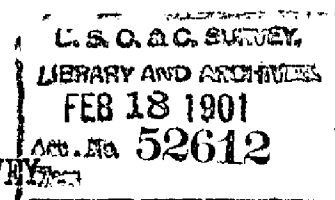
CHIEF OF PARTY

J. F. Pratt.

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

DATE

(Title & 3 pages)



U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY
DR. HENRY S. PRITCHETT, SUPERINTENDENT.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
OF THE
TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET, SCALE 1/40,000.

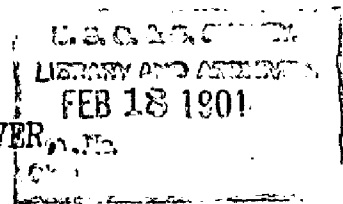
EMBRACING THE
SHORE LINE AND CONTIGUOUS TOPOGRAPHY
FROM
THE WEST SIDE OF CAPE NOME TO AND INCLUDING PENNY RIVER
(INCLUDING NOME CITY)

NORTHERN SHORES
OF
BERING SEA,
ALASKA.

BY THE PARTY UNDER CHARGE OF J. F. PRATT, ASSISTANT C.& G.S.
AUGUST-1900.

TOPOGRAPHY BY R. L. FARIS, ASSISTANT C.& G.S.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
TOPOGRAPHY CAPE NOME TO PENNY RIVER,
SCALE, 1/40,000.



PLANE TABLE SURVEY BY R. L. FARIS, ASSISTANT.
AUGUST- 1900.

The first portion of the season of 1900 was an unusually dry one, consequently the tundra became very much like and as inflammable as dry punk. The entire country was overrun with mining prospectors, whose camp fires spread to the tundra, so that the entire stretch from Golofnin Bay to Nome City was enveloped most of the time, for about five weeks, in the dense smoke from the smouldering tundra.

In starting the season's work it was expected that the triangulation would keep ahead of the topography and hydrography, so that the positions of the signals could be computed and plotted on sheets with projections in advance, but the tundra smoke made this an impossibility, so that in order to keep the work progressing as rapidly as the weather would permit, it became necessary to execute the topography by forward telemeter distances on rough field sheets, which naturally became exaggerated in scale, at the same time determining topographically the triangulation signals.

Then after the triangulation had been computed and the points plotted on the projections, to transfer the work from the filed

(Ed. 6-9-'99-1,000,000.)

No. 19. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Should this Report
have the number of the
sheet that it belongs
to, on it?

Apr. 25 18,

ADW,

sheets, adjusting it at the same time, by making the work conform to the triangulation points common to both entailed a very large amount of additional work, which should be taken into consideration.

This sheet embraces the shore line of what was originally the "Gold Coast" of the now very extensive mining region, viz the "Nome Beach".

The principal streams are the Nome, Snake and Penny Rivers.

Light draught vessels, drawing less than four feet and pulling boats enter the mouths of these streams on tide. Their rank in size and depth on their respective bars is in the order in which they are here named, the first being the widest and deepest.

The "Beach Diggings", extending from the mouth of the Nome River to the mouth of the Penny River, have been rich, but as most of this sand and gravel has been worked over two or more successive times, the probabilities are that the "Beach Diggings", open to all comers, are about exhausted. The adjoining tundra, held by bona fide claim owners, is very productive in places and, as it extends all the way back to the mountains, in the gulches of which the first rich discoveries were made, there is no doubt but what this locality will be an active mining district for many years to come.

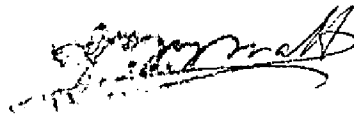
Nome City, at the mouth of Snake River, which has had in the early season a population of more than 20,000, is a typical mining camp. The portion shown topographically is that composed of either wood or sheet iron buildings, there being no effort to delineate the fluctuating canvas portion of the town. The railway indicated extends back to the diggings on Anvil Creek. The city has

(Title & 3 pages)

page (3)

also water and electric light systems.

As the city fronts the open sea, there are no wharves along its water front, all passengers or freight being lightered from the shipping to shore through the surf. At times during heavy southerly weather there has been a great deal of property and some lives lost.



Assistant C. & G. Survey,

Chief of Party.