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Descriptive Report

Sheet No. 8 2229.

Topography of

Washington Sound

Wash

1895.

2229

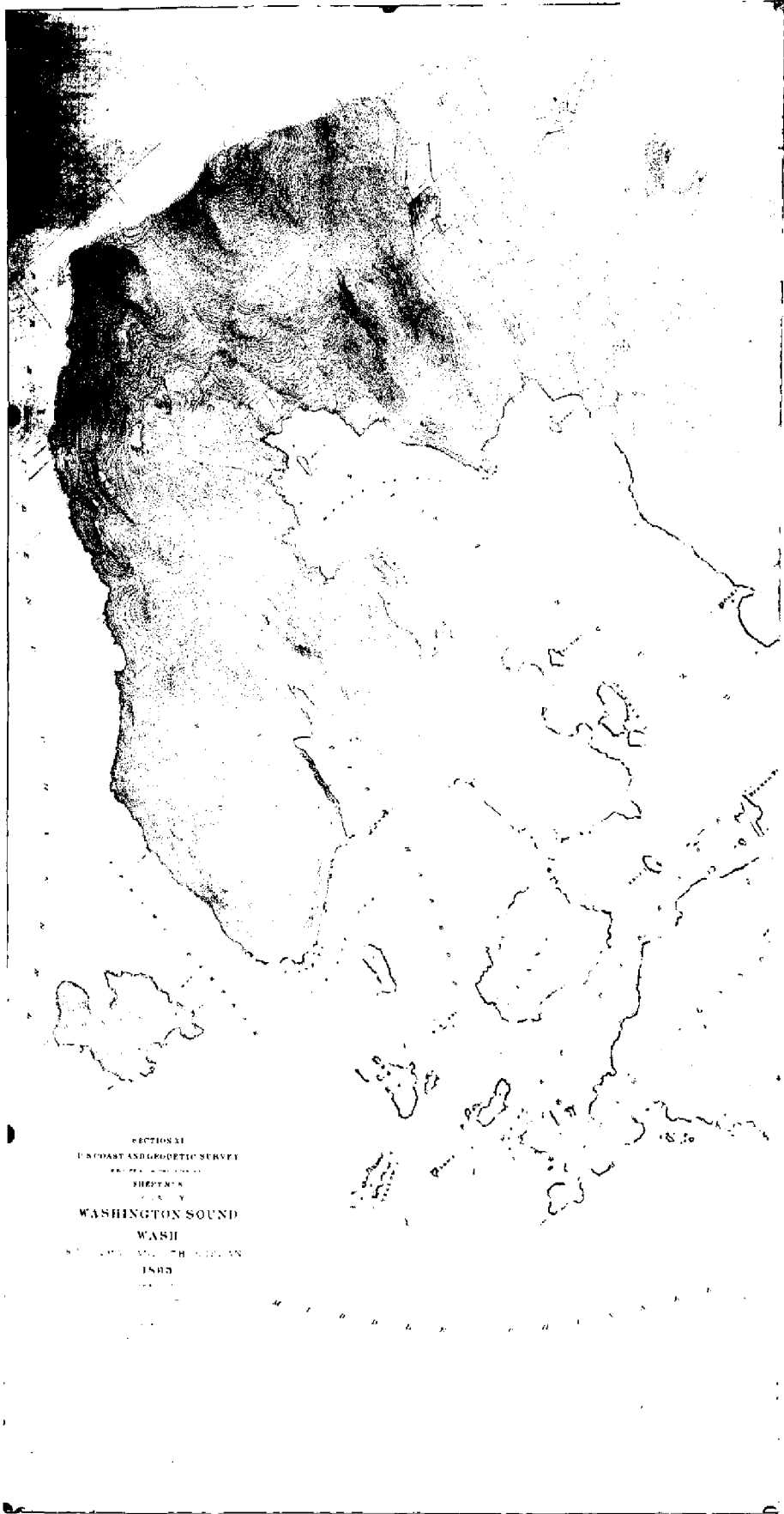
Discriptive Report

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Topography of
Washington Sound
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for photos of Islands appearing
in this Report See H.T.V. file
in photo section.



