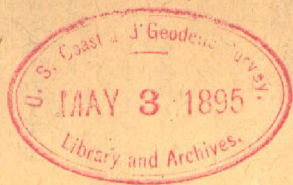


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Descriptive Report

Sheet no. ~~6~~ 2193.

Topography of

Washington Sound

Wash

1894

2193

Descriptive Report. Sheet No 6. 2193.
Topography of Washington Sound. Wash.
1894.

The Survey of these Islands was made in the latter part of August, and in September, 1894.

The sheet embraces the group of islands lying between Spieden Channel and Haro Strait, and include the following islands;—Stuart Spieden, John, James, Cactus, Flattop and Sentinel together with several small islets and reefs.

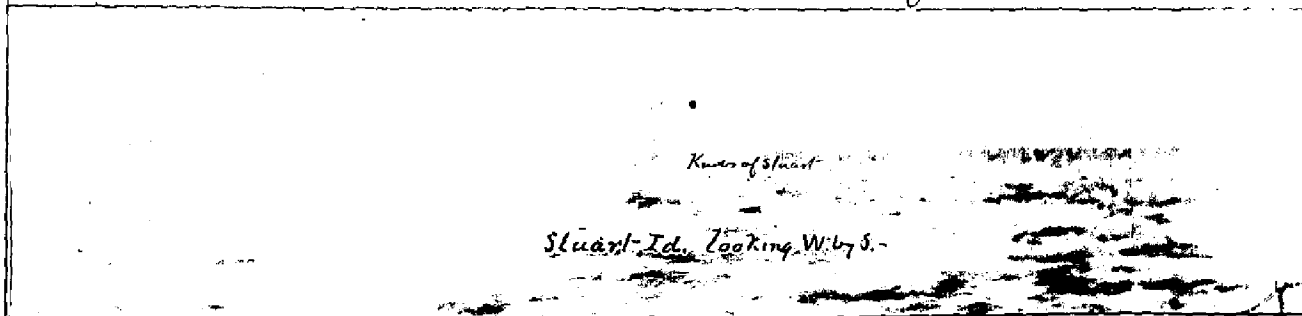
It was necessary to make the projection so as to include Sig Douglas on Gowlland Point, Pender Island, which made it necessary to survey Flattop Id. Gull Id and White Rock independently.

Stuart Island is a series of ridges with valleys between and the general direction is S.E and N.W. — Reid and Porrost-Harbors are two of these valleys.

The highest of these ridges is that between Reid Harbor and Haro Strait, and culminates in two knobs of nearly equal height, just west of the head of Reid Harbor. — The height



is about 650 feet. I have designated these hills as Stuart Knobs. I regret that I did not obtain a view of them from the S.W. - The first view is from the direction of Flattop Island. It also represents the outline of all the ridges on Stuart Island.



The second view is from the entrance to New Channel, from which direction the two knobs are in line. These knobs are



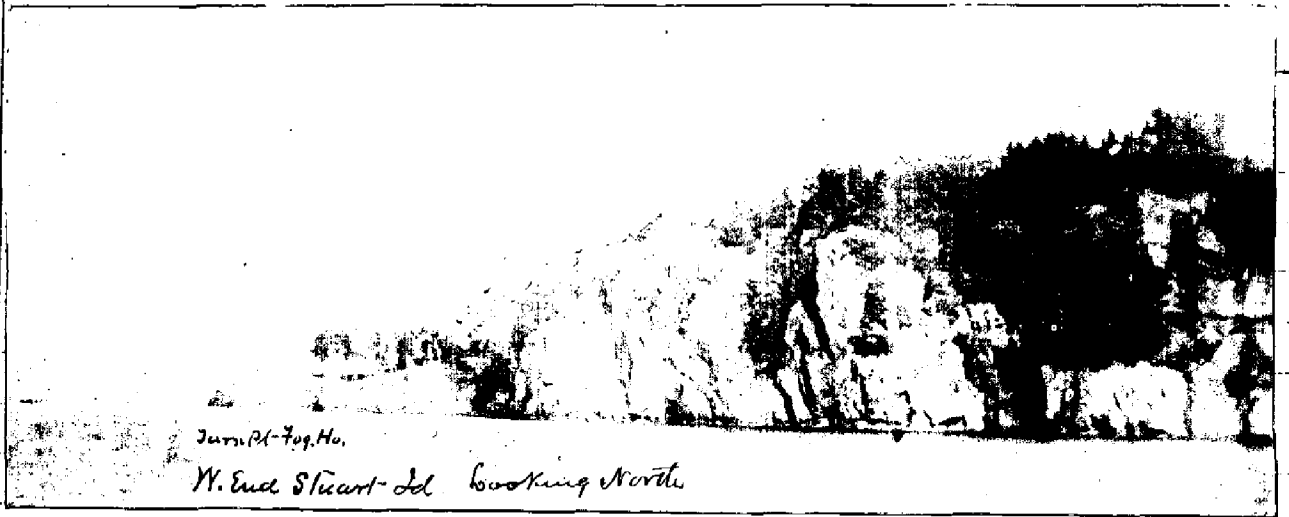
a conspicuous land mark visible for many miles in all directions.

