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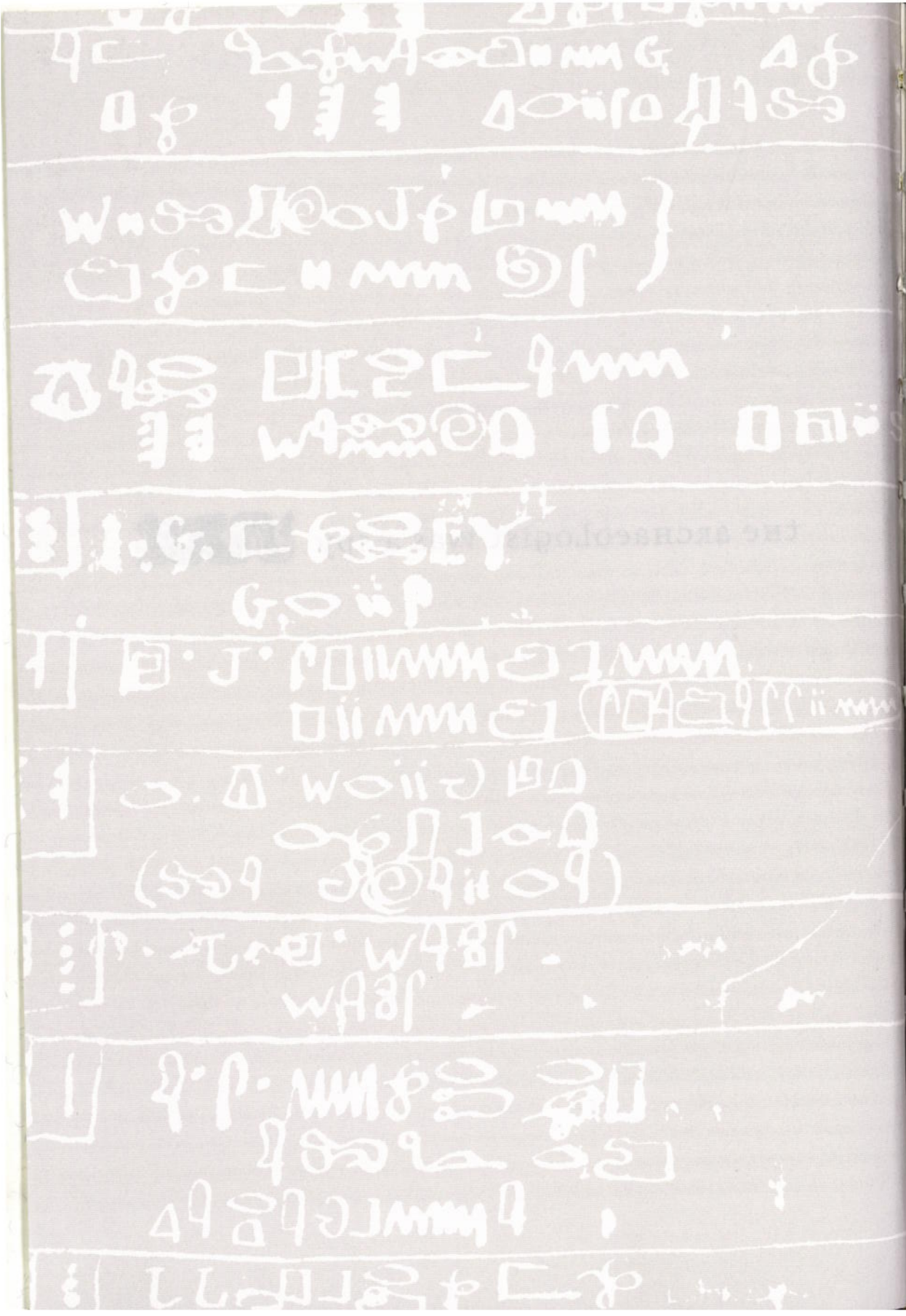
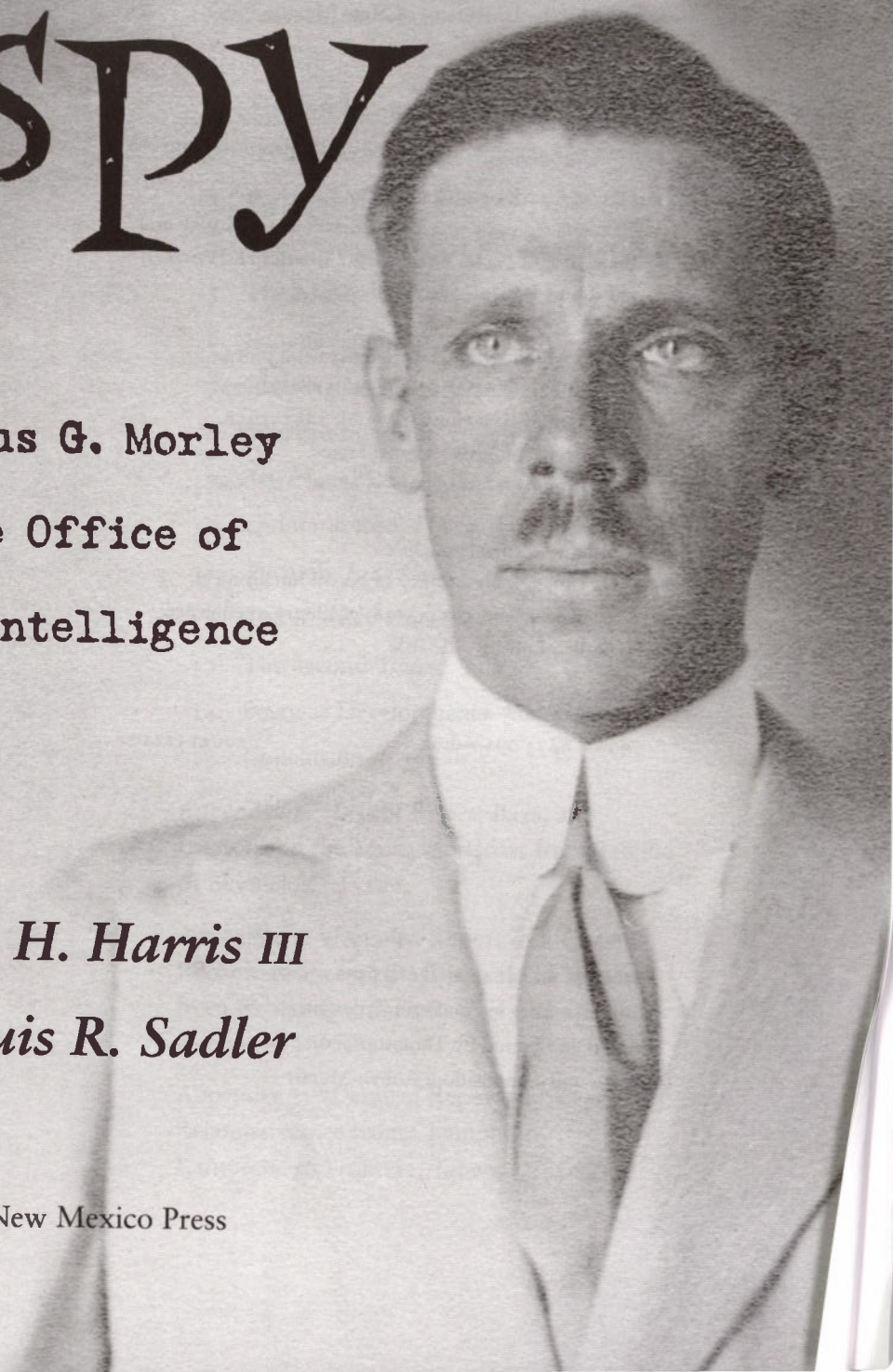
the
ARCHAEOLOGIST

was
a
SPY

Sylvanus G. Morley
and the Office of
Naval Intelligence

*Charles H. Harris III
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Appendix 1

Report No. 11: "List of Rivers, Bays, and Lagoons on the Mosquito Coast from Trujillo to Bluefields"

Chapaqua River	Closed months. Feb 15 to Oct. 15 Maximum depth at bar when open 9' Minimum " " 3' Average " " 5' to 6'
	Small Hondurenean settlement, 3 or 4 houses on W. bank Navigable about 10 miles for boats drawing not more than 5'
Aguan River	Open all year Maximum depth at bar 9' Nov. Dec. Jan. Minimum " " 3' April, May Average " " 4' to 5'
	Small settlements both sides. W. bank: Bar of the Aguan, Caribs and several whites. Charles Kirkonnell and family from island of Guanaja. One Austrian, Alois Egelsee, uncultivated, and not dangerous. E. Bank: Santa Rosa de Aguan, commandancia, no whites. 24 miles up stream at Tablon an English family by name of Duvall.
	Navigable for about 36 miles in the rainy season for Boats drawing not more than 5', and for 14 miles in the dry season.

Limon River	Closed 8 months. Feb. 15 to Oct. 15 Maximum depth at bar when open 9' Minimum " " 3' Average " " 4' to 5'
	Small Carib settlement: Limon E. Bank. One American: Austin Gabriel and family. Navigable for about 15 miles in the rainy season for boats drawing not more than 5' and for 10 miles in The dry season.
Salada River	Closed almost entire year. Maximum depth when open 5' Usual " " 1'
	No settlements. Navigable for pitpans about 30 miles.
Paya or Vallecito River	Same as Salada Hondurenean ranch W. bank
Miel River	Same as Salada No settlement
Sangrelayn River	Same as Salada Iriona, small town on W. bank, population about 250, mostly Hondurenean. There is a commandancia and the last telegraph station on the north coast. Commandante: Dr. Lobos. No Americans or English or Germans. 2 whites: Gabriel Pinseau (French) and Antonio Ylla, Spanish (Catalan). Carib village: Sangrelaya, 4 miles above Iriona on E. bank.
Tocomacho River	Same as Salada Small Carib settlement 1/2 mile above mouth. 3 or 4 Germans: Dr. Bordenhiever, a physician, 50 Fred Vitt, a cocoanut planter, 50 ? Chuker, " " 40 and possible one or two others. An Englishman by the name of Bluett has a small plantation and lives in the immediate vicinity.