SECTION XI
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
SHEET NO. 11
WASHINGTON SOUND
WASH.
S. COAST, AND THE STRAIT
1895

This Sheet embraces the south west portion of Orcas Island, the west end of Shaw Island, together with Jones, Leman, Brown, Yellow and other small islands falling within the limits of the sheet.

The shore line of Orcas Island, beginning in President Channel, just under Orcas Knob, extends to embrace the shores of Deer Harbor and West Sound:— that of Shaw Island reaches from Broken Point around to Station Egg, in Middle Channel.

The largest part of all the shoreline upon the sheet is rocky, and fringed with kelp:— and where it is not rocky, as in the N.E. parts of Deer Harbor and West Sound, and in the heads of most small bays and bights it is gravel.— There is no sand to be found.

The water is generally bold close to the shoreline. The country is hilly, with valleys of greater or less extent lying between. The great mass of the hills is rock, mostly sandstone or limestone, which crops out frequently in ledges, — and it is characteristic that the southern slopes of the hills, particularly near the Summit, is nearly or quite bare of trees, as will be noticed in some of

the views, and as represented on the sheet.

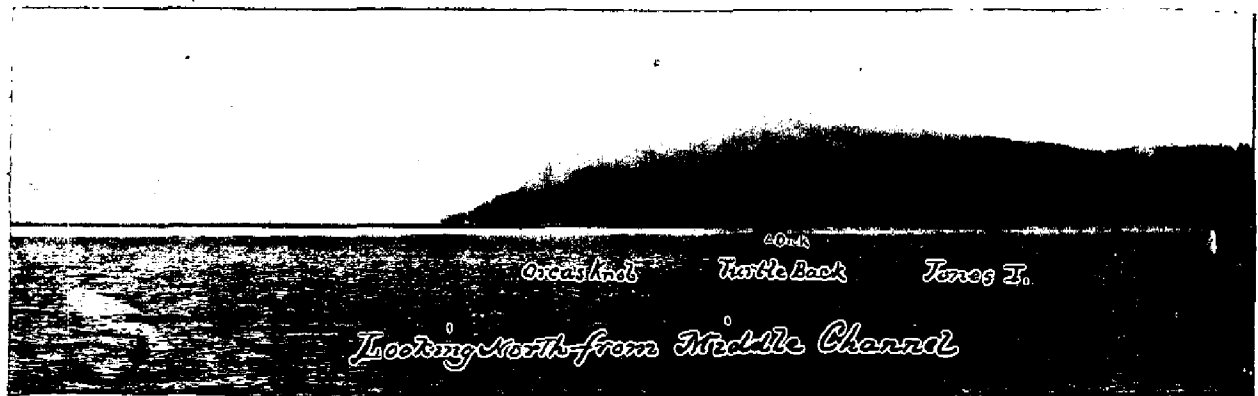
The valleys are fertile, most of them have been settled and more or less cleared and cultivated.

This whole region, owing to the tempering influence of the surrounding waters, is peculiarly well adapted to fruit raising, and Apples, pears, plums, prunes and berries grow to perfection.

Fruit raising may be said to be the chief industry, while hay, oats, barley and vegetables also do well.

The above remarks apply equally to the entire Washington Sound region, and need not be repeated in the descriptions of sheets no. 9 + 10.

Oreas Knob, 1067 ft high, is probably the most important land mark among these islands: The sailing directions for these waters often refer to it, and it is visible for a long distance in nearly every direction. - It is a spur from Turtle Back Range, which rises 400 feet higher than the knob. In the views inserted in this report Turtle Back and Oreas Knob appear several times always easy to recognize. The first view inserted, shows these landmarks as seen from



Middle Channel, There are but two settlements on the shore of Orcas Island between Orcas Knob and Deer Harbor. About one mile south from Orcas Knob is a lime kiln which was still operated in 1894, but abandoned that fall. it could not compete with the great plant at Roche Harbor, which controls that industry in the North West.