The shores of Stuart Island are all rocky except a few gravel beaches, as at the head of Reid Harbor, and in some of the small bays, and some parts of Porrost Harbor, where are gravel beaches.

The water is deep to within a short distance from the shore-line. The formation, as of all the islands on this sheet, is sandstone.

And from Finches house around to the entrance to Porrost Harbor, and from Porrost nearly to Johns Pass, the bluff is precipitous to the water's edge.

On June Point is a stake light and fog horn, and a short distance off the point is the deepest water to be found anywhere inside of Cape Flattery.



Juni Pt. Fog Ho.

W. End Stuart Id. Looking North

The ^{view} sketch shows the building used for the Fog horn, and just outside is the Stake light. View was taken from a point off Signal Stuart West.



at Pt.

W part Stuart Id. Looking N.-

W. Knob

This view was taken from off shore nearly abreast of Stuart-Knobs, and shows the West-Slope of the West-Knob. The tangent of the island in sketch is the point half way between Signals Pitca and Stuart West. The former signal is seen in the sketch.

A marked characteristic of all these islands is noticeable in this as in other views; - the slopes of the hills which face the winter storms (S.E. + S.W.) are bare; - there is usually a thin soil over the rock, which in the wet season produces a fine grass, and during this season the slopes are green; - a few days of hot sun however, kills the grass.

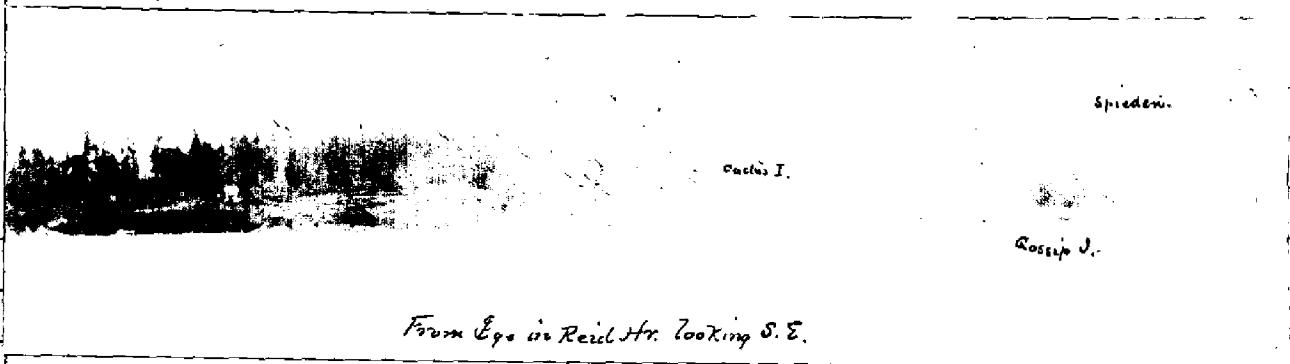
and the landscape becomes a rusty brown. - The rock
 crops out at all points throughout these slopes.



