Treasury Department,
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Tostmann
Superintendent.

State: Va.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.
Topographic Sheet No. 2663.

LOCALITY:
Chesapeake Bay, Eastern Shore, Mattawoman Creek, to Craddock Creek.

1904

CHIEF OF PARTY:
C. C. Latham, Park.
Description Report

COAST AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Topographic Sheet, Chesapeake Bay, From Braden
creek to Hunting Green

The area shown is a flat plain, surface low
lying between 10 and 15 feet above mean low water. The plain
is quite level with the exceptions of banks along the
Bay and creek shores. The underlying strata is of
clay. Along the Bay shore there are sand flats with
several lines of breaches. The bottom is generally hard.
The sand hills are covered with pine and undergrowth
and are stationary. The recession is approximate 25
feet for a period of a month per year. On exposed points the
recession is greater. There is a small marsh between
Bradden and Occoquan Creek. South of Occoquan
the high lands make out to the Bay shore. Along a large
portion of the bluffs of clay, ranging from 5 to 20 feet.

There remains but little of the original growth of timber
which consists of pine and hickory, gums, etc. There is large
portion of the area in second growth pines. Heights
of trees vary from 20 to 80 feet. There is little.
Undergrowth, as the wooded areas are cleared for the pine straw to furnish fertilizers for the potato crop. About the heads of creeks there is a considerable area of spruce woods with a heavy, tough, blue undergrowth. There is but little fruit grown, Apples, Peas and Apples are grown for home consumption only. The cultivation of the potato both round and oval is the principal agricultural industry. Some corn and trucking crops are raised. There are only small towns in the area shown. The commerce incidental to agriculture is the only support of the towns. No manufacturing industries are operated. There is a canning factory near the head waters of Ocoee River and there with a few saw mills and barrel factories are the only industries noted. The cultivation of the potato is confined almost all the area of the creeks south of Ocoee Creek an cultivated. Lines of Communication are the N.Y. Phil and Tex. Railway, one of the main lines of Communication between North and South and a bi-weekly boat line from landing in Ocoee River to and from Baltimore, Maryland. There are no summer or winter resorts on the sheet. There is but little increase in the area of cleared or tillable land during fifty years.
since the last survey. The larger land tracts have been divided and are now owned and farmed in tracts of twenty to two hundred acres. The greater portion of shore line is unchanged. At the mouths of creeks there has been great change, in some of the smaller creeks there has been a levee thrown up, which entirely cuts off the creeks.

The roads during summer are excellent and fair; good during winter.

There is practically no shipping except in Ockhanock Creek. Only small sail boat, running potatoes and oysters to the Cape Charles Market, can use any of the creeks. The channels are very shallow and a local knowledge is required to navigate them.

O. L. Rahn

Assistant U.S. Deputy Surveys Chief of Work,

Cape Charles Vto. Jan. 1906