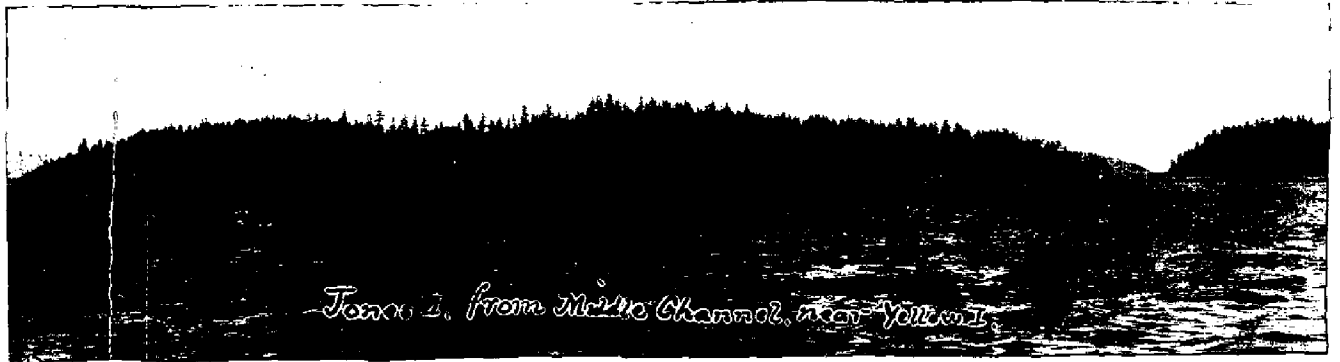
A mile or more south from the lime kiln is a small clearing, with house and orchard owned by a fisherman, it was not occupied at the time this survey was made, -

In the foreground of the view above is a part of Jones Island. Signal Dick is visible near the left end of the island. Jones Island has but one settler a "Capt" Kittles, he was living on Sinclair Island when I surveyed it in 1886, and in 1889 I found him living on Blakely Island; he now

lives in the bay on the South part of Jones Id.

There is a valley running from his house through to the bay in the north end of the island, an orchard + garden about the house are the only improvements.

Here is another view of Jones Island, taken



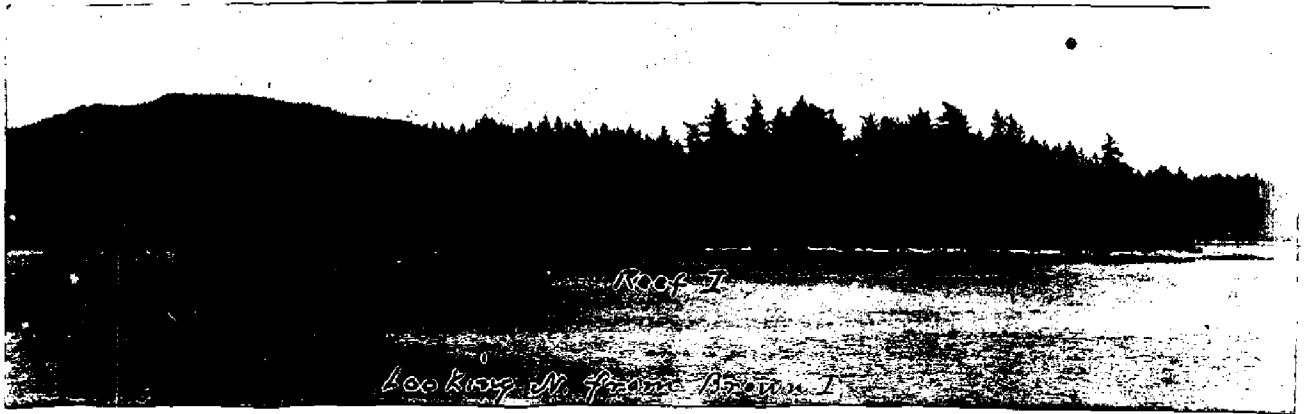
from a point a little N.W. from Yellow Island. - On the right is a point of Orcus Id. and through Spring Passage is seen a portion of Waldron Id.

The harbor on the North side of Jones Id is well sheltered, and affords safe anchorage for small craft. There is a gravel beach at the head of the harbor. There is no danger in entering except the reef off the N.E. point, which is bare at low tide, and marked with kelps.

The harbor deserves a name, but I could hear of none having been applied to it.

Fawn Island in Deer Harbor is a small rocky island

covered with trees, and unoccupied: - A small band of sheep is landed there occasionally to browse,



Reef I.
Looking N.W. from Brown I.

