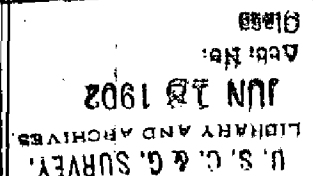
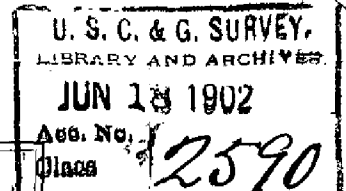


2590



Treasury Department,
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. S. Pittman

Superintendent.

State: *P. R.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2590*

LOCALITY:

*Southeast coast of Porto Rico
from Point Viente to Yeguas
Point.*

1902

CHIEF OF PARTY:

R. L. Banks

2590

Descriptive Report.
Topography, St. Viento to Yeguas St., Porto Rico.

This southeastern coast of Porto Rico is marked by many small valleys separated by somewhat regular spurs of mountain ranges, which extend to the shore in many cases and end there very abruptly, forming bold, rocky, headlands.

The shore-line of the valleys is of sand and shingle, which, by the action of the sea, has been shaped into bays protected by the rocky points. The sand is generally of coral and soft. A coral reef extends along the coast at varying distances from it, being broken where it would cross the larger bays, and thus giving additional protection though rendering them more difficult of access.

In many places, this reef is so close to the shore that there is but one row of breakers; in others, however, it is so distant that the shore breakers are hardly diminished by it at all. The depth of water over the reefs varies from a few inches to several feet. The shore-line given on the sheet is that of high water. The extreme range of tide, however, is only about one foot.

The sand beaches are generally flat and covered with thin vegetation up to a few meters from the water line. The dunes, if any, are low and permanent. Frequently these beaches are lined with cocoa trees planted in regular rows. On the mountain sides, the vegetation is usually scrubby and very thick. Small, irregular, half-cultivated patches of yams are scattered through it. The large trees are mostly cocoas but are not very plentiful except where planted in groves. The lower hills and high valleys are given to grazing. The flat, low lands, composing the larger valleys, are used for raising sugar cane which is the principal industry in this region.

The town of Mannabo is located in the valley of Mannabo River, in the midst of large cane plantations which are probably responsible for its existence; they also furnish its support. Near the village is a very complete and extensive factory for the production of the sugar. It can dispose of the entire crop in this vicinity. The finished product is shipped by water from Port Mannabo. This is the only harbor in this portion of the coast, and it does not afford much protection save in northerly weather. It is used

as a shipping port by the coasting vessels.

As stated before, the chief industry is the cultivation of cane and the manufacture of sugar. The rest of the people, generally, raise a few yams, some fowls and a goat or pig, catch a few fish, and seem to thrive. Fish appear to be scarce on this coast.

Communication with the rest of the island is chiefly by land. Freight is carried around the coast by steamers if too heavy for convenient land transportation. The principal road is from Arroyo through Maunabo to Yabucoa, etc. This road is much used but is not in good condition in many places where it is too near the shore. Furthermore, around the cape of Mala Pascua, it has some very heavy grades. It is the regular mail route. There are no railroads.

This region is watered by many small, short, streams which flow into the sea. In the Maunabo Valley are two streams of larger size and several miles in length. None are navigable. They are used by the inhabitants for drinking and cooking, but the water is very impure, usually, as the same streams may serve for washing as well as for drainage and sewage.

The country is rather thickly settled and the dwellings are the usual "shacks" of these people. In the village of Mannabo, however, are many substantial houses both for residence and business. Fences are not very common. Those used are invariably of barbed wire, often combined with rough hedges.

The weather in this locality has been generally bright, with frequent heavy rain squalls. The prevailing winds were southeasterly and quite strong, so that the sea was rough and landing attended with difficulty and, often, danger.

In this work, a mile of shore-line should represent about two square miles of country covered by the survey, at the least. Of course, a great deal of sketching was necessary, but this was controlled by the planetable and by the triangulation points already known. About fifteen of these points were found and used, nearly all of these requiring no additional signals. Apparently all are recoverable.

The secondary points, such as Central Sugar Factory Chimney, Mannabo Playa Sugar Warehouse, Leeward Gable, etc., are permanent

and so prominent that no further description
is necessary to insure future identification.

Ora Miner Leland,
Aid, C. & G. S.

Survey of January, 1902.

Approved
R. L. Jarvis
Assist. C. & G. Survey.
Chief of Party