Black River	Open all year		
	Maximum depth at bar		8'
	Minimum	" "	4' 6"
	Average	" "	8'

Small settlement: Palacios, W. bank. 2 Americans Riplinger and Downell.

1 mile above mouth W. bank H. E. Dunning an American Carpenter.

5 miles above mouth E. Bank E. A. Bruner an American planter.

Navigable for about 15 miles in the rainy season to the junction of the Paulaya and Sigai rivers for boats drawing not more than 5', and for 10 miles in the dry season.

Navigable for pitpans as far as Paya Falls 30 miles up.

Plantain River	Open all year		
	Maximum depth at bar		6'
	Minimum	" "	3' 6"
	Average	" "	4'

Indian settlement at mouth. 2 Americans, L. T. Potter and Ed Edwards both cocoanut planters, latter on W. bank.

After leaving Plantain river the mountains fall away to the SE until just N of Bluefields. The intervening country is low and flat.

Bruss or Brewers Lagoon	Sept. to Jan.		
	Maximum depth at bar	16'	Sept. To Jan.
	Minimum	" "	6' May to June
	Average	" "	9'

Mouth 200 yards wide.

Average depth of lagoon 5'. This is reduced to 3' in many places by oyster beds.

An 8" channel passes around W end of lagoon and E of Cannon Islands thence E by S, to Sicri Point on S shore, thence E to cutoff at E end leading to Patuca River.

Small settlement at mouth on W bank. Commandancia. Peter Marin a Belize negro and British subject lives here. He is thoroughly familiar with all parts of the lagoon.

4 small islands, the Cannon Islands, 2 miles S of the mouth. 2 Americans: Willy and John Wood, brothers, 45 and 50 respectively live here with their Negro women.

Indian settlement: Bruss Lagoon, on S shore toward the E end, population about 250.

Ranch on N shore toward E end, an American, Dick Riplinger, 44, lives and manages a big cocoanut plantation which extends from the E side of the mouth of the lagoon, along the shore as far as the Patuca river. His house is visible from the sea, 7 or 8 miles [?] of the mouth as it is built on a narrow spit of sand between the lagoon and the sea. This property belongs to a Frenchman: D. Alvarez, of Ceiba, and is managed by Riplinger. It is called the Bruss Lagoon Cocoanut Company. The land at the W end of the lagoon is poor and swampy. The best land is at the E and S sides where the savanna, or open grassy plain come clear down to the shores of the lagoon.

There is an inland connection or cutoff between the E end of the lagoon and the Patuca river, which has a fairly deep channel, 9' to 10' but a low bar of 3' where it empties into the lagoon.

Patuca River	Open all year		
	Maximum depth at bar		7' Aug. To Dec.
	Minimum	" "	4' March to June
	Average	" "	5' to 6'

Mouth a quarter mile wide. Bar shifts constantly. 2 channels, deeper one to the E. This enters the river at right angles to it. W channel is shallower and narrower and is only used when the wind is from the E. The water of the Caribbean is discolored for a distance of 7 or 8 miles out to sea at the season of the floods.

The Patuca is a very large river, second only in size to the Wanks. Its bar is the worst on the entire coast W of Cape Gracias and it extends for more than a mile out to sea, and is practically impassible in any strong blow from the NNE or NW. Navigable for about 40 miles for boats drawing not more than 5'.

Tapacunta River	Open all year	
	Maximum depth at bar	5'
	Minimum " "	3'
One old man from Haiti, John Benny, lives on W side at mouth.		
In the Navy chart of 1877 this bar is shown as having had a depth of 7'. It is not regarded as a channel now, however, by the coast captains and is only used by small Carib boats.		
This river which runs out of the W end of Caratasca Lagoon is not only closed at times, but is also shallow and narrow.		

Caratasca Lagoon	Open all year	
	Maximum depth at bar	18'
	Minimum " "	6'
	Average " "	8' to 9'

Mouth about a quarter mile wide. After passing mouth of lagoon there are large shallows on each side along N shore, but on S side, particularly in front of the commandancia (Tansin or Ahuiayeri) i.e., just S of the mouth of the lagoon, there is another shallow not over 3' deep extending for a quarter mile off the shore. The largest steamer which had ever navigated on the lagoon is the "Yulu" drawing 8', formerly belonging to the Emory Mahogany Co. Who cut wood on the shores of the lagoon at one time. This was sold by them to the Nicaraguan Government some years ago, and has very recently been purchased by people in the states, after having been laid up here at Bluefields for some years.

The shores of the lagoon are low. The N side is separated from the sea only by a narrow strip of sand covered with low tropical bush. The S side has open rolling savannas covered here and there with scattering groves of pine. This savanna extends for 3 days journey to the S and as far E as the Wanks river.

There is a maze of connecting lagoons on the S and W sides of the large lagoon or Caratasca proper, Guaranta being the largest of those on the W, Tansin of those on the S and Kowkera of those on the E. There is no water connection with the Patuca, although with a small portage the trip can be made in pitpan or cayuca. The Guaranta and Tansin Lagoons are sweet water, which permits the growth of a rank water grass that fouls propellers and renders navigation even by small motor boats almost impossible. These 2 lagoons have a depth of 15', much deeper than salt-water Kowkera, which only has 8'.

The shores of these interlocking lagoons are indented with small bays and there is a maze of channels and islands, the shores of which are for the most part low mangrove swamps.

On the shores of these lagoons and their immediate vicinity there are upward of 1000 Mosquito Indians. The only whites on the lagoon are the Hunter and Haylock families, Island people from Guanaja, who live on the E shore of Kowkera Lagoon, and the occasional residence of 2 Americans, Johnson and Alexander who have ranches E of Kowkera Lagoon. Johnson is manager of the Richard Lehmann Co. at Cape Gracias and Alexander works for the United Fruit Co. at Tela. The only other foreigners on the Lagoon are those employed by the American Chic Co. The commissary of this company is located on the S side of Tansin Island. The actual chicle camps however are 2, 3 and 4 days journey up the Ibentara River which flows into Tansin Lagoon from the S. The 60 to 80 employees of this company are chiefly Belize Negroes and Mexicans, all chicleros from British Honduras.

The settlements about these lagoons are distributed as follows:

Kaskera	just above point inside	9 people approx.
Prumetara	1 1/2 leagues E of mouth	10 " "
Dapat	1 league from the preceding	
Kowkera	" "	500 " "
Laca	3 " " and 1 league back from shore	250 " "
Nacunta	3 leagues from the preceding	10 " "
Ahuiayeri or Tansin	3 " " this is the commandancia	" " "
Natabila	1 league from the preceding	12 " "
Mistru	1 1/2 " " on or near Ibentara River	30 " "
	Island or Tansin S Side	
Aguastara	2 leagues from the preceding	20 " "
Kokota	1 " "	12 " "
Dambila	1/2 " "	10 " "
Olisanta	1/2 " "	8 " "
Unuya	1/3 " "	25 " "
Pueblo Nuevo	1/2 " " Commissary of the Am. Chic. Co. N Side	

Palaca	Only settlement of N side	20	"	"
	After leaving Pueblo Nuevo, there are no settlements on the SW or W, none in fact until the house of John Benny is reached at the mouth of Tapacunta River. See shore.			
Huji	8 leagues E of Tapacunta River	7	"	"
Crata	3 " preceding	25	"	"
Yauravila	1 1/2 " "	30	"	"

Cruta River	Open all year	
	Maximum depth at bar	7'
	Minimum " "	4'
	Average " "	5'

2 channels, W one larger and deeper.

Small Hondurenean settlement W bank, commandancia. Nicaragua claims as far W as this river and has a commandancia on the E bank at the mouth.

1 mile above mouth on E bank is trading-post of John Border a British subject from the Cayman Islands. He is very loyal and only white man on the river.

Many Indian settlements up the river. Land between the Cruta and the Wanks is low and marshy.

Navigable for 30 miles, as far as Indian settlement of Tipi for boats drawing not more than 5'.

Just beyond mouth of the Cruta is Cabo Falso or False Cape. This has a light—the only one of the Hondurenean coast E of Puerto Cortez, and there is a small Indian settlement at the same place, only one white—a Spaniard by the name of Castillo.

N. Channel Wanks River	Practically closed in March, April, May.
	Maximum depth when open 6' Sept.
	This is not the main channel or mouth of the Wanks. It carries less water than the other mouth and is less used.

S. Or Main Channel Wanks	Open all year	
	Maximum depth at bar	6'
	Minimum " "	3'
	Average " "	4' to 5'

This is the main channel and carries out a tremendous body of water.

Settlement W bank at mouth: Cape Gracias a Dios or on some older charts: Port Dietrich.

The town is administered by Nicaraguan officials, i.e., commandancia and the customs house. Honduras however claims as far E as the Wanks and the site of the place more properly falls in her jurisdiction. Population about 400, mostly Mosquito Indians; there are a number of Negro, Nicaraguan and Island half-breeds however.

There are perhaps 2 dozen whites in all, chiefly Americans and Germans employed by the different mahogany companies which have their headquarters here. This number is constantly changing.

Practically the only large buyers of mahogany here now are the Mengel Bros. Co. of Louisville, Kentucky, the Freiburg Lumber Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio, and the Huddleston and Marsh Co. of New York. These three firms employ a number of subcontractors who do the actual cutting of the mahogany. Some of these are Germans as for example, the von Kurnatowski who sells his wood to the Mengel Co. and the Richard Lehmann Co. which sells its wood to Huddleston and Marsh.

There follows a fairly complete list of the whites although a few names may be missing:

AMERICANS

	[Age]	
J. L. Rogers	30	Manager Freiburg Lumber Co.
E. H. Johnson	35	Employee R. Lehmann Co.
Willie Seat	40	Represents United States Nicaragua Co. Captain of "The Zelaya" riverboat
P. A. Bischoff	28	Represents Mengels (the manager, B. M. White, is absent in the states on his vacation, expected to return about the middle of November.
Kid Green [?]	33	Works for von Kurnatowski, probably cannot return to the states.
W. W. O'Farrell		Representing Huddleston and Marsh
J. E. Williams		" " "
Walter Siler		Works for Mengel Bros. Co.
T. A. Frame	31	Had worked for the Mengels but was discharged.