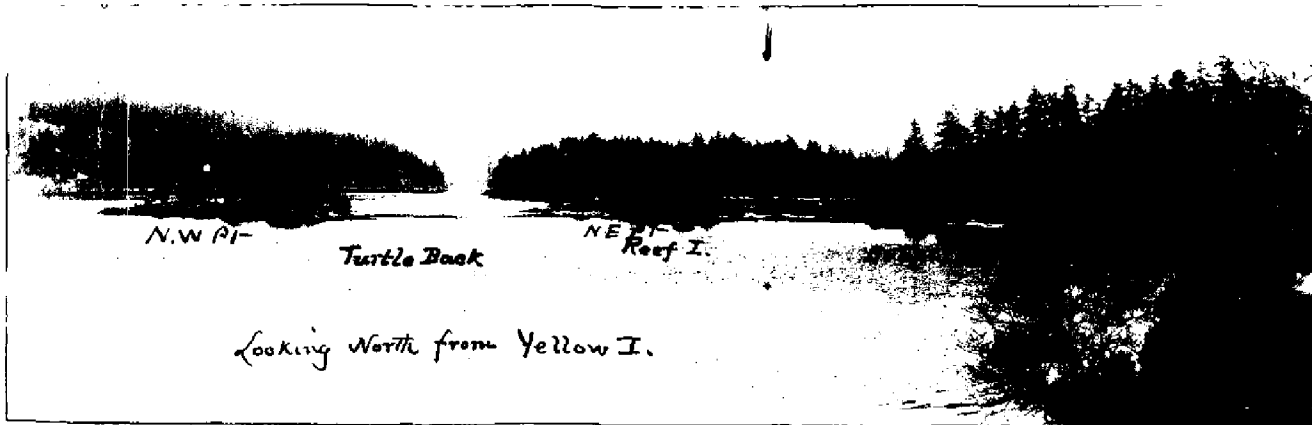
Reef Island is also uninhabited. It was used as a hog ranch at the time of Survey. The shores are mostly rocky, and it is entirely covered with forest. There are extensive reefs on the west side of the island, and at the south point of it. The regular steamer route is through the channel north of the island. The view was taken from Brown Island, - near Station Wasp.



Brown I.
Looking N.W. from Wasp Passage

Brown Island, locally known as Wasp Island, is the largest of the Gruppe named, on the Admiralty Charts "Wasp Islands". This view of it was taken

from Wasp Passage. The second view of Brown Id., was taken from the hill at East End of Yellow Id.



Looking North from Yellow I.

and shows the North West and N.E. points of the Island; - it also gives another view of Reef Island, - the point of Creas near Signal Wedge, and Turtle Back range.

Station Wasp is on the N.E. point. The base of signal shows like a letter A, while the top of the signal is hidden by trees. The N.W. point is an island at high tide, and the next view shows it as it appears



W. Point Brown I. from near Δ Wasp.

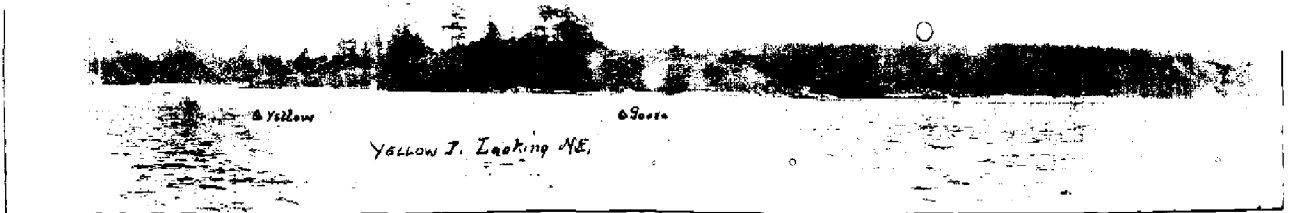
from the N.E. point, - Between these points is a small

shallow bay, where I anchored the launch. The entrance to which is nearly blocked by kelp.