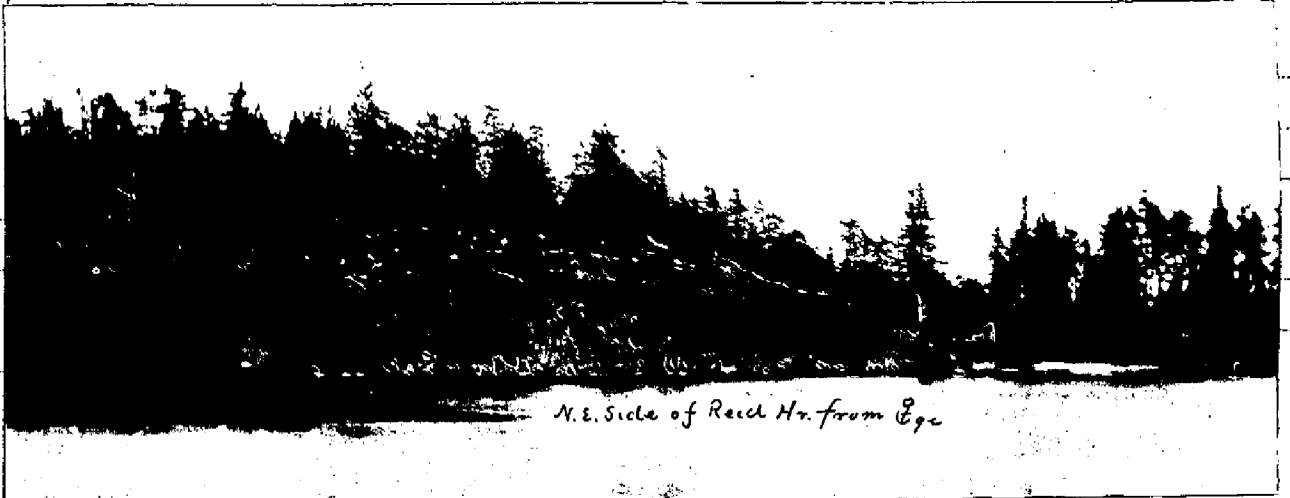
Reid Harbor is a quiet, safe, landlocked harbor, with a
 safe entrance. The views taken in the harbor were all from an
 anchorage very nearly in the center of the harbor. - The
 first is of the head of the harbor, and gives another view of
 Stuart Knob.



The second view shows the only clearing, north venturing in
 the Harbor, and also takes in the East Knob.

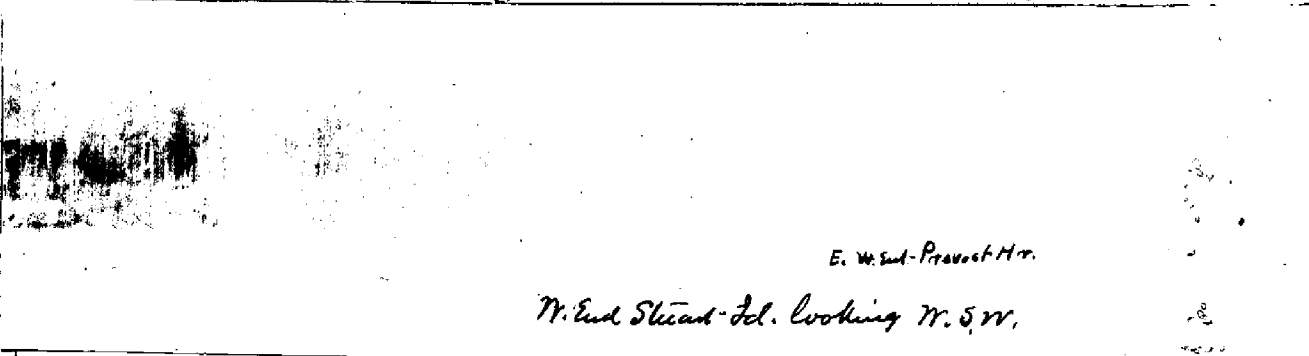


The third view is looking west, out of the Harbor, and shows the East-point of entrance and the Gossips Islands, and, in the distance, the outline of Spieden and Caetus.



