U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Littmann
Superintendent.

State: O. R.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2490.

LOCALITY:
Manigrove Harbor, etc.

1900.

CHIEF OF PARTY:
W. C. Hodgkins
Descriptive Report

to accompany Topographic Sheet 53636, Portoro Rico, m/000.

1. The general character of the country is rocky but of only moderate height. The relief is considerably broken, apparently by erosion. It appears to have a rock base.

2. The outer shore is formed by coral reefs, outside of which the water is bold. In the harbor, the mangroves as a rule fringe the shore, the real shore line being some distance back in the trees. In the upper part of the harbor there are muddy deposits, but as the entrance is approached the shore becomes sandy, with numerous broken fragments of coral and broken shells. Still an extensive coral reef extends to the southward from the bluff point on the north side and a similar reef also stretches to the northward from the eastern end of Water Cay, which is a bold rocky bluff on the south side of the entrance. Although the eastern end of Water Cay is precipitous, it
reach an elevation of little more than ten metres and the greater part of the island is
low and covered by trees. The higher portion has only some scattered broom and numerous
cacti. From the southern end of the black, rocky bluff the coral reef continues to the
southwestward in the direction of Breeze Pt. and forms a breakwater for the small
harbor called the "Bacin" (La Caldera), a branch of Mangrove Harbor.
The sand beaches are generally hard.
Low Water line is shown by a dotted line
upon sand beaches or mud flats. On the
coral reefs, the outer limits of the heads visible
at low water is indicated by signs for detached
rocks.
3. There is no record of any strandings
upon this coast, so far as I know.
4. No Travelling dunes
5. No natural levees
6. There are broken cliffs of dark rock,
apparently volcanic, at Punta Negro and
on Water Cay, both mentioned above.
I saw no sign of springs.
7. There is no evidence of recession. There
does not appear to be very much erosion at present. Some mud is brought down during heavy rains and is deposited for the most part in the coves.

8. The greater part of the country is covered by a rather peculiar forest growth. The trees reach a height of 20 to 30 feet and are of species unknown to me by name.

The most noticeable variety in the swamp is a low tree which bears great quantities of white, calyx-shaped flowers, 1 1/2 to 2 inches across and having a delicious perfume. This tree is called by the Dr. Thomas negroes the "lily tree" and has a milky juice, which flows profusely when the tree is wounded. This juice is said to be acrid and poisonous and to produce blindness if introduced into the eye. There is considerable underbrush. Alongshore the mangrove is frequently found in sheltered coves. Various kinds of cactus and of yucca are plentiful and near the huts of the few inhabitants the coconut palm and the banana are found.

9. About 70% of the land is wooded and
about 2500 in pasture, supporting cattle and sheep of very good appearance. Horses do not seem to be raised in any great numbers.

There are no towns and but few inhabitants in this portion of the island. There is practically no trade. There are no roads. Communication is either by water or across country on foot or horseback. There are no railroads, canals or rivers. The very few fences are usually of wire.

10. There are no "resorts".

11. This is the first survey by the United States. In 1852 a survey was made by the British Admiralty (Sea Chart 2677). At that time the entire island was wooded, there being then no inhabitants. In 1879 the government of Porto Rico, examined the island of Culebra and decided to colonize it which was accordingly done. Aside from the partial clearing of the island, there seems to be very little change, except that some new names have been introduced. This question will be treated separately.

12. There is no evidence of change of shoreline.