U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

J. M. Thorn, Superintendant.

State: Louisiana.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 1654, 1655, 1659, 1823, 1824.

LOCALITY:
Coast of Louisiana & Atchafalaya River.

1885:

CHIEF OF PARTY:
E. L. Stancy.
Descriptive Report

to accompany the topographical sheets of the survey of the "Chenier" between Calcasieu River and Vermillion Bay, La.; and two sheets, survey of Atchafalaya River from Patagnais Lake to Morgan City, No. 1654—1655—1659 and 2 sheets on Atchafalaya.

No. 1823, and 1824

The "Chenier" is a narrow strip of fast land beginning at the mouth of the Calcasieu River and running nearly eastward, a few miles nearly parallel with the beach, continuing its course it becomes gradually more distant from the Gulf Coast until at its end it is about seven miles back from the coast, and separated from it by a very soft and in most places imperceptible marsh.

Its eastern end is not very high, scarcely more than 1 or 3 ft. above the surrounding marsh, and not more than 4 or 5 ft. above the high water of the Gulf. On this portion there is about
growth of hills and bushes. Further eastward the ridge as it recedes from the coast, becomes higher and is more densely wooded. After crossing the Missouri River, the native growth of trees is approximately oak. The foot of the ridge toward the south is pretty well settled. The soil is fine. The principal crop is cotton. Vegetables of all kinds are raised but only for home consumption. Before the freeze of January, 1861, many thousands of oranges were shipped from Grand Chenier, St. Gabriel and New Orleans to New York market, but most time are gone to speak of. However, the young trees are blossoming and with favorable weather they will soon produce a fine crop.

The people are very hospitable. From Caledonia to Missouri River they are generally Americans, also across the Missouri River at Grand Chenier, and perhaps ten or seven miles further to the Eastward. But from there the population is almost entirely Creole French.

The peculiar formation of the eastern end of the ridge and that of Point Island affords an interesting field for study to the Geologist.

On the Atchafalaya River, the survey consists wholly of trace line of river; and from Baton Rouge Lake to Morgan City was based upon plane-table triangulation.
Borduing the river the ground was generally level, but the shores on both sides are more or less thickly covered with a growth of willows, cypresses and various small bushes.

Occasionally, along the river bank, is a line or two but there is no settlement of any account until Morgan City is reached.

James R. Hays

Sub-Asst. Capt.

C. H. Summey