GERMANS

	[Age]	
Otto Lehmann	45	Manager of Richard Lehmann and Co. (his cousin). His wife lives in New York and has recently been in trouble with our government.
Th. Von Kurnatowsky	45	Largest mahogany contractor on the river, said to be a decent fellow, who minds his own business. Mengel Bros. Co. is buying about two million feet of mahogany from him this year. He is married to a Nicaraguan.
Willie Drescher	35	Another Mengel Bros. Co. contractor, said to be all right.
Eduardo Kattengill		Works for the R. Lehmann Co.
? Borst	25	Works for Th. von Kurnatowski
? Fuchs or Fox	25	" " "
Max Otel or Ortel	25	" " Bordas mahogany exporters. He is a fanatic and bitterly anti American. The other Germans fear him because they do not know what he will do next. He is a hot head and a featherweight.
Adolfo Omer		{Will investigate these on my return
? Meissner a German sailor		{N and report on them later.

ENGLISH

	[Age]	
Henry Blakesley	45	British Consul. Claimed by some to be an American named Crawford, who changed his name to Blakesley as a result of some bank scandal in Albany, N.Y. Talks very English and has lived in England. Appears to have money some allege suddenly acquired. He is perfectly loyal.

UP THE WANKS RIVER

	[Age]	
125 miles above—Richard Eble	40	A German rancher
Mouth 210 miles up—Albert Fagot		Three American brothers keeping a general store and trading-post
Edwin "		
Conrad "		
John Asmussen		A German Dane who also runs a small store
G. R. Heath		An Englishman and the Moravian Missionary of this place
Mouth 350 miles up—? Bergson		A German representing R. Lehmann and Co.

POWER BOATS AT THE MOUTH OF THE WANKS RIVER

I. Boats that go outside

Baldwin	27	H.P.	Mengel Co.	good	condition
Imp	18	"	"	"	"
Dorothy	52	"	R. Lehmann Co.	poor	"
Move	10	"	"	"	"
Lesambre	56	"	"	fair	"
Consort	10	"	Henry Blakesley	"	"
Cabo	27	"	"	"	"
Patria (twin-screw)	48	"	Freiburg Lumber Co.	poor	"
Rapide	12	"	Williams, an Islander	"	"

II. River Boats

Deutschland	18	H.P.	Th. von Kurnatowski	fair	"
Fatherland				poor	"
Zelaya			United States Nic. Co.	good	"
			This is the only steam boat on the river. It is a large old stern-wheeler drawing 2'6." It runs as far as Waspoek Mouth 210 miles.		
Sea Horse				no good	"
Herald				poor	"
two old hulls belonging to R. Lehmann					

The Wanks is navigable in the rainy seasons as far as Waspoek Mouth 210 miles up, for boats drawing not more than 4'. Just beyond this point is Kipliphini [?], the head of power navigation; pitpans, dories and cayucas can go much farther up. In the dry season navigable as far as the boom, 60 miles up, for boats drawing not more than 5'. Zelaya canal, an old artificial cut for taking out mahogany, runs from the E bank opposite the town to the middle of Sunbeam Bay. On W bank 6 miles above mouth and a little way back is the settlement of Ilaya. Opposite this on E bank there is a small artificially made waterway, through which boats drawing not more than 2' can pass in the rainy season. In the dry season it is practically closed. Formerly it was much deeper.

Land is building out rapidly at the mouth of this river, perhaps as high as 200' a year, and the town is being left farther and farther inland. The bar is constantly shifting, being pushed forward, and the space behind being filled in and becoming parts of the mainland. The former settlement of Cape Gracias a Dios, and the original cape of this name (dating from the visit of Columbus in 1502) is now 4 or 5 miles to the SW.

S. of Cape Gracias a Dios the tide is an important factor in the depths of the bars at any given time, making a difference of as much as 2' between high and low tides. The channels are also uniformly deepest on the S sides of the openings, due to the prevailing winds which are E, and the usual direction of the river currents, SE.

Old Cape Lagoon	Open all year	
	Maximum depth at bar	14'
	Minimum " "	6'

Just inside the lagoon there is a second bar or shoal not more than 2' deep with only a 3' channel through it. Beyond, the lagoon has 6'.

An Indian settlement (the original town of Cape Gracias a Dios) is on the S Bank of the lagoon. Population about 400 or 500, mostly Indians. One white family, all English: L. Taylor, wife and child. T[aylor] is a Moravian Missionary and is well educated. Very loyal. He lives at E end of the village, which stretches for more than a mile along the shore.

The lagoon is pear shaped 4 miles long and 2 miles wide. Originally it was much deeper, indeed 50 years ago an English fleet anchored inside where now there is only 3' to 4'. This silting up was due to the opening of a canal from the Wanks to the lagoon, which caused the latter to fill up and ultimately brought about the change of the principal settlement of the region from here to the mouth of the Wanks.

The E lagoon is even shallower. It extends N of the other and has a tidal channel to within 25 yards of the Zelaya canal.

Bemuna Bay & Wauni Sound

For the description of these bodies of water see page 11.

Sandy Bay	Maximum depth at bar	5'
	Minimum " "	3'

A narrow river or creek leading from Sandy Bay proper opens into the sea flowing SE. A shoal not more than 2' deep extends for a half a mile out to sea around the mouth. The channel is on the S side. Just inside the bar the water is 8' or 9' deep but behind i.e., W of Sandy Bay proper has a depth of 6' practically everywhere, and if it were not for this secondary bar of 3' it would be navigable for boats drawing up to 5' or even 6'.

Indian settlement of Sandy Bay on the W side. 2 whites: an old American named Wade who is thoroughly demoralized by the country, i.e., many times a squaw man, and a German Moravian Missionary.

Hausen, Hudson, Huero or Krokera River	Open all year	
	Maximum depth at bar	5' Sept.
	Minimum " "	3' June

Fairly deep channel as far as Tuapi where there are shallows.

Wawa and Karata Lagoons	Open all year	
	Maximum depth at bar	7'
	Minimum " "	3' 6"
	Average " "	5'

Shallow water extends farther out to sea here than at any other bar on the Mosquito Coast, breakers having been noticed as far as 3 miles out.

The bar itself is a mile and a half off shore. The main channel passes through the S side of the bar, although a new and much narrower channel has recently been made farther N. The latter goes almost due E from the mouth of the river. It had 6' of water this Sept.

Once over the bar the lagoon has a good deep channel until it opens into Karata Lagoon where it is 6' deep again. This quickly shallows to 5' the average depth of the lagoon, and to 4' off the village of Karata.

Small settlement S side of mouth: Wawa, population about 50, a commandancia. Just S of this on the coast

Outside is Kiah, population 150.

Indian settlement S side Karata Lagoon, population about 300. One white, a Swede Karl Bunsen, who runs a general store and trading post, and owns a motor boat.

There are two Indian villages on the savanna behind Karata having a population of 100 and 250 respectively

The Wawa River flows into the NW side of Karata Lagoon.

The bar and channel are both deep and the river is navigable as far as the settlement of Ahuiapihini, 30 miles above the bar.

There is considerable mahogany cut on this river, the largest company operating being an English firm, Belanger Incorporated. The manager, a Scotch Canadian by the name of Lauder, lives in Bluefields.

Waunta Lagoon

Open all year

Maximum depth at bar 7' Sept., Oct.

Minimum " " 4' July

Average " " 5' to 6'

The channel is again at the S side of the mouth. Shallow water extends quite a distance out, the 2 fathom curve being more than 2 miles off shore. A mahogany steamer "The Paraiso" went ashore there on Sept. 27 and got off. The captain made a survey of these shoals, he told me. Office and Commissary of the Wawa Commercial Company on S bank at mouth. The main logging camps are 30 miles up the river and 5 miles beyond is their boom and the end of power navigation.

The company has 22 miles of railroad.

Richard Lehmann is manager of the concern and he has just returned from the states—Sept. 27—I was told at Cape Gracias that he had been detained there some time pending the investigation of his case by the Federal authorities. He employs a number of Germans, perhaps a half dozen all told, as sub-contractors etc.

Walpasiza River

Open all year

Maximum depth at bar 9'

Minimum " " 3'

Average " " 6'

This river is used chiefly when the bar of the Prinzapalka River silts up, and boats drawing 4' or 5' cannot get in there. By using the Walpasiza, however, and going 25 miles up stream, entrance can always be made into the Prinzapalka through an interior connection which is always open.

Prinzapalka River

Open all year

Maximum depth at bar 9' Sept. Oct.

Minimum " " 3'

Average " " 6'

Town of Prinzapalka S side of mouth largest settlement on coast since Trujillo, a number of Americans and a few Germans. The chief businesses are mining and mahogany.

The large American mining companies whose mines are located from 100 to 150 miles inland all maintain offices here. The principal companies are The Eden Mining Co. of Philadelphia and the Luz y Angeles—the latter I think—of

New York. These companies employ young Americans, mining engineers, superintendents, managers and doctors, and nothing could start in this region without knowledge thereof quickly reaching our nationals.

The Mengel Bros. Co. have a representative here also.

This is the farthest point N reached by the telephone and telegraph in Nicaragua.

The river is navigable for about 100 miles in power boats. It is a big stream at its flood tide in Sept. and Oct. but shrinks to 3' at the bar in the dry season.

Great River

all year

Maximum depth at bar 10'

Minimum " " 5'

Average " " 8'

Settlement N bank Great River population 200 or 250. A commandancia. 3 whites: an Englishman ex-soldier by the name of Cooper who teaches the local school and 2 brothers named Sinclair also British subjects from Cayman Brac. [sic] The latter keep a general store and trading-post at the W end of the village.

Across the river is a large two story hotel in fairly good condition built by the same man (Detrick) who built the one at Cape Gracias. It is now owned by the Sinclair Bros. It was never opened. There are two chief industries Mahogany and Banana. There are a few Americans up the river managing banana plantations but no Germans. I was told all the latter had left.

The river is navigable for boats drawing not more than 6' for 100 miles. It was found to have the highest average depth at its bar of any river, bay or lagoon examined except Pearl Lagoon.

Pearl Lagoon

Open all year

Maximum depth at bar 10'

Minimum " " 6'

Average " " 8'

Small settlement S side of mouth: Pearl Point, population about 30; commandancia and commissary of the Atlantic Fruit Co. here. A few Americans but no Germans.