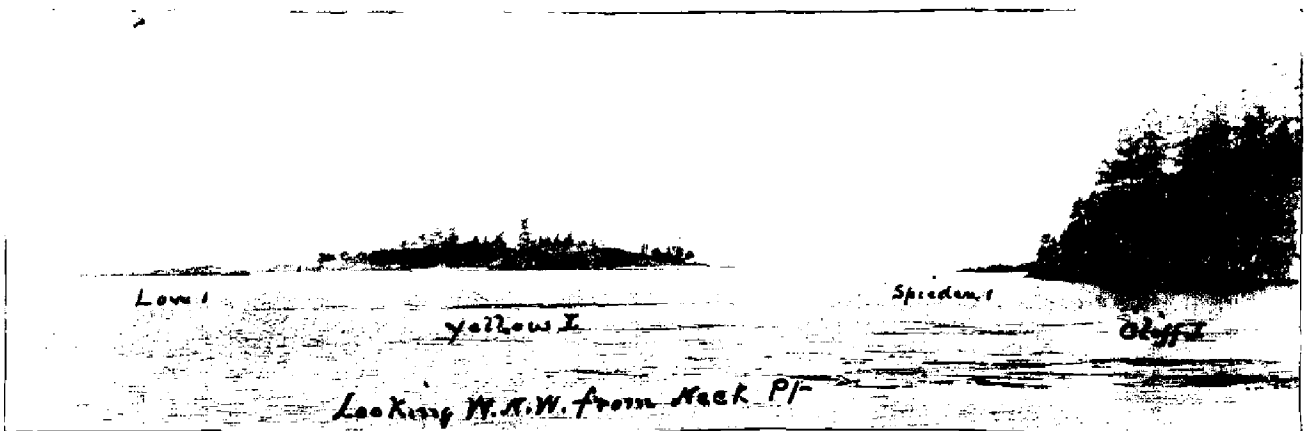
There is one settler on the island, a fisherman named McConnell, who has a small garden and an orchard.

On the ^(east? - NW) West Side of Brown Id. is a small wooded Island with rocky shores. - Between it and Brown Id. is a narrow but safe channel. - This small island has no name, and none has been suggested to me. ^{"Common"}

Yellow Island, - the westernmost of the Wasp Islands, and locally known as Goose Island, is rocky, and rather sparsely covered with Willow and other brush, and a few scattering fir trees. Off the west end are several reefs.



Mostly covered at high tide. There is anchorage for a launch or other small craft on the north side of the Spit at west end of island. The first view of it is looking East Signals Goose and Yellow are visible.



The second view is from Neck Point, on Shaw Island. On the right is seen the West end of Cliff Island, and in the back ground appears Spider Island and the North end of San Juan. Low Island is seen as tangent to the left end of Goose Island.

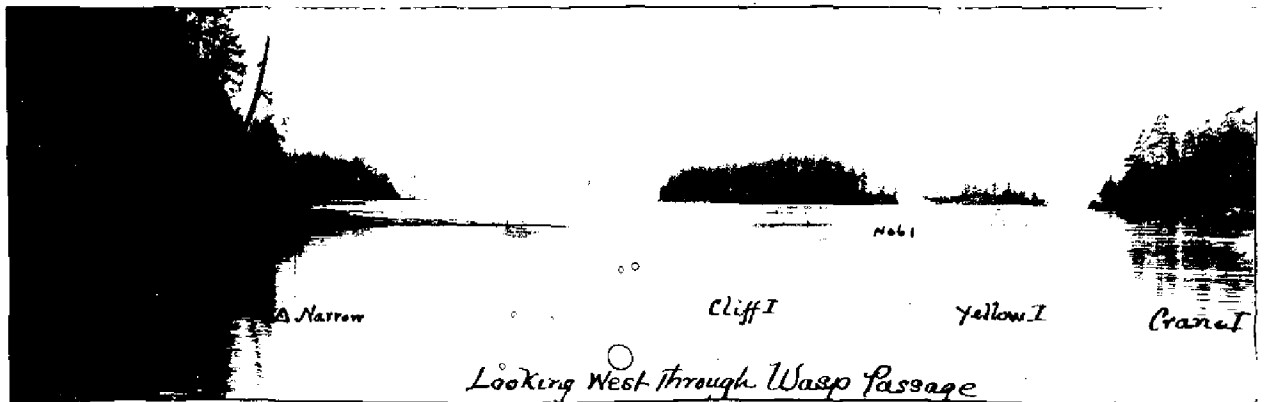
Low Island is a bare rocky islet about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile S. E. from Yellow Id. The highest part probably 10 ft. above tides; - at low tide its area is more than doubled. - Another and better view of it, taken from Yellow Id is found in the last view in this paper.

Between Brown and Crane Islands is a small reef nearly awash at high tide, known as Bird Rock.

