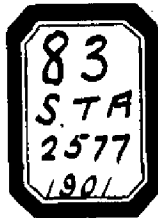


2577

2577



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Tittmann , Superintendent

State: *Washington*

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY.
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

APR 2 1902
Acc. No. 2577
Class

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. *2577*

LOCALITY:

*Columbia River, Head
of Lady's Island to Rooster
Rock*

1901

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Fremont Morse

2577

APR-1 1902. 06135

Descriptive Report to accompany the Topographic Sheet.

COLUMBIA RIVER

HEAD OF LADY'S ISLAND TO ROOSTER ROCK.

U. S. GEO. SURVEY, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES.
APR 2 1902
Acc. No.
Class

This sheet includes the topography on both sides of the river for a distance of about six miles within the limits indicated in the title.

On the north, or Washington, side of the river the principal features noted are the Washougal River; the town of Washougal; the long lake (un-named) to the eastward of the town; and, at the eastern extremity of the sheet, the high ground known as Mt. Pleasant.

The Washougal River is small in size, carrying during the dry season but little water. In the winter, however, it is a rushing mountain stream sufficiently large to transport saw-logs from the forests some 15 or 20 miles back down to its mouth and into La Camas Slough north of Lady's Island, at the lower end of which they are caught in booms and held till made into rafts preparatory to being towed down the Columbia and up the Willamette to saw mills.

The town of Washougal is the most important shipping point along the river from Vancouver to the Cascades. There is a large extent of farming country back from the river, and farm and orchard products are shipped from here to Portland. The Washougal-La Camas Transportation Company runs a daily steamer (Sundays excepted) between Washougal and Portland. Washougal is at present the nearest shipping point to a group of copper mines that are being developed in the mountains some 20 miles distant near the headwaters of the Washougal. A large outfit of heavy running machinery was haul-

ed out to the mines by teams during the stay of the party at this place.

The long lake shown on the sheet between Washougal and Mt. Pleasant is a shallow body of water nearly dry in the autumn. It is apparently the remains of an old channel of the river. The river channel changes more or less with each flood season, and it is hardly to be doubted that in the past it has at different times changed its course and wandered back and forth over all the low bottom lands included between the higher and more solid ground that defines their limits. That changes occur, and at a comparatively rapid rate, is shown by the fact that Gary Island has been formed within the past 20 years.

At Mt. Pleasant the foot-hills of the Cascade Range touch the river. On the topographic sheet below the one now under discussion Prune Hill is another, and the first, point where the foot-hills come to the river bank. Between Prune Hill and Mt. Pleasant low ground borders the river, but from Mt. Pleasant eastward the river runs right through the Cascade Mountains.

On the south, or Oregon, bank of the river the principal topographic features are the Sandy River and the foothills of the Cascades, which here come down to the river bank for nearly half the length of the sheet.

The Sandy is a small river rising in the Cascade Mountains and having its headwaters on the west slope of Mt. Hood. It carries sufficient water in the wet season (winter) for logging purposes,

and a saw mill is located at Troutdale about a mile inland from the limit of the topography on this sheet where the logs are cut up into lumber. When the Sandy is in flood it brings down quantities of drift and fallen trees which are deposited on the extensive flats at its mouth. It is very dangerous for a steamer to get in among them. These flats extend more than half way across the Columbia and just opposite them Ough Reef makes out from the Washington shore. The result is a very constricted channel, about 200 metres wide, between the sands and the reef. At the low water stage of the Columbia, which is also the low stage of the Sandy, there is not enough water in the latter stream to enable one to enter its mouth in a flat bottomed skiff, and the mouth known as the Little Sandy is then entirely dry. The flood stages of the Columbia and Sandy are not simultaneous. The former has its high water when the snow melts in May, June, and July, and the latter during the rainy season.

High land borders the river above Gary Island. It rises very abruptly from the shore to a height of from 600 to 800 feet opposite Gary Island and also at the eastern extremity of the sheet. Between these two limits there is a stretch of about two miles where the ground rises in a steep bluff close to the shore to a height of from 240 to 300 feet and then forms a gently sloping bench from 200 to 400 metres wide and then rises more sharply to the top of a ridge whose general height averages something over 600 feet. This bench is the finest agricultural land within the limits of the sheet.

Islands: Reed Island, near the eastern limit of the sheet, is low and wooded. Willows cover the greater part of it but cottonwoods grow on the eastern end, which is the highest part. Only this end and a strip along the south shore extending about down to Reed ⓪ are above water in the summer floods. The beach along the south side from East ⓪ to Reed ⓪ slopes gently out into the deep water of the river and is purposely kept clear of snags. It thus forms a fine seining ground and during the salmon canning season a crew of men live in the houses shown at the east end of the island. The operation of seining is quite interesting. Immense nets over 1800 feet in length are laid out into the river from great flat bottomed boats and are hauled in by horses. The start is made from the upper end of the island and by the time the seine is hauled in it has drifted with the river current about down to Reed ⓪. The net is then loaded into the boat and the latter towed up the beach by a pair of horses, ready for another haul.

Gary Island. This is a low, newly-formed, island mostly covered by a young growth of willows. In the flood stage of the river it is nearly all submerged. The highest part of it is the north bank from North ⓪ to Middle ⓪, and this is barely above water in floods. During the low stage of the river the island is used for pasturage. A flock of Angora goats was there during the time the survey was in progress.

Roads: On the Washougal side of the river the main county road from La Camas crosses the Lackamas Creek at the western limit

of the sheet, runs along the north bank of the Washougal River to a point opposite the town of Washougal, then crosses the river, runs into the town, and thence turns eastward along the border of the bottom lands towards Mt. Pleasant, where it strikes up the hill and eventually (but within the limits of the next sheet) crosses over back of Cape Horn and again strikes the river and follows up along the north bank as far as Stevenson, the county seat of Skamania County. This road in early days was a military road connecting the post at the Cascades with Vancouver.

On the Oregon side of the river is shown a portion of the main county road along the crest of the ridge. This road extends eastward to Bridal Veil, a small village some three miles beyond the eastern limit of this sheet, and connects it with Troutdale and the city of Portland.

There is also another county road running from Corbett's Landing up to and along the back of the bench above described, and connecting with the main county road back of Corbett's and also at a point opposite the upper end of Gary Island.

Railroads: A portion of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company's line is shown on the Oregon side of the river. It skirts along at the base of the hills, and to the eastward of Gary Island is close beside the river shore. A tunnel about 190 metres long is cut through Tunnel Point.

Landings: Three steamboat landings come within the limits of the sheet. The first is Parker's Landing, on the Washington

side about half a mile above the mouth of the Washougal. At present this is merely a mud landing for the accommodation of the farmers living in the vicinity. A railroad has been recently surveyed from this point to the copper mines previously mentioned, and it is said that the road will be built. Such a road would not only furnish transportation for the products of the mine, but would tap a large area of fine timber land.

Washougal Landing, at the town of Washougal, is, as has already been stated, the principal shipping point along this stretch of the river. Steamers land at the wharf, except during the summer floods, when the floor of the wharf is from 4 to 15 feet under water. Then the landing is made at the foot of the main street leading up to the town, near the end of the bridge.

Corbett's Landing is the only one on the Oregon side of the river. It is a mud landing, but a very good one. It is sufficiently protected by the small point projecting to the eastward of it to enable steamers to land even when the strong east winds that prevail in the Autumn and Winter are blowing.

Fremont Morse,
Assistant