Principal settlement W side lagoon: Pearl City of Brautigams, population 600 or 700, commandancia, telephone and

telegraph. A half dozen Americans live here employed by the Atlantic Fruit Co. The manager is a Swede named Brautigam. No Germans.

The lagoon is very shallow in most places because of the oyster beds, there is however a tortuous S shaped channel from the bar to Pearl City, having a depth of 10'.

Boats drawing 5' or 6' go into the wharf at Pearl Point but there is only 3' of water off the wharf at Pearl City.

The Pearl Lagoon bar was the best examined on the entire trip, and with the exception of bar at Bluefields it is said to be the best on the Mosquito Coast.

Omitted from page 8

Bemuna Bay and
Wauni Sound

Open all year
Maximum depth at bar 4'
Minimum " " 3'

Shoals about 3' deep extend for nearly a mile out to sea.

Channel is at the S side. There is a small island, just in the middle of the mouth.

Inside the bar the water varies from 6' to 12'

3 Indian villages on or near Wauni Sound

NW side Wauni 50 people about 6 miles from bar

NW side on Krackpakia Creek: Krackpakia 100 just above preceding: Auyapihini 30

N side Bemuna Bar: Bemuna

There is an interior connection between Bemuna and Sandy Bays.

Sylvanus G. Morley

Appendix 2

Detailed Report of a Coast Reconnaissance of the Peninsula of Yucatan from Xcalac Quintana Roo to Champoton Campeche.

Payo Obispo. Capital of Territory of Quintana Roo.

PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS

Governor: General Octaviano Solis

Commander of troops: Lieutenant-colonel
Florentin de la Rosa

Commander of the Flotilla del Sur:
Lieutenant-major Edmundo Elizondo

Chief-engineer: Vicente Parrilla

Secretary to governor: Enrique Barragan

Assistant secretary: Armando Zapata Vera

Payo Obispo is located on the western shore of Chetumal Bay at the mouth of the Rio Hondo, 2 1/2 miles north of Consejo, the northernmost settlement in British Honduras (pop. about 30) and 12 miles northeast of Corozal, the second largest city in British Honduras (pop. about 2000)

There are two wharves one used by the Flotilla del Sur, and the other by the Custom-house and general public. There is 4' of water at the end of each, and 6' a quarter of a mile off shore.

The electric-light plant and ice-factory are owned and operated by the government, and with the exception of a few store-keepers, chicleros and transients almost the entire male population is employed by the government in one capacity or another.

There are no Germans here or for that matter anywhere else in the Territory of Quintana Roo so far as I could learn.

There is a wireless station with a single tower 45 meters high. It communicates directly with Merida, Campeche and Xcalac all the time, and occasionally with Acapulco Mexico. The operator told me he could hear Swan Island Belize and the U.F. Company stations on the north coast of Honduras but that he did not work with them. The equipment is a 10 kilowatt Deutz Otto (German make), I was told that all the Mexican Government equipment was the same. I was also told that another wireless station was in course of erection at Puerto Moreles, (No. 31) but when we called there I saw no signs of it

Formerly Payo Obispo was the center for a large mahogany, log-wood and chicle export business. But since the C.C. Mengel Mahogany Co. of Louisville, Kentucky was driven out of there three years ago in the Garcilasso revolution the place has been of little importance and has been maintained by the Mexicans more through national pride and necessity than as a source of revenue.

The governor is an illiterate man of 34 from Puebla de los Angeles, and is said to be absolutely just. He has obviously risen from the rank and file, in, and with the revolution. He impressed me as a strong man, and in a military way, capable. His policy seems to be to mind his own business and keep out of trouble, that is to say he is not the intriguing kind so common in these countries. His assistant-secretary, Zapata Vera, told me that several months before he had given some "Guatemaltecan" revolutionists, who were at Xcalac, 3 days to clear out of there. I judge this to have been the same outfit which landed at Rio Esteban on the north coast of Honduras in the latter part of December, a matter already reported both by Held and myself (see my No. 18). This would again appear to indicate that our friend Manuel Estrada Cabrera had his finger in that particular pie.

* * *

The actual governing brains however are supplied by his two secretaries but more particularly by the senior Enrique Barragan a young man of 25 from Mexico City. He is very quick alert keen and intelligent without much education; does not speak English but plays baseball and was very friendly to us if indeed not downright pro-American, a very rare thing in a Mexican.

I could see for myself during the two days that we were there that the governor deferred every important decision to him even the matter of giving us a letter of recommendation.

Next in influence comes the assistant secretary Zapata Vera, also from Mexico City, a young man of 21, mother of Scotch parentage, father a Mexican and Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs under President Diaz. Zapata Vera was educated at Philips Exeter Academy and speaks English fluently and was very friendly too. In fact he was specially delegated to look after us while we were there. He is the chap who is erroneously reported in Belize to be "the German secretary of the governor." This alleged Hun in the Belize story was named Zapata also. His hair is reddish and he has blue eyes on which evidence the credulous Belize creole has made him into a Hun.

These three men govern the territory. Solis provides the strong arm, the executive end as it were, and Barragan and Zapata Vera the brains or legislative and judicial end if I may stretch my simile so far.

About 200 troops are maintained at the capital and in the surrounding region distributed as follows: Payo Obispo 100 (we counted 60 privates in the parade on February 5 here); Bacalar 25 (No. 2); and about 5 each at Chac (No. 3); Sacxan (No. 4); Ramonal (No. 5); Esteves (No. 6); Pucte (No. 7); and Blue Creek (No. 8), the last five being small chicle camps on the Rio Hondo, the boundary between Mexico and British Honduras.

In addition to being the capital of the territory Payo Obispo is the headquarters of the Flotilla del Sur which employs about 100 men including machinists, workman, sailors and officers. Most of these are stationed in the machine shops or on the boats at Payo Obispo though a few are at Xcalac. The salaries of these men alone cost the Mexican Government \$10,000.00 gold a month.

The Flotilla del Sur consists of three steamboats: the Guatemoc, the Coatzacoalcos and the Explorador (the last being kept at Xcalac for towing purposes) about 28 or 30 tons each. 6 small motor boats (one of these makes 15 miles an hour) 3 stern-wheel river boats and several light draft bungays. There are also several privately owned motor boats in the town.

The commander Lieutenant-major Elizondo speaks English and appears to be very pro-American and certainly is very pro-President Wilson. He seems to be an able officer. The Chief engineer Vicente Parilla also speaks English and is a clever mechanic and machine man.

The Flotilla maintains a fairly well equipped machine and repair shop turning-lathes, drop-forges etc. an ice factory and electric light plant, the last three in charge of Parrilla, a thoroughly capable young man of 28. We saw some of his repair work on broken motor-boat parts that indicates fairly good machine work

is being done here. The Flotilla also maintains its own hospital, office buildings and quarters both for officers and men.

In conclusion I should state that notwithstanding the fact that we were Americans and frankly came as such the atmosphere here was distinctly friendly and the allusions to our President were both friendly and flattering. They said quite freely that the election of Mr. Hughes would have meant intervention, and they were glad he had lost. There was a feeling of cordiality expressed which surprised me, and we were taken all over the place, shown everything, and wined and dined and feted, and for once in our long wanderings were made to feel that even as gringos we were welcome.

I left as agent to cover this vicinity, i.e., Payo Obispo, Bacalar and Xcalac one Mariano Vasquez, who lives at Corozal but who goes over to Payo Obispo trading three or four times a week. He is thoroughly (trustworthy) having been working for Gann for ten years at least, as a collector of his rents. He will work through Gann at Belize making reports to him there and should be paid through Gann as he knows nothing of us, and thinks he is working for Gann only in this matter. He will cost about \$15.00 or \$20.00 a month.

* * *

Motor-boats run from Payo Obispo to La Aguada (No. 9) on the east side of Chetumal Bay, a distance of 30 miles and from there a Decauville Railroad 7 kilometers long runs across the point to Xcalac on the outside.

Held and I came across this way, Gann going around Ambergris in the "Lilian Y." See the itinerary on the accompanying map. Chetumal Bay is very shallow, about 12' deep in the middle but not more than 11 or 12 deep around the edges even a mile or so off shore. There are no houses or people at La Aguada everything having been destroyed by the great cyclone of October 1916, and never has been rebuilt. There is a telephone box and line running over to Xcalac for summoning a mule-drawn tram-car to take one over the Decauville railroad to Xcalac.

* * *

10. Xcalac. The town of Xcalac is 6 miles north of Bacalar Chico Creek a small body of water (11/2' to 4' deep) which runs from Chetumal Bay to the sea and separates Mexico from British Honduras here. Xcalac has a pop. of about 150. There is 8' of water inside the reef a quarter of a mile off shore.

There is a small wireless station which however only has a

radius of communication as far as Payo Obispo, a small light house, a broken-down dredge, a ship-repair shop and a few rotting hulls. The place is very much run down, and indeed is largely in ruins having been directly in the main path of the great cyclone of October, 1916 which devastated this whole region.

The steamboat "Explorador" is kept here to tow boats in and out through the opening in the barrier-reef which was enlarged by dynamite some years ago by the Mexican Government to make it safer. It is still an ugly place however, and in any kind of a wind from the north-east, east, or northwest is downright dangerous. Local pilots will not attempt its passage at such times preferring to wait several days if necessary for the sea to go down.

This barrier-reef, which borders the entire east coast of the peninsula is a dangerous business. For example Gann was detained at San Pedro on Ambergris Key for 24 hours waiting for a north-east wind to subside and sufficiently to allow him to come out through the reef in the "Lilian Y." And about a year ago when the Mexican Government sent a troop-transport from Coatzacoalcos to Xcalac it was so rough when the boat got off Xcalac that the captain was afraid to try and run her through the break in the reef, but instead proceeded on to Belize and asked permission of the Governor there to land the troops and send them in smaller boats through British waters behind the keys (Ambergris, Congrejo, Corker and Long Keys) on to Payo Obispo.

The Mexican Government cut an 8' channel from the sea into a small lagoon behind Xcalac to make a safe anchorage for vessels up to that draft, but the mouth of this was filled in with sand in the cyclone already mentioned.

I give these few instances to show that the principal port of the territory, and the gateway to its capital is only an open roadstead, dangerous at best, and frequently altogether impassible.