The fourth view, looking north from anchorage, is another exhibit of the general features of the landscape.

Pravist Harbor is shallow, and there are a number of reefs, dangerous at high tide, when they are covered. The entrances however are deep, and it is probable that safe anchorage might be found in either of them.



This view of the East-entrance was taken from a point off Johns Pass

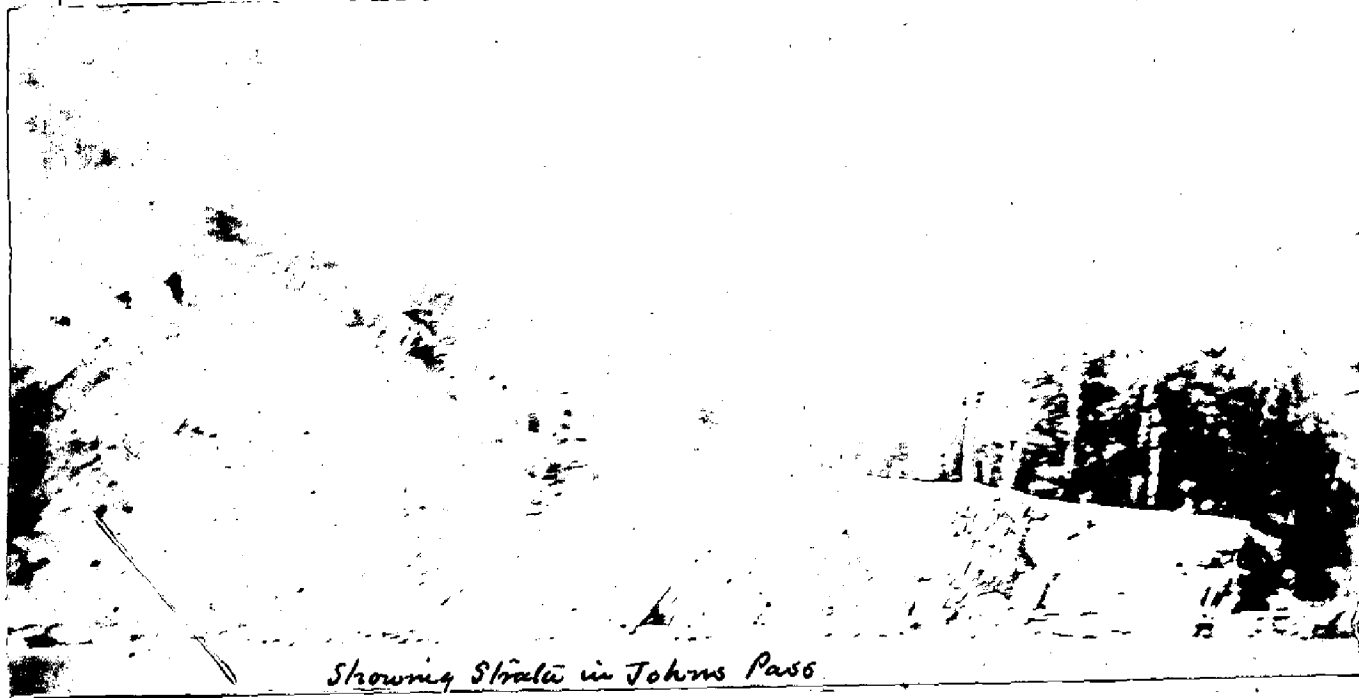
Johns Pass is quite safe for Steam vessels of ordinary draught, it is necessary to make a short turn, the Channel is well marked by the line of Kelp.

The only reef to avoid is that off the Easternmost point of Stewart Island.



I here insert two views looking through the Pass, one from the North, and one from the South.

In this Pass, on Stuart Island, at the point nearest to John Island, the stratification is remarkable, it dips to the South at an angle of 60° or 70° and the light-colored Sandstone Strata are attenuated with thin strata of slate color and appearance.