Nob Island is a small rocky island about 40 ft high, covered with brush, and a few trees. There is a clear & deep channel between it and Cliff Island. - Just west of Nob Id is a rocky islet similar to Low Island, it has no name, the point of this islet appears in the

view above, projecting past the West End of Cliff Id.

There are extensive reefs off this islet. One fourth mile S.W. from it four rocks show at low tide, doubtless all points of the same reef. This reef is marked by kelp: - but in winter, when the kelp disappears, or during foggy or thick weather it is a serious menace to vessels entering Wasp Passage.



Cliff Island is timbered, and the shores mostly rocky. The view is looking west through Wasp Passage, from a point close to Signal Narrow, which is seen on the left.

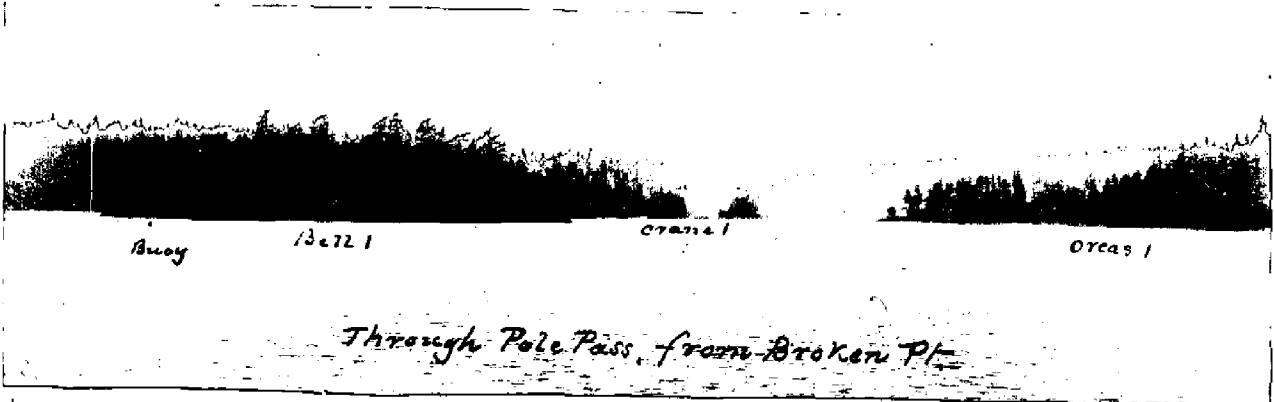
Beyond the signal is Neck Point. In the distance the outline of Sandman Id. - Projecting beyond Cliff Id. on the right is part of Nob Id. then yellow Id. and on the extreme right the west-point of Crane Id.

Cliff Island was wholly unoccupied until late in 1895, after the survey, when the Ewert Smelter Co. opened a limestone quarry at the point abeast-

of Nob Island, and the limestone is being shipped in large quantities to the Smelter at Everett.

Crane Island is the largest of these small islands, it is owned by Mr. Walter Cadwell, who lives at the East end of the island. The shores are mostly rocky, and the island heavily timbered. On the north side of the island between Signal Crane and Pole Pass is an extensive shoal, with clay or sand bottom, and grass.

Between Crane Island and Orcas Id. is Pole Pass



a narrow channel, further restricted by a rocky islet off Crane Id. This pass though but 60 metres across is deep, and is used altogether by the mail steamers, and all craft bound from Haro Strait through Harney Channel.

The view is from Broken Point. The red Stake Light is on the point of Orcas Id. outside of all trees or brush.

Bell Island shows projected against Crane Id

It is a small rocky island covered with timber, and unoccupied.

