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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. S. Pittman
Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Top. Sheet No. *3460*

LOCALITY:

Bear River
Inlet.

1914

CHIEF OF PARTY:

R. S. Patton

11-4645

3460

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 3460
EXCURSION INLET, ICY STRAITS, ALASKA.

The original instructions for this survey called for triangulation to be carried to the head of Excursion Inlet. On reconnaissance it was found that such triangulation could not be carried out without an expenditure of time and money out of all proportion to the results accomplished. As will be seen from the sheet, the various points in the inlet are rounding and steep-to, so that in at least two cases stations on the same side could have been only a few hundred metres apart. The alternative of going up into the hills was impracticable because of the heavy timber. This survey, therefore, is controlled by triangulation through only a small portion of its extent.

However, the work is believed to be quite as accurate as if it were controlled by triangulation throughout. The survey was made by the Chief of Party in person and is based entirely on a careful plane table triangulation, which was carried over every portion of the area and is entirely independent of any stadia readings. Moreover, in order to insure still greater accuracy by eliminating any errors due to distortion of the sheet in the field, this plane table triangulation was completed and all hydrographic signals located, before attempting to run in the shore line, except in the immediate vicinity of the points

occupied.

In contouring, all points for which elevations are given, were located and the height determined by the plane table. The contours were sketched roughly in the field, the final details being drawn in from a number of photographs, thus making it possible to do this portion of the work during bad weather, and so devote all good weather to other field work.

It will be noted that the limits of the present topography do not join on to those of the previous survey. None of the shore line surveyed in this previous work was re-run, however, for two reasons:-

First:- The original survey seems correct in detail, the error apparently being one of azimuth, in which case it may

be swung on by means of triangulation points common to the two.

Second:- On the sheet as sent out from the Office, Δ "Hen" was plotted 200 metres out in longitude, and it therefore seemed possible that the original survey was correct, but that the shore line had been improperly transferred by being fitted on to this position.

In this inlet will be found two salmon canneries and a saw-mill; the lower cannery, locally known as Bell's Cannery, after its superintendent, belongs to the Astoria & Puget Sound Canning Company; the upper one to the Pacific-American Fisheries Company. Each has a dock, supplied with fresh water, where vessels may lie at any stage of the tide. At the upper cannery there is a store which carries a considerable supply of general

merchandise. These canneries go outside the inlet entirely for their fish, the only trap in the inlet being about a mile below the lower cannery, and that merely fished enough to hold the location. The saw-mill, located in the western arm of the inlet, is a small affair without any docking facilities, and only a small supply of sawed lumber is carried, so that the owner, who lives at Hoonah, must usually have previous notice before he can fill an order.

As indicated on the sheet, the region on either side of the inlet is rugged and mountainous, the hills extending in both directions beyond the limits of the sheet, on which only the first ridges are shown. It is reported that a number of promising copper prospects have been located in this region, indications being found on both sides of the inlet, but as yet no development work has been done.

The valley shown at the head of the inlet extends for some miles inland, its direction being a continuation of the inlet proper.

A list of permanent points located follows:-

<u>OBJECT.</u>	<u>LATITUDE.</u>	<u>LONGITUDE.</u>
	meters	meters
Lower Cannery, S. gable	58° 25' 159	135° 26' 759
Upper " " "	58 28 1833	135 29 130
Sawmill, E. "	58 27 360	135 30 72

Respectfully submitted,

R. S. Patton

CHIEF OF PARTY.