* * *

The coast between Xcalac and Punto Herrero (No. 18) is low flat and sandy; there a few fishing villages and cocoanut plantations, the inhabitants being Maya Indians with an occasional Mexican. There are no foreigners. A list of the settlements follows:

11. Rio Guach	Pop. 30 to 40
12. Chauaixol	" 12 " 15
13. San Francisco	" 8 " 10
14. Majagual	" 25 " 30

17. Ubero " 50 " 75 This is a cocoanut plantation owned by the firm of Caldwell and Bonastre of San Miguel Cozumel.
15. Lobos Key These two points mark the southern and northern extremities respectively of the dangerous Chinchorro Banks. Formerly the Mexican Government had light-houses at each point but the one on Lobos Key—the southern extremity—was destroyed in the cyclone of 1916 and has not yet been rebuilt although I heard at Payo Obispo that it soon would be.
16. North Key

18. Punto Herrero.

This is the southern point of Espirtu Santo Bay. Pop. about 13 (3 light-keepers and their respective families). This light is one of the three most powerful in the territory and consumes 2½ gallons of kerosene nightly. The head-keeper told me two shipments of oil are received annually from Mexico. His light received on each shipment: 600 gallons of oil, which was sufficient for 8 months. After such a semi-annual shipment there is quite a quantity of oil stored along this eastern coast of the peninsula. The equipment: lamps, tower, lenses, etc. here and throughout the rest of the light-houses on the coasts of the peninsula is French. There are 11 light-houses in the territory as follows, No. 2 having been destroyed in the cyclone of 1916 as already mentioned:

1. Xcalac (No. 10)
2. Chinchorro Banks, Lobos Key (No. 15)
3. " " North Key (No. 16)
4. Punto Herrero (No. 18)
5. Ascencion Bay, Punto Allen (No. 21)
6. Cozumel Island, Punto Celerain (No. 39)
7. San Miguel (No. 32)
8. Punto Molas (No. 40)
9. Puerto Moreles (No. 31)
10. Mugeris Island (No. 50)
11. Contoy Island (No. 51)
12. Cape Catoche (No. 48)

Of these the ones at Punto Herrero, Punto Celerain and Contoy Island are the most powerful. We found all 11 burning regularly. The inspector of light-houses for the territory is a young man named Vidal who was educated at the Van Rensslear Polytechnic Institute and speaks English fluently. He makes his headquarters at San Miguel on the island of Cozumel.

Espiritu Santo Bay Just north of Punto Herrero are three very shallow entrances to Espiritu Santo Bay all of them having less than 3' of water. The deepest channel into the bay is over against the northern point (Punto Fupar). This has a 6' depth over the bar. In heavy weather entrance is dangerous here.

Inside the entrance a depth of 10' may be obtained but this shades off very quickly to 9', 8', 7', 6', and 5'. The shores are very very shallow and shoals of 1' depth extend a long way out. There is less than 3' of water a quarter of a mile off shore. The shores are bordered particularly on the west and south sides by a 10 yard strip of stinking soft mud almost impossible to wade through, which makes landing a difficult, laborious and unpleasant process.

There are no people of any nationality not even Maya Indians living on the shores of the bay, so poor is the surrounding country and so difficult is it of access both by land and sea.

The soil is a shell-sand mixed with a little earth, which supports scrub growth of salt water pimento palm, sour-grass, mangrove and buttonwood.

Although on the map this body of water appears extremely well adapted for exploitation against us, the following factors practically negative the possibility of its ever being thus utilized:

1. Very shallow bar, maximum depth 6'
2. Maximum depth inside only 6' and this only in the very middle.
3. Very shallow water around sides, less than 2' almost everywhere
4. Strip of soft mud 10 to 15 yards wide around south and west shores
5. No inhabitants of any nationality on shores or in immediate vicinity
6. Prevalent winds make the bar rough the greater part of the year.

There are no people living on the coast between Espiritu Santo and Ascencion Bays. The shores are low with sand dunes thrown up just back of the beach line. We put ashore at two places: Punto Santa Rosa (No. 19) and Punto Pajaros (No. 20) and did a little exploring behind, as far back as the arm of Ascencion extending south, which nearly connects it with Espiritu Santo Bay. We saw no signs of recent human habitation however, and indeed one very good sign that this littoral is visited but infrequently. The beach was strewn with more or less valuable wreckage all along: life-preservers, paddles, dories, mahogany logs etc; which would have been

picked up and salvaged if anybody had passed that way recently. We ourselves picked up an excellent little dory in good condition marked "Ti-Tani." One letter more and we would have had the Titanic only the word was hyphenated as I have written it.

I should report here also, the finding of a circular life-buoy in good condition belonging or at least marked: S.S.IAQUA S.F.

The only visitors to this shore, in fact the only inhabitants of the region save the Mexican settlements enumerated here and the Indian villages in the interior are fishing-folk from the Island of Cozumel or from San Pedro on Ambergris Key who come infrequently, and stay only for short periods in the fishing and turtle season—February to March—and Indians who come down to the beach in May-August to collect turtle-eggs.

The barrier-reef continues all along with frequent breaks giving 12' 14' 16' and 18' depths.

Ascension Bay

The main channel into Ascension Bay is between Point Allen and Culebra Keys and passes just north of Buoy 224. This channel is 14' deep at high tide and 12' deep at all times. Within toward the center depths of 16' and 17' are found everywhere. This shallows down to 6' a quarter of a mile off shore, and to 1' close in. The shores are either rocky or sandy having none of the sticky mud noted in Espiritu Santo Bay.

There are only two permanent settlements on Ascension Bay: Ascension on Allen Point (No. 21) and Vigia Chica on the western shore (No. 22). There is a small temporary settlement of fishermen at Boca Paila (No.23) and another on the southeasternmost of Culebra Keys (No.24), the last two only being occupied during the fishing season from February to May.

Formerly the Mexican Government maintained a small convict camp on the northwesternmost of the Culebra Keys but the convicts escaped on a raft in 1911 and the place has since been unoccupied.

21. Ascencion. Pop. 8, a light-keeper and 2 celadors or under Customs officials and their respective families. The place was formerly the largest town in Quintana Roo boasting a population of 2500. It was founded in 1902 by General Jose Maria de la Vega and was the first Mexican settlement in the region. The wharf is 40 yards long but is now in ruins. It has 6' of water at its end. The Mexican gunboats which formerly made tri-monthly sails to this port and which drew 12' of water used to anchor at Buoy No. 8 which is 5 miles

west by south of Allen Point and 1 1/2 miles southeast of Vigia Chica. There is an abandoned two-masted Mexican gunboat "La Independencia" about a quarter of a mile off Vigia Chica.

22. Vigia Chica. This settlement is the tide-water terminus of the narrow gauge railroad (Ferrocarril Nacional de Quintana Roo) to Santa Cruz de Bravo. Formerly it was a town of 100 people now it is scarcely a third that size.

There is a Mexican lieutenant (Cristobal Sanchez) and a guard of 14 soldiers. These with a few transient chicle-bleeders constitute the present population.

The town suffered heavily in the cyclone of 1916, a barge being washed an eighth of a mile inland. Few of the houses are now habitable, and the whole place: stone wharf, railroad repair-shops, rolling-stock, etc. has already gone to rack and ruin. The wharf has 5' of water at its end at low tide.

26. Santa Cruz de Bravo. The inland terminus of this railroad is Santa Cruz de Bravo 56 kilometers west southwest from Vigia Chica This place was an old Spanish town abandoned in 1848 during the War of the Casta and occupied by the Santa Cruz Indians, a Maya tribe, from that time down to about 1902 when the reconquest of the region was undertaken by General De la Vega, and the town was reoccupied by the Mexicans and made the capital of the territory of Quintana Roo.

It was used for the double purpose of furnishing a convenient base from which the reconquest of the region might be effected and also for the purpose of establishing there a penal colony for the whole of the Republic, a sort of Mexican Botany Bay as it were. In fact the railroad from Vigia to Santa Cruz as well as all the Mexican improvements in both places were built by convict-labor.

The town was at its height in 1908 under General Bravo when it numbered close on to 3000 people. After the success of the Madero revolution the place began to decline and in August 1915 its final abandonment was ordered by General Alvarado then Governor of Yucatan on the grounds that it was too inaccessible and too costly to be maintained further as the capital of the territory. The capital was then removed to Payo Obispo on the shores of Chetumal Bay and Santa Cruz itself was turned over to the Santa Cruz Indians who had claimed it ever since 1848.

This step greatly relieved the tension between the Indians of the region and the Mexicans who had been at war with each other ever since 1848 and there is now in operation between them a sort of "live and let live non-interference with each other" sort of an arrangement.

When I visited the town on February 10 I found it entirely

abandoned save for two families of Santa Cruz Indians; and the fairly extensive improvements of the decade of the Mexican Regime (1905-1915): electric-light and ice plants, water pumping station, telegraph-lines government offices, stores, restaurants, clubs, hospital, and plaza were fast falling into decay and the jungle was rapidly reclaiming all. The place and its equipment are now a complete ruin, and the millions of dollars spent there by the Mexican Government from 1905 to 1915 is a total loss.

Ferrocarril Nacional de Quintana Roo

The Ferrocarril Nacional de Quintana Roo is a narrow gauge railroad (size of gauge 2' between rails) and about a 20 lb. rail (1 1/4" wide). Formerly there were 5 small wood-burning locomotives and 30 cars; now there is nothing. All are piles of scrap iron at Vigia Chica. The rolling stock for this railroad was all supplied by Arthur Kopple of Berlin. The line is 56 kilometers long and when the road was in use the bush was kept cleared for a distance of 30 meters on each side of the right-of-way (campo del tiro) so that the Santa Cruz Indians could not attack the trains without being seen. There were six stations, not towns or villages in any sense, but armed military camps:

Station	A	at Kilometer	1	from Vigia Chica
"	B	"	"	10 "
"	C	"	"	18 "
"	Central	"	"	34 "
"	D	"	"	42 "
"	Laguna	"	"	52 "

There are wells at all these stations but all except Central are now abandoned and are returning to the bush.

When the Mexicans abandoned Santa Cruz two sections of the railroad were torn up in order to prevent the Santa Cruz Indians from attacking Vigia Chica, one near Santa Cruz and the other near Vigia Chica.

