U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

H. M. Thorne, 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. Steen.
Descriptive Report

To accompany three topographical sheets of the Survey of the "Chenier", between Calcasieu River and Vermilion Bay, La.; and two sheets, survey of Atchafalaya River from Patagonia Lake to Morgan City, No. 165-4 - 165-5 - 165-9 and 2 Sheets on Atchafalaya.

No. 1623, and 1624.

The "Chenier" is a narrow strip of land beginning at the mouth of the Calcasieu River and running mostly 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 separate from it by a very soft and in most places imperceptible marsh. At its eastern end it is not very high, scarcely more than 2 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 almost
growth of trees and bushes. Further eastward the ridge as it recedes from the coast, becomes higher and is more densely wooded. After crossing the Mecomteau River, the native growth of trees is comparatively rare. 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, 1886, many thousands of oranges were shipped from Grand Chenee to Galveston and New Orleans for New York market, but most there are more 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 Galceau to Mecomteau River they are generally Americans, also across the Mecomteau River at Grand Chenee, and perhaps upon 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 Plean Island, offers an interesting field for study to the geologist.

On the Atchafalaya River, the survey consists wholly of that line of river, and from Biesel's Lake to Morgan City was based upon plane-table triangulation.
Bordering the river the ground was generally thick, but the shores on both sides are more or less thickly covered with a growth of willow, cypress and various small bushes.

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

Yours respectfully,

[Signature]

Sub-Assistant

C. H. Sneed

C. H. Sneed