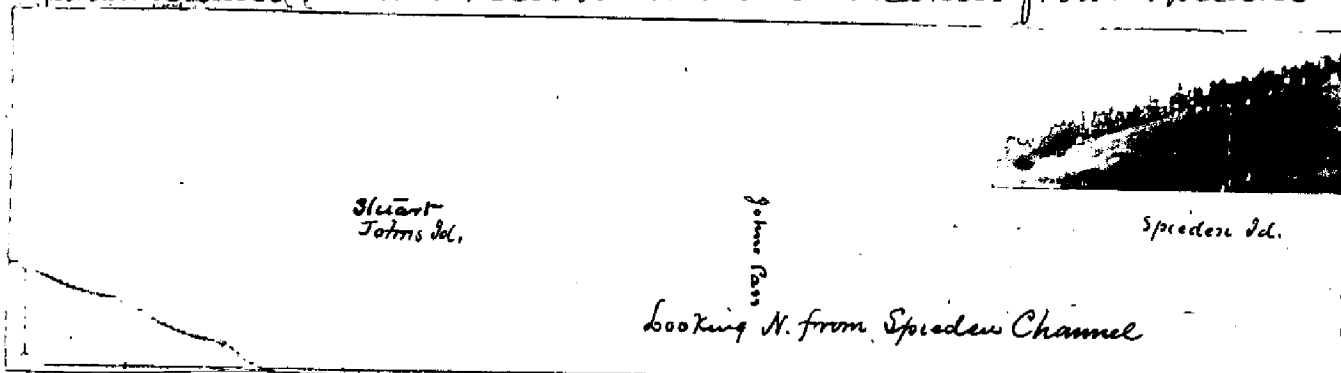
I took this picture of this formation, which crops out again in Powoost Harbor, particularly in the large reef near the West-end, and in the bluff west of the reef.

There is but little land on Stuart suitable for cultivation. It is a favorite hunting ground for deer, which are said to be quite numerous.

James Island is entirely wooded, and unoccupied save

by a small band of sheep which was nearly starved at the time the Survey was made. - The shores on the N. side are precipitous & rocky.

John Island is mostly low, the North face being rocky and precipitous, while a gravel beach extends along the South side. This view, which was taken from Spieden



Channel. Shows Johns Pass in the distance, the East part of Stuart Island and the West end both of John and Spieden islands, The next view, taken from New Channel, near the W. end of Spieden shows the East end of John Island, as also Ripple Island and Gull Reef. From John Id. to Ripple, and



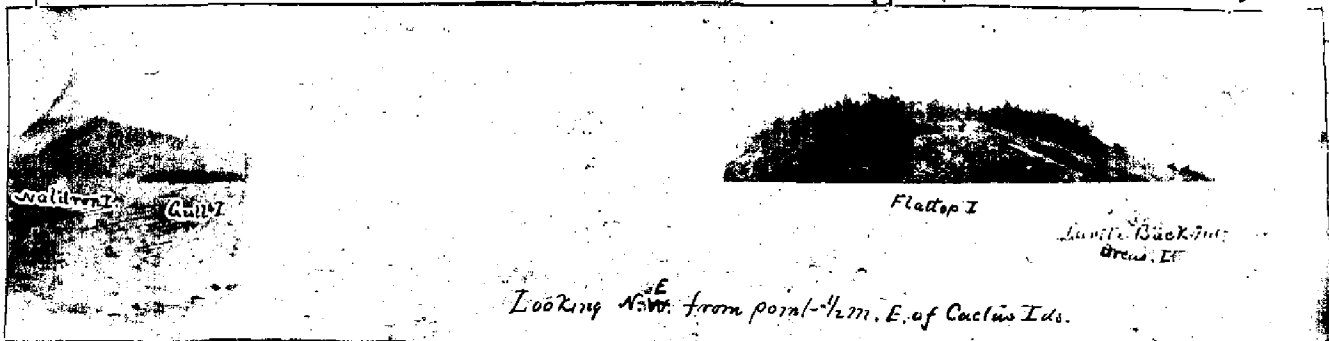
toward Cactus Islands are a number of reefs, all of which I believe, are represented on the Sheet,

The Cactus Islands are rocky and wooded, with reefs on the South side of each.