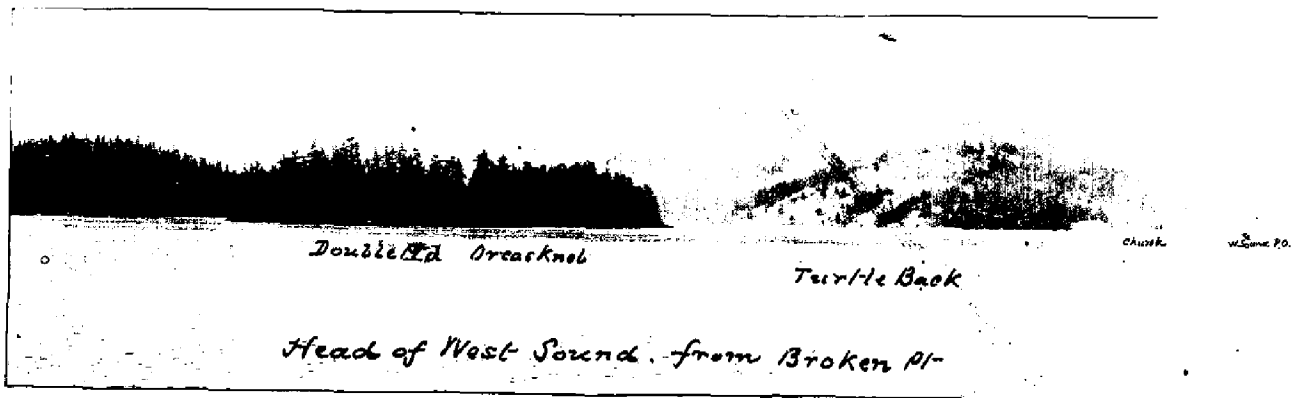
About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west from Bell Id. is a dangerous reef, - which shows at low tide, it is marked by a Buoy; - both buoy & keel show in the view.

At west entrance to West Sound are Double Island and Victim Id. Double Island consists of a larger island and a smaller island to the south, - separated by a small channel, through which a boat can pass at lowest tides.

On the larger island is an abandoned house, in a small clearing; - The smaller island is not occupied.

Victim Island is a rocky mass, sparsely covered with trees and underbrush, and uninhabited.

The channel to westward of these islands is shallow.



In the view, which was taken from Broken Point, Double Id is in the foreground. Over it Orcas Knob is easily recognized, while the whole of Turtle Back

Range is shown. This gives an admirable illustration of the Mountain Slopes - somewhat obscured by smoke from a forest fire.

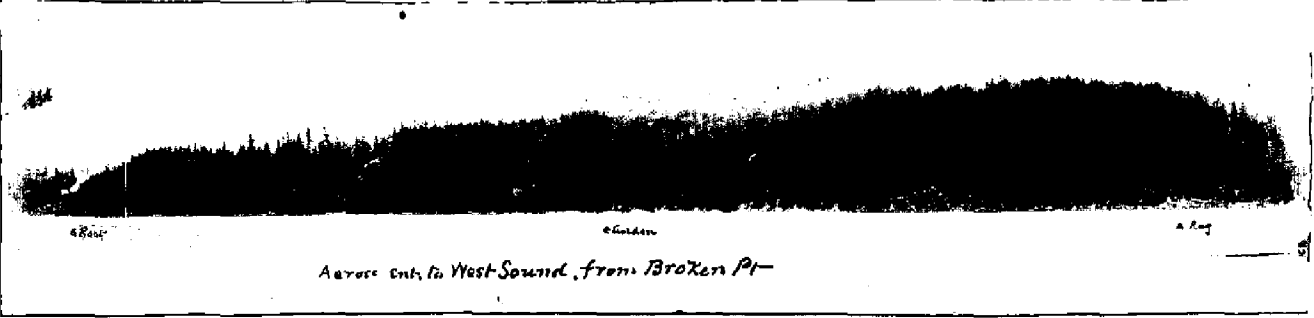
The Bay on the west side of West Sound, south of Indian Point, while not a very useful one, at least deserves a name.

From Indian Point to the head of Mutiny Bay, are numerous reefs, all shown on the sheet. Near the head is Skull Id. - designated Skull "Rock" on the English Charts. -

About mid way between Indian Pt. and Haida Pt. is a dangerous reef, only showing at low tide, and not marked, as most dangers are, by kelp. It is not in the way of any present traffic, as vessels seldom enter Massacre Bay.

I find that in lettering the sheet I overlooked the name of White Beach Bay, which forms the N. E. angle of West Sound; - the name is due to two or three patches of whitish gravel beach. Making back from this bay is the largest valley on the island, and it has been largely cleared and cultivated. The mail steamers touch here daily at the wharf at West Sound Post office, where is also a small country store.

Sheep Island, near the middle of White Beach Bay is a small low island, with rocky shores and wooded. - the underbrush has been cleared and the island is used as a picnic ground.



