U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

J. M. Thorne, Superintendent.

State: Louisiana.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheets Nos. 1684, 1685, 1689, 1823, 1824.

Locality:
Coast of Louisiana

Atchafalaya River.

1888.

Chief of Party:
E. L. Sanev.
Descriptive Report

To accompany three topographical sheets of the Survey of the Chemic between Calcasieu River and Vermillion Bay, La.; and two sheets, survey of Atchafalaya River from Atchafalaya Lake to Morgan City, No. 1654 - 1655 - 1659 and 2 Sheets on Atchafalaya.

No. 1823, and 1824

The "Chemic" is a narrow strip of 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 separate from it by a very deep and in most places impassable marsh.

The eastern end 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 Mississippi River, the native growth of trees is preponderantly oak. The part 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 none to speak of. However, the young trees are booming and with favorable weather they will soon produce a fine crop.

The people are very hospitable. From Culiacan to Mermetan River they are generally Americans, also across the Mississippi River at Grand Chenee, and perhaps two 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 Pean Island, offers an interesting field for study to the geologist.

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

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

James P. Taylor
Sub-Assistant
C. H. Gunby