



2741

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

W. T. A. Munn
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topoc Sheet No. *2741*

LOCALITY:

*West Coast of Montague
Island, Hanning Bay*

1905

CHIEF OF PARTY:

W. C. Hodgkins

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Descriptive Report

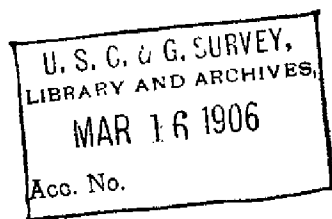
on the Topographic Sheet of Hanning Bay

Montague Island

Alaska

1905

By W. C. Hodgkins, Assistant



Montague Island is mountainous throughout nearly its entire extent, there being one main range which extends the whole length of the island, with numerous lower mountains or foot hills between the main range and the shore. These are generally connected with the main axis by ridges of some considerable elevation, between which are thus formed a number of short valleys or pockets, which usually contain small glaciers.

From these glaciers and from the snow fields which cover all the upper slopes of the mountains until the latter part of the summer, and which even then do not entirely disappear from the higher mountains, flow a large number of streams, usually of no great size, though there are evidences that some of them at times must discharge large quantities of water.

The hills around Hanning Bay are of the foot hill type, ranging from 500 to 2000 feet in height, approximately, and in the late summer were entirely free from snow. The lower hills were entirely covered with spruce trees, but all of the higher slopes and summits were bare, except for grass and moss.

As shown on the topographic sheet, the eastern shore of Hanning Bay is formed by two coves, separated by a rocky headland of no great elevation.

Into each of these coves flows a stream, draining a transverse valley the lower part of which is filled with the detritus brought down by the stream which flows through it. The stream flowing into the northeastern part of the bay is larger than that which enters from the southeast.

Except at a few points, where the rocky shore projects directly into the water, the water line is bordered by a narrow beach, which, of course is considerably increased in width at low water. As a rule, the upper part of the beach is formed of coarse shingle, mixed with sand, but the lower part which is covered at high water is usually composed of sand or fine shingle.

In some parts of the bay the shingle beach assumes the character of a levee, with very steep fore slope. The rear slope is more gradual and merges into the sand beach.

There is no evidence at this point of any recession of the coast and it seems likely that at the head of the bay the shore may be encroaching upon the water from the sand and gravel brought down the streams and deposited near their mouths. At some other points on the western shore of Montague Island, however, stumps of trees are found some distance below the present high water line and would seem to indicate a recession either by erosion or by subsidence.

As usual in Alaska, the forests are mainly composed of spruce trees of considerable size, with a good deal of underbrush. The trees range from forty to eighty feet in height.

There are no settlements, roads, or other means of communication except by water and the only visitors are occasional native hunters.

As the data for a projection were not available at the time of the survey, the work was based upon a planetable triangulation resting upon the points Hanning, Basil, and Banner, the relative positions of which were taken from a tracing furnished by Assistant H.C.Denson, in command of the Steamer McArthur.

W. C. Hodgkins

March 15, 1906.