There is a deep, and clear, though not very wide Channel between them,

Flattop is a small island of rock, with bare slopes to Southward and high perpendicular rocky shores to

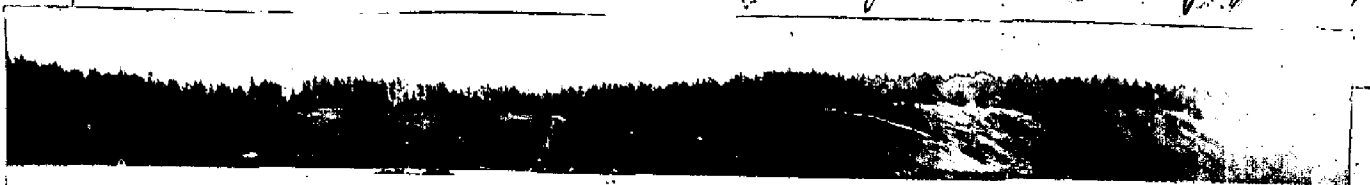
northward. The sketch also shows Gull rock, a bare rocky islet, about 35 feet high, with deep



water all around it. White Rock is a reef, or the highest point of a reef extending S.E. and N.W., - at low tide the reef shows about 400 metres to N.W., and a little further to S.E., it comes within about 8 ft. of surface.

This last is called Danger Reef, it is marked by a kelp patch, & kelp also extends from White Rock to the N.W. reef.

Spider Island is a long backbone or ridge of rock, rising at the highest point a little more than 400 feet. The northern slopes are covered with forest, while the southern slopes nearly bare of trees. The whole island is a sheep pasture, but the pasturage is very thin during



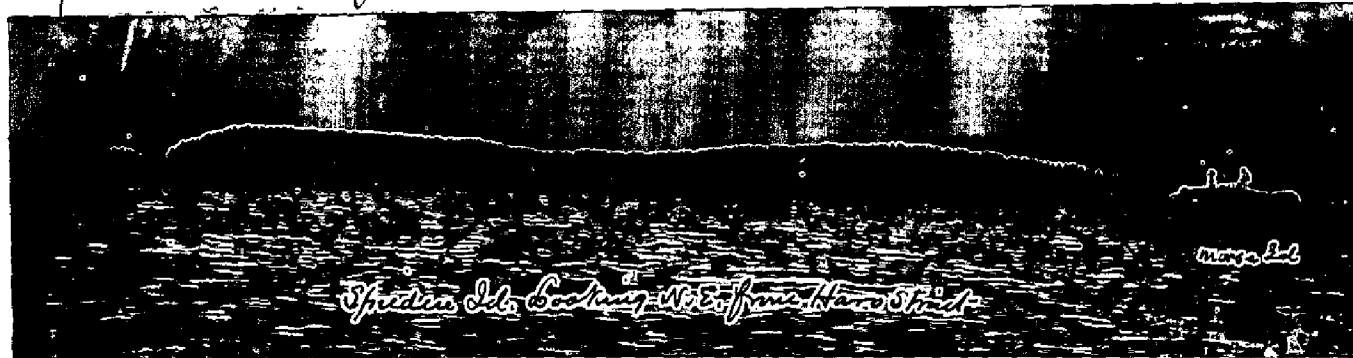
Sentinel Rk

Sentinel I.

Spider Id. Looking N.E.