The former is between Kilometers 48 and 50 and is slightly over a mile in length, and the latter is between Kilometers 9 and 11 and is slightly under a mile in length. The rails from these two sections have not only been removed but sold.

Within the past two years (1917-1918) three chicle contractors: Julio Martin, a Cuban; Eusebio Alamilla, a British Hondurenean; and Juan Jerales, a Turk have reached an understanding with

the Santa Cruz Indians and an agreement with the Mexican Government and are bleeding in the region.

They have repaired the telephone line as far as Central (Kilometer 34) where Martin has his main camp now, and they use small trucks drawn by mules with the one carry at Kilometers 9-11 to haul out their chicle. Martins camp manager at Central is a Spaniard named Rosendo Villa who was very kind to us.

Returning to Ascencion Bay after leaving Allen Point we put in three miles above to pass the night but saw nothing or nobody. We passed San Juan Point, a rocky promontory with a few deserted fishermen's huts in a small inlet behind. Three miles beyond is Chuyum Point and beyond this Boca Paila where we put in again. The shore all along here is low and sandy, and supports a low bush.

23. Boca Paila. This is the opening of a large arm of Ascencion Bay, and is 25 yards wide. There are two bars, the first a 100 yards off shore has 3' of water and the inner one just where the channel narrows is 4' deep. At this latter point there is a 3 knot current.

Inside there are many arms of the lagoon and depths of 5' may be obtained if the channels are known. There are many shoals however, and if an experienced local pilot is not along even a boat drawing only 3' will ground.

This arm of Ascencion, Boca Paila, extends 8 miles north of here to a canal cut by chicle operators 5 years ago. This extends 4 miles north to Chuyaxche, a long freshwater lagoon which is said to reach almost as far north as Tuluum (No. 26). Maya Indians live around its shores.

In summing up the conditions in and around Ascencion Bay I must confess that physiographically it is not unadapted for use against us. There is a fairly deep channel (minimum 12' at the bar) and the whole western three-quarters of the bay is uninhabited. Lonesome as this part is however, I believe it scarcely possible that even a small sailing vessel could slip either in or out without being detected either by the inhabitants of Vigia Chica or Ascencion. A strange sail is a rara avis in these waters. The Lillian Y for example was the object of everybody's curiosity. Nevertheless physiographically considered Ascencion Bay is the best bet of this kind between there and Caratasca Lagoon on the north coast of Honduras, and as such should be kept under observation.

Politically considered the conditions are more favorable to us. There are no Germans in the entire Ascencion Bay district, and barring the 3 chicle contractors at Vigia Chica; Martin, Vila and Jerales

already mentioned there are no foreigners at all except colonials—negroes and near negroes from Belize. Of the last there is relatively a large number engaged in bleeding chicle or in fishing. The rest of the limited population is Mexican or Indian.

Those colonials working at Vigia Chica or fishing all around the bay as well as up and down the coast would quickly learn of any unusual activity in the region and news thereof would quickly reach Belize and our agent Gann there. The Belize creole is painfully pro-ally and sees a German in every strange white man he meets, as Spinden and Held found out to their cost in Belize nearly a year ago. News of any hostile Teutonic activity in the Ascencion Bay region would therefore be carried by them to Belize at once.

Then too the temper of the Mexicans in the region appeared at least neutral and at Payo Obispo as I have already said almost friendly. At least with Martin, Alamilla and Vila in the region I think we would get an even break. Finally I am leaving as agent there a Belize creole Peter Moguel. He will report to Gann at Belize and indeed knows nothing of his connection with us. He will cost us in the neighborhood of \$25.00 a month.

Continuing up the coast from Ascencion Bay we put ashore at three places between Boca Paila and Puerto Morales: Tulum (No. 26), Playa Carmen (No. 29), and Punta Maroma (No. 30). There are no villages or even single ranchos between Ascencion Bay and Acumal (No. 28) and indeed this part of the coast is the most deserted of all.

Tulum.

A large ancient ruined Indian city with a prominent tower on the top of Kilbride or Ynan cliffs. The city is surrounded on the three land sides by a high stone wall (15' high and 25' thick). On the sea side the vertical wall of the cliff forms an adequate protection. This wall encloses an area 1500' long (N. and S.) by 650' wide (E. and W.) approximately 22 acres. Just south of the north wall in a shallow cave under an old stone building is a well of very brackish water. There are openings in the barrier-reef both north and south of the stone tower, but even in the calmest weather there is always a heavy surf running here, and great breaker pounding the strand. All the old captains and pilots of the east coast of the peninsula agree that Tulum is the most dangerous landing south of Cape Catoche. The current here runs very swiftly and old hands venture within the reef warily. The bottom inside is covered with rock and the holding qualities of the available anchorages are poor. We anchored in 18' of water a quarter of a mile off shore.

27. Xelha.

8 miles north of Tulum there is a narrow opening giving access to an equally narrow arm of the sea called Xelha which extends inland

for 3 miles. It has 6' of water at the bar. There are no people living on its shores or in fact in the vicinity and there is no protecting barrier reef here, which makes entrance thereto dangerous.

28. Acumal. Small village of Santa Cruz Indians, Pop. 8 or 10, 4 miles north of Xelha. The opening here in the barrier reef is very narrow—not more than 12 yards wide and its passage is correspondingly hazardous.

29. Playa Carmen. Village of Yucatecan or pacificado Indians. Pop. about 50. There is no barrier-reef in front of this place but as it is well under the lee of the Island of Cozumel the ordinary surf is not high. There is only 1 small row-boat here and no sail-boats, and the people are as nearly self-supporting as anywhere on this coast.

30. Punto Maroma. A few fishermen's huts occupied only occasionally during the fishing season. These were deserted when we passed the night there on February 18. There is a dry reef in front of this place which gives it a protection unusual for this coast. The shore is everywhere low and sandy. On chart No. 966 Punta Maroma is incorrectly located north of Puerto Moreles. The point marked Chachatal on Chart No. 966 is probably Punta Maroma.

31. Puerto Moreles. This place has the only telegraph station on the east coast of the peninsula. Pop. about 20, light-keeper, telegrapher, celador, agent of the chicle company working in the interior and their respective families. The Celador and light-keeper are under the jurisdiction of their respective head officers at San Miguel Cozumel.

The place is on a low sandy shore behind a dry reef which gives it excellent protection against the prevailing easterly winds. We anchored in 18' of water close in.

The wharf was formerly 100 yards long with a depth of 9' at its end, but the middle 100' was destroyed by a hurricane and now only the section adjoining the land is in use.

There is a small light which is raised and lowered on a low steel tower, telegraph office, customs house and two or three dwellings. The Mexican Government keeps a small bungay here for delivering telegrams from Merida and the interior to Cozumel and Ascencion Bay.

40 kilometers from the port and connected with it by a Decauville tram-line is Santa Maria, formerly the headquarters of the Banco de Londres de Mexico's chicle operations in the region. At the beginning of the revolution the Mexican Government took

over the establishment at Santa Maria but are now cutting no chicle there. The 20 odd men in the vicinity of the place are being used to cut wood.

There is considerable travel through Puerto Moreles in both directions, both to Cozumel from Merida and Vica versa. The route followed is railroad Merida to Dzitas and Tizimin, 90 miles mule-back Tizimin to Santa Maria and thence Decauville tram to Puerto Moreles 40 kilometers, and last 18 miles by boat to San Miguel Cozumel.

30 kilometers due west of the port is a large Indian village named Santa Maria Canche. There are no foreigners at Puerto Moreles only Mexicans and Yucatecans.

Cozumel Island

Cozumel Island is about 24 miles long and 8 miles wide at the widest place. It is 9 miles from the nearest point of the mainland, very flat and low and is covered with a thick growth of bush and trees. The chief industries are henequen, cocoanuts and turtle fishing.

The population of the island is about 1800 all living on the western coast or in the interior. No one lives on the east or sea side. There are no foreigners on the island.

32. San Miguel. The principal settlement is the village of San Miguel on the west side, a little nearer the northern than the southern end of the island. Pop. about 1400. The inspector of light-houses for the territory, Vidal makes his headquarters here. There is also an administrador de Aduana here. There are no soldiers and only a few police of the village. There is a small light-house. The wharf is 70 yards long and receives boats up to 5' and 6' draft at its end. The anchorage here is good in all weather save a "norther."

In addition to San Miguel the following settlements are found on the west or lea side of the island.

33. Paraiso.	Pop.	2	
34. San Clemente.	"	8	
35. San Francisco	"	10	
36. Paso de Cedral	"	6	
37. Cedral.	Pop.		
38. Rancho de Colombia.	Pop.	100	
39. Punto Celerain	Pop.	6	Light-house
40. Punto Molas	"	6	" "

Returning to the mainland between Puerto Moreles and Punto

Nisuc (No. 41) there are no settlements on the coast. There is a dry reef along the greater part of this stretch, but no openings in the coast-line proper which continues low and sandy.

Cankuen Island

Cankuen Island is formed by an arm of the sea cutting it off from the mainland. It is 7 miles long and perhaps a quarter of a mile wide at the widest place.

Both mouths Punto Nisuc (No. 41) and Rio de Nichucte (No. 43) are narrow, but within the body of water enlarges to quite a good sized lagoon. This lagoon is known locally by the name of its northern entrance "Rio de Nichucte," or more commonly El Rio.

At this end it is very narrow and with the tide running out has every appearance of being a river. It is salt water throughout however. The bar at the northern entrance at its mouth is 2¹/₂' at low tide and 3¹/₂' at high tide. For nearly a mile the entrance continues narrow, like a river, and then opens into the lagoon proper, which is about 6 miles long. The secondary bar where the lagoon narrows at its northern end is only 2' deep at low tide.

Within the lagoon we got depths of 6' and 7' but we had a local pilot from Isla de Mugerres who was thoroughly familiar with the channels. We were in a row-boat equipped with an Evinrude engine, and in all we drew about 2¹/₂'. And with this light draft we only just managed to scrape through.

The bar at the southern end of the lagoon, Punto Nisuc, is about 3' deep. There are no settlements on the east side of the island which is composed of a continuous line of high sand dunes between 40' and 60' high.

42. Cankuen. On the west or lea side 2 miles north of Punto Nisuc is a small settlement of Mexicans and Indians from Isla de Mugerres. This is called Cankuen and has a population of about 25. There are cocoanut plantations on the lea side and these form the principal industry of the place with fishing as a side line. The principal owner is Vicente Coral from Isla de Mugerres.