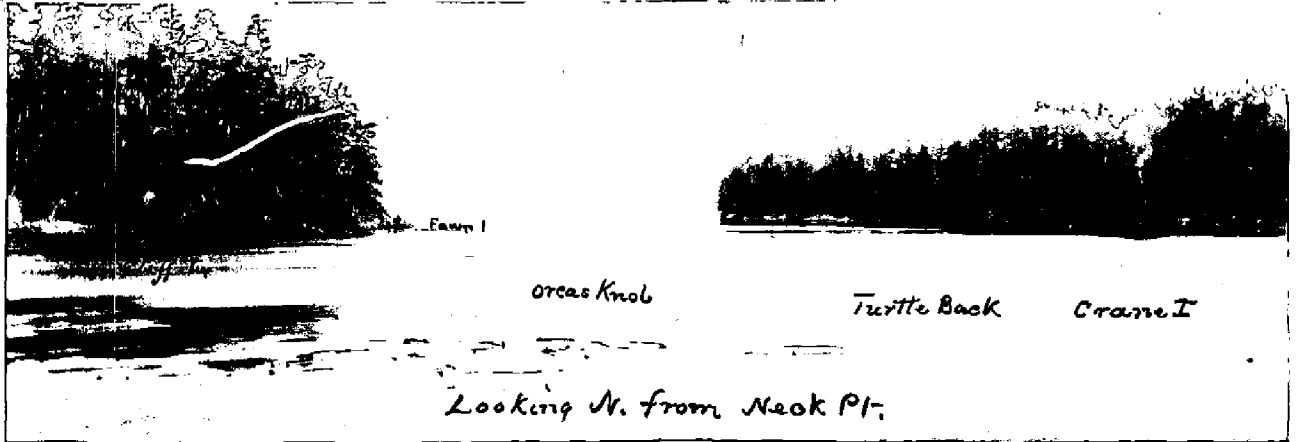
The East side of West Sound, shown in this view, is mostly rocky shoreline, with here and there patches of gravel.

Oak Island is a small low rocky islet, covered with small brush, mostly vine oak and Goldenrod.

The portion of Shaw Island on this sheet is mostly unoccupied. The northern shore, along Wasp Passage is bold and rocky, generally, with gravel or boulder beach most of the way. There is a deep bay in the shore line East of Neck Point, but it is too shallow to be useful as an anchorage.

Neck Point is at the west entrance to Wasp Passage, which reaches to Broken Point. It is nearly straight, its narrowest part being at

Station Narrow, - There are no dangers except close to shore. This view, taken from Neck Point



illustrates from another point cliff and Cramer Islands, which have already been described.

The headland upon which Signal "Bead" is located should have a name. This view of



it is taken from the east end of Yellow Island, and shows Bow Island in the foreground.

Between this head, and Neck Point is a picturesque little bay, which would be a snug anchorage but for a reef near its center. This reef is bare at low tides, but being unmarked by kelp, there

is nothing at high tide to suggest its presence. I found it, accidentally, by dropping anchor on it at high tide, and afterward returned at low tide and located it.

From the head land eastward is very irregular, and rocky, except around the heads of the small bays, where there is gravel. In the largest of these bays is a wharf, from which a rail track extends back a short distance to a limestone ledge. - The wharf & track belong to the Everett Smelter Co. The quarry was exhausted this season, and the force transferred to Cliff Id. Off this bay are several small rocky islets, bare of trees or vegetation.

With one exception, all the dangers to navigation, which I have been able to discover or hear about, have been shown upon the sheet. - While I could not have low tide for all the work, yet I endeavored to take a low-tide view of all portions where rocks might be expected, to make sure that nothing had been overlooked. The exception is a sunken rock near the head of Deer Harbor, which was reported to me by a settler, but which he could not locate, and which I failed to find. It is reported to be a sunken rock, with 6 or 8 ft water at low tide, lying nearly

in line between the end of the wharf, and the point at head of bay where Mr. Paimain lives.

There is anchorage and reasonable protection almost anywhere in Deer Harbor and West Sound.

The tidal currents are strong through Pole Pass, Wasp Passage, Spring Passage, Middle Channel and President Channel.

Camp was established on Broken Point, near station Magnetic, with good anchorage and landing on the East side of the point.

J. J. Gilbert
Assist. G. S. Survey