The dry season. The view, which has Sentinel Island and Sentinel Rock in the foreground gives a good idea of the nature of the topography. A few scattering trees, mostly oak or maple, are seen on the slopes, while the bed rock crops out everywhere. When the grass becomes parched it becomes very slippery, and it is difficult to

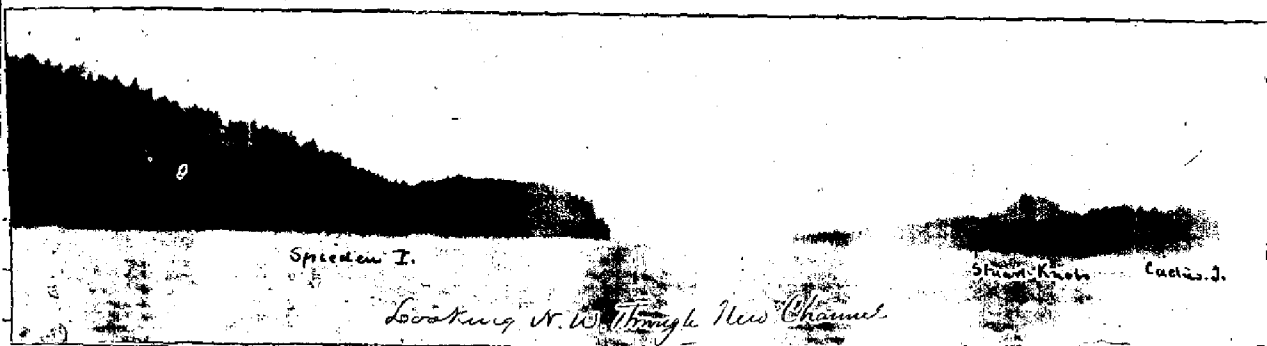
walk along these slopes. The second view of Spieden



is taken from Haro Strait, and also show Justebakk and Mt. Constitution in the distance. The next view is of a rocky precipice on North Side of Spieden near the



west end of the island. While the last view is taken from New Channel, and shows two points on the North Side of Spieden, and also a final glimpse of



over the point of Cactus Island.

Kelp lines all the shores of this sheet except a few places, as around the head of Reid Harbor.

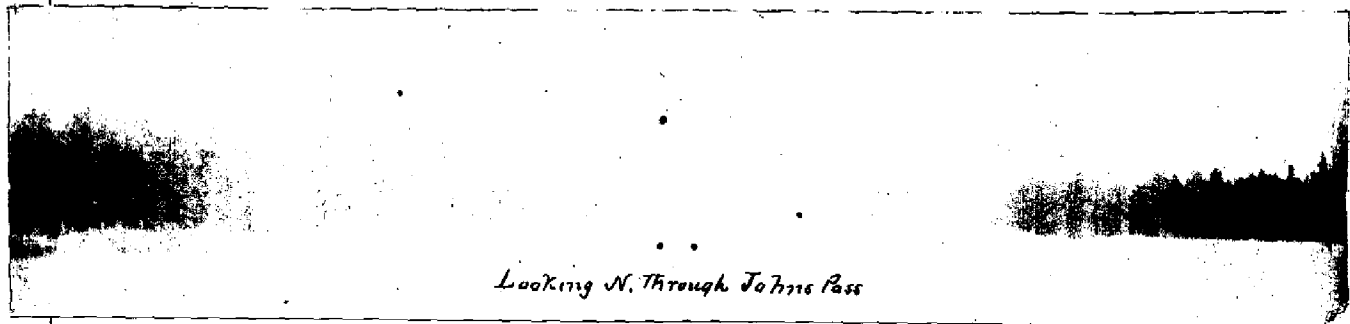
Anchorage are few and have been mentioned in the description of Reid and Provoat Harbors.

The tidal currents on large tides are remarkable, swift. On the ebb there is an overflow around the East Ends of Spieden and Cactus Islands. The "Ledney" when doing her best, about 9 knots, would often lose ground when in the axis of these currents.

I was surprised at the pronunciation of Spieden. - Every one in the country calls it Spy-den, while I am satisfied that the proper pronunciation is Spee-den. I understand it was named by Admiral Wilkes for one of his officers. - I am not sure whether it is worth while to try to correct the error, which is no doubt due to the first old sailor settler, who could not master the diphthong, and continued himself with the first vowel.

In the bluff, a short distance N.E. from the West end of Spieden Id. I discovered quite a number of fossil shells, mostly Clam shells, of forms not now found.

J. J. Gilbert
Asst. Comdr. U.S. Navy



Looking N. Through Johns Pass