44. El Mecco. Continuing up the coast we put in at El Mecco where there is a prominent tower of stone 40' high. There are fairly high sand dunes close to the shore. There is no barrier-reef here but the place is protected by Mugerres Island. We anchored in 8' of water 200 yards off shore. The shore along here has no permanent habitations only a few fisheremns huts occupied irregularly in the fishing season.

Laguna las Blancas

This bay is only about 3 miles long. The length of 10 miles given in *The Central American and Mexican Pilot (East Coast)* p. 292 includes Blanquilla Island which however is separated from the mainland by a good sized stretch of water.

It affords safe anchorage for boats up to 8'. At the end is a small stream—Rio Blanco—navigable for a short distance in canoes and a cocoanut plantation named Islote (No 45) owned by Nicolas Martinez of Merida. It is operated by a Yucatecan named Hilario Canto. Pop. 8.

46. Rio Viejo. The next settlement on the coast is the rancho of a Yucatecan named Lorenzo Moreno at Rio Viejo. This is located on the north side of the mouth of a small inlet called Rio Viejo, which is north-west of Cayo Sucio, incorrectly given as Cayo Lucio on Chart no. 966. It has 1 1/2' at its bar and its total length is less than a half a mile. It is navigable only for the very smallest canoes. Pop. 8.

47. Boca de Iglesia.

Between Rio Viejo and Cape Catoche there are no settlements on the mainland. We put in at Boca de Iglesia (No. 47) which is the entrance to a long narrow and very shallow lagoon which extends from this point clear around Cape Catoche and Bolbox Island and is continuous with Yalahau Lagoon. The bar at the mouth is 3' deep but inside the lagoon shallows down quickly and in many places sand banks appear at low tide. We had great difficulty in reaching the ruins of the old Spanish church marked on Chart No. 966, in a shallow draft dory, and we very nearly were left stranded there by the falling tide.

This lagoon is very shallow even at high tide and it could hardly be used against us in anyway. The shallowest draft rowboats would find themselves entrapped at every low tide.

48. Cape Catoche.

Cape Catoche is the northeasternmost point of Yucatan or more properly speaking it projects from a low sandy island separated from the mainland by the lagoon just mentioned. There is a lighthouse and the only inhabitants are the keeper his two assistants, and their respective families, 8 or 10 people in all.

Very shallow shoals extend for a long distance out and even with such a light draft boat as the *Lilian Y* (5') we could not get any closer in than 2 miles.

Mugeres Island

Mugeres Island is 3 miles distant from the nearest point of the mainland, is 4 1/2 miles long and 3/5 of a mile wide at the widest point. The northern end is sandy and low and the southern end rocky and elevated. There are two settlements on the island: Isla de Mugeres at the northern end and the Mugeres Light-house at the southern end.

49. Isla de Mugeres.

Pop. 300 now dwindling through lack of business to keep the place alive. Formerly it numbered 400 to 450, when the Mexican gun-boats used to call there regularly. The only industry is fishing though some of the inhabitants have cocoanut plantations on the mainland opposite. There is a celador here. There is a short wharf with 8' of water at its end. We anchored in 10' to 12' of water 100 yards off shore. There are no foreigners on the island, only Mexicans, Yucatecans and Indians.

Gann heard an interesting story here which however we have been unable to verify either through our Consul in Progreso or our man here in Merida, and which I therefore pass on to you only for what it is worth as hearsay.

A man in the village told Gann that sometime during the first half of 1916 3 Germans had come around from Progreso in a sailing vessel about the size of the "*Lilian Y*," had touched at Mugeres only for 3 or 4 hours and then had gone on down the coast, and were seen no more. Further the informant knew that they were Germans because they did not speak either English or Maya or Spanish but some language unknown to him. I did my best to run this story to ground both in Progreso and in Merida but without success. Consul Marsh at Progreso knew of no Germans having gone up the coast from Progreso in the past two years and in spite of the fact that we inquired everywhere for 'extranjeros' we seemed to have been the only ones in the region for the past two years.

If 3 Germans did come along this coast in 1916 (you will note before our entrance into the war) they must have reported upon it as unfavorable to their purposes because I feel confident no German activities are going on along this coast at present. However I very much doubt the accuracy of the whole story or at least the German part of it.

I also heard at Isla de Mugeres that 3 Americans had come around from Progreso in December (1917) in a sail-boat looking for ruins, and that they had put in at Mugeres for a pilot to take them over to El Mecco on the mainland. They did not return to Mugeres.

Consul Marsh at Progreso could throw no light on this party either. My informant was sure this last party was Americans. At least they were our friends and we had to let it go at that. Before I finally leave Yucatan I shall make further efforts to find more out about these two "entradas."

One of them I believe must refer to a party of 3 Americans who were up this coast in 1911 exploring the archaeological remains and Gann's informant got the date mixed.

50. Mugerés Light-house.

On the high rocky promontory on the southern end of the island is Mugerés light. The keeper's name is Jose Sanchez and he with his family of 8 are the only people living at this end of the island. His oldest son is his only assistant.

51. Contoy Island.

Contoy Island is 4 1/2 miles long by 1/2 mile wide at the widest point. It is low and sandy with a line of dunes along its eastern side, The west side has many small lagoons. The coast is skirted by a nearly dry-reef 200 yards off shore. The only settlement is the light-house at the northern end and the only people its keeper, Sabino Reyes and his 2 assistants.

After rounding Cape Catoche several noticeable changes appear. In the first place the barrier-reef of the east coast does not occur, nor indeed the tremendous depths just off it, so characteristic of the east side of the peninsula. Sandy shoals on the other hand giving shallow soundings extend far out and even in a slight draft boat like the "Lilian Y" both our captain and the local pilot advised standing 2 to 3 miles off shore. There are many banks and we bumped on the bottom whenever we tried to run in close.

A second difference is that the sea does not usually run so high along the north and west coasts of the peninsula as along the east coast; and except in a norther or a hurricane little danger is to be apprehended on the north and west coasts.

Finally shallow lagoons (probably due to the land building out as along the Mosquitia)—which in some places entirely disappear in the dry season, January to May—parallel the entire north coast practically from Cape Catoche (No. 48) to Boca Canio Venecia (No. 82), so that with few exceptions most of the places shown on the accompanying map between Nos. 48 and 82 are on a narrow strip of land which is occasionally separated from the mainland by shallow lagoons.

52. Holbox. Small fishing village Pop. about 150 all, Yucatecan or Mexican. It is located on the northern shore of Holbox Island near the western end. (There is a celador, a judge and several minor officials.)

There is no wharf. We anchored in 9' of water 200 yards off shore. The only business is fishing.

53. Chiquila. South of Holbox Island on the mainland. One man Mercedes Cettina and his family of 6 or 7 live here. He is the local agent for the Compania Comercial de Fincas Rusticas (described under No. 56). There is a Decauville tram-line 5 miles long from here to the interior to the sugar and rum plantation of Ingenio and another extending westward along the coast 25 miles to El Cuyo (No. 56), the headquarters of the company.

Yalahau Lagoon

The main channel into this lagoon (Boca de Conil) is just west of Holbox Island. From here 8' of water may be obtained to Yalahau. (No. 54) on the southern shore of the lagoon. From Yalahau eastward 6' of water is found to within 1 1/2 miles of Chiquila. For the rest of the lagoon is filled with sand banks showing 6' to 3' soundings and in places are even exposed at low tide. In some places on the other hand 12' depths may be found.

54. Yalahau. The town of Yalahau was formerly a thriving place but now it is entirely abandoned not one soul living there. All the inhabitants have emigrated either to Chiquila, or Holbox or to Cayo. There are the remains of a wooden wharf with less than 2' of water at its end. We anchored in 6 1/2' of water 300 yards off shore. There is an old Spanish fort and a white stone house, the latter appearing from the roadstead.

Between Yalahau and Cuyo (No. 56) at Chipepte (No. 55) the boundary between Quintana Roo and Yucatan comes down to the sea. No one lives here. From El Cuyo the first settlement in the state of Yucatan the coast is more thickly settled and there is more coast-wise traffic.

Our problem also changes somewhat. Practically all the settlements in Quintana Roo including the capital are either directly on the seashore or upon the shores of bodies of water emptying thereinto, such as Chetumal Bay or Bacalar Lagoon. This is true because the independent Maya Indian tribe of the Santa Cruz hold the interior of the territory and will not permit the Mexicans to open it up and to settle there. A coast survey therefore of Quintana Roo covers the whole territory from the Mexican point of view, the interior being an all but trackless jungle held by unfriendly not to say hostile Indians.

General Francisco Mai at Chunpup 25 miles northwest of Vigia Chica (No. 22) is the supreme chief of this tribe. There are

secondary chieftans at San Antonio Muyil west of Acumal (No. 28), and another at Chan Santa Cruz north of Bacalar (No. 2). The Santa Cruz Indians mistrust and dislike the Mexicans, and no cooperation between them against us may be feared under any circumstances that are likely to arise. Less than two years ago this same General Mai sent a delegation to Belize to ask the governor there if they could transfer their allegiance from Mexico to Great Britain and place themselves and their territory under the protection of the British flag. They hate the Mexicans and it has only been since Santa Cruz was returned to them 3 years ago that they have left off murdering them whenever they could catch them out in the bush.

The problem in the states of Yucatan and Campeche on the other hand is interior and political rather than coastal, but in order to present a complete survey of the coast clear around the peninsula from Xcalac to Champoton, the coastal features of both Yucatan and Campeche will be included here, while their political conditions will be reserved for a later report.

56. Cuyo.

Cuyo or Monte de Cuyo is so named for a large ancient mound, 26' high a few hundred yards back from the beach, The light-house now rises from its summit. The town has a population of 250 and is located on a very narrow strip of land between the sea and the Rio Lagarto a salt water lagoon. There is a celador and several other minor officials.

The wharf is 350' long with a depth of 7' at its end. The headquarters of the Compania Comercial de Fincas Rusticas, a branch of the Banco Nacional are located here, and the various activities of this company give rise to about all the business of the place.

This company raises sugar, cuts wood (cedar) and formerly made rum but since the state of Yucatan went dry, as well as Campeche, this best paying branch of the business has had to be discontinued. They also have large salt pans on the shores of the Rio Lagartos for evaporating salt.

The company employs about 150 men distributed among their five plantations: Ingenio, Santo Eusebio, Moctezma, Otczeh and Solferino. These are connected with Cuyo by a Decauville tram-line which crosses the shallow Rio Lagartos just behind the town and then divides, one branch going east some 30 miles to Chiquila and Ingenio, and the other south some 25 miles to Otczeh, whence a 25 mile mule-back ride brings one to Tizimin and the railroad line to Merida.

There are five light-houses along the coast of the State of Yucatan as follows, all of which we found running regularly:

1. Cuyo (No. 56)
2. Punto Yalkubu (No. 65)
3. Progreso (No. 77)
4. Sisal (No. 80)
5. Celestun No. 81)

Between Cuyo and Rio Lagartos there are four more salt works or evaporating pans each in charge of a single man as follows:

57. Alegrias. 5 miles West of Cuyo
58. San Fernando. 8 " " " Alegrias
59. Coloradas. 5 " " " San Fernando
60. Mulsinik. 5 " " " Coloradas
62. Rio Lagartos

This arm of the sea is known locally as a river but it is really a salt water lagoon. There is only 2' of water over the bar at low tide and 3' at high tide. Inside depths of 6' and 7' are found. For the most part it is very shallow however as for example behind Cuyo where it is only 1' deep.

There are extensive salt beds along its shores and this forms one of the chief sources of employment for the limited population of the region.

It extends eastward as far as the boundary of Quintana Roo where it opens out into a large and shallow body of water. Westward it extends more or less continuously to Boca Canio Venecia (No. 82).

61. Lagartos. Just inside and to the east of the mouth is Lagartos on the north side of the lagoon. Pop. about 200 all Yucatecan. Principal industries saltworks and fishing.
63. San Felipe. Just inside and to the west of the mouth is San Felipe also on the north side of the lagoon. Pop. about 100 all Yucatecan. Principal industries salt-works and fishing. There is a celador at San Felipe who also does for Lagartos. There is a 3-masted schooner wrecked off San Felipe.
- She has been there more than a year and is said to be in good condition.
64. Chisacab. Some 12 or 15 miles west of San Felipe there is a cocoanut plantation with 4 or 5 caretakers.
65. Yalkubu Point
There is a light-house here.

66. Boca de Silam.

This is another mouth of the same lagoon which is known farther east as the Rio Lagartos. There is 7' of water at the bar and 6' for a short distance within. Nobody lives here.

67. Puerto de Silam.

Pop. about 350. Principal industry the exportation of henequen which is shipped here. There is a celador and one or two minor officials, all Yucatecan. The approach is very shallow. We grounded repeatedly 1 1/2 miles out looking for the channel. There is however a 6' channel clear in to the end of the wooden wharf.

The port is connected by a Decauville tram-line with the town of Silan (No. 68) 8 miles inland which in turn is connected with the town of Chemax by the same tram-line, which is connected with Merida by railroad. (See map)

Between Puerto Silan and Progreso there are 8 small villages and settlements as follows:

69. Minas de Oro.

5 miles from Puerto de Silam pop. about 100 tram-line to interior.

70. Santa Clara. 3 " " Minas de Oro " " 300 " " " "

71. San Crisante 10 " " Santa Clara. Very few people only industry salt-works

72. Telchac 5 " " San Crisante pop. about 800 tram-line to Motul, R.R. to Merida

73. Ixil 5 " " Telchac Very few people henequen

74. San Benito 5 " " Ixil " " " only industry salt-works

75. Uaimitun 3 " " San Benito " " "

76. Chicxulub 5 " " Uaimitun " " "

77. Progreso. Pop. between 7000 and 8000. The principal port of the Peninsula of Yucatan. There are two railroads to Merida the capital of the State of Yucatan 25 miles south, one standard and the other narrow gauge. There are 3 trains daily each way. There is a telegraph office, light-house customs-house etc. but no wireless station. There are three wharfs and the following lines have more or less regular sailings to this port:

1. New York & Cuba Mail S.S. Co. (Ward Line) sailings both to New York and New Orleans.
2. Kerr S.S. Co. sailings both to New York and New Orleans.
3. Compania de Fomento del Sureste S.A. (formerly Compania de Navegacion de Mexico) operates from Progreso along

the gulf coast of Mexico, Campeche, Laguna del Carmen, Frontera, Puerto Mexico and Vera Cruz.

4. Wolvin S.S. Co. occasional sailings only.
5. "The Frontera" owned by a Yucatecan Manuel Sosa, operates along the Gulf coast of Mexico and occasionally as far around as New Orleans.
6. Occasional tramp steamers from Cuba and elsewhere.

The larger boats, like those of the Ward Line, all have to anchor from 3 to 6 miles off shore. The port is only an open roadstead and in the norther season is dangerous particularly for small boats. The Mexican Government has heavy sunken chains in the roadstead and small vessels may anchor to these at a cost of \$5.00 gold a night.

The chief exports are henequen, hides and chicle, the last two being far behind the first in importance. Henequen is the substance from which binder twine is made and is an absolute sine qua non for the harvesting of our great grain crops. The terrific price to which it has risen under war conditions—20 cents the pound—has given rise to an extraordinary economic situation down here which I will cover in my next report as it has a very definite bearing not only on the politics of the State of Yucatan but also on the whole republic of Mexico since it is from this state that Carranza draws his chief revenue.

Neither will I go into the extraordinary labor conditions prevailing here now, reserving that matter also for a subsequent report. I may say in passing however that owing to the existence of an extremely well organized union of dock hands and stevedores this class of labor at Progreso is now receiving from \$10.00 to \$22.50 gold per day. These laborers are mostly Yucatecan and Mexican. The cost of living is enormous even compared to our war prices at home, sugar for example in a sugar country is .60 cents gold a pound, and except for the grandiloquent sound of their wages the laborers are worse off than under the old regime where if wages were lower the cost of living was even lower still. The keeper of the wharfs is a British subject from Corozal British Honduras and lately in the service of the government of that colony. In Belize he never earned more than \$75.00 gold a month. Here he earns \$225.00 gold the month. His name is Fernand Villamar.

The Collector of the Customs is a Mexican Francisco Ramos. The commandante is also a Mexican and said to be a decent fellow.

The entire foreign population numbers about 100 distributed about as follows:

Americans	4
Italians about	6
Spaniards "	20
Syrians	15 to 20
Chinese	20 to 30
Germans	6

The remainder are British subjects, chiefly negroes and creoles from Belize.

The Germans are all men of little or no education and no ability, Consul Marsh tells me. They are employed on the docks as stevedores, baggage handlers etc. One works in the Custom-house. One by the name of Kellar is rumored to have blown up a munitions plant at home.

Of a different class and probably more dangerous is a young German about 23 years old who has recently come from Mexico City. His name is Ernest Kentzler and his father is on the American Black List in Mexico City.

He came to Progreso with a letter of introduction from his father in which the relationship between them is deliberately concealed, and he is referred to as a friend, Consul Marsh is keeping his eyes on him and all his movements are closely watched.

I will speak of but one more thing at Progreso at this time namely the German newspaper there "El Boletín de la Guerra." The editor is a Yucatecan named Herman Lopez Trujillo. It was formerly supported largely by its advertisements, but Consul Marsh has frightened most of these out of it and it is now supported to quote its own words "by friends of the cause." It probably receives help from the Boletín de la Guerra in Mexico City. Marsh reports that it has dwindled in size from a four page to a one page affair and he believes that it is on its last legs.

Marsh appears to be a live wire and our interests are being well looked after. He has doubtless covered all this ground and much more besides but I am including the few points I have made here to make this report complete.

78. Chelen. Fishing village 6 miles west of Progreso pop. 150 no celador.
79. Chovelna. " " 2 " " " Chelen " 50 to 100 no celador.
80. Sisal " " Pop. about 100. Formerly Sisal was the chief port of Yucatan, but since the establishment of Progreso 60 years ago it has been almost entirely abandoned. Formerly there was a telegraph station here but this has been removed to Celestun (No. 81). The nearest railroad is 12 miles distant.

There is 12' of water 200 yards off shore and 3' at the end of the piling which was formerly the wharf. The anchorage is bad in a norther. Few boats call there now. Previous to the visit of the 'Lilian Y' there had not been a boat in the port for a year.

The light-house is a red tower which rises from the northwest corner of the old Spanish fort. The single keeper A. Erena a man about 52 years old claims to be a Hollander. He was a ships carpenter in Pacific waters for 23 years. He has been in the Mexican light-house service for 6 years in other Gulf stations. He speaks English, has lived in the states and claims he has great trouble in collecting his wages. (\$3.75 Mex. a day) He claims this pay is insufficient to live upon with the prevailing high prices, and he appeared to be greatly dissatisfied with the present regime, mourning the vanished glories of the Diaz Administration.

81. Celestun. Pop. about 600 all Yucatecan and Indian. Nearest railroad point Chanchucmil 20 miles distant. There is a light-house and telegraph station here. We anchored in 6' of water 100 yards off shore. The town is supported by a natural salt deposit which runs parallel to the coast about a quarter of a mile inland. It is 9 miles long. Celestun is the last settlement in the State of Yucatan, the boundary line between Yucatan and Campeche passing 2 miles south of the town.
82. Boca Canio Venecia. 6 miles south of Celestun. This is the mouth of the same lagoon which extends north and east as far as Progreso in the rainy season. It is dry for most of the year however except for the lower 12 miles. There are a few fishermen's huts -not occupied—and a cocoanut grove on the northern side of the mouth and one man living on the southern side. No one lives on the shores of the lagoon. (There is 6' of water over the bar).
83. Punto Piedras. A few fishermen's huts occupied only during the fishing season.
84. Rio Jaina. A small river 15 miles north of Campeche. It has 1 1/2' of water at the bar. The river extends only a few hundred yards inland and ends in a swamp. There are a few fishermen's huts and a white stone house, these are only occupied in the fishing season. 9' of water 200 yards off shore.
- The coast between Progreso and Campeche is low and sandy, scrub bush, mangrove and occasional cocoanut grove. The bights along the shore have a maximum depth of 3'.
- The low range of hills which traverses Yucatan from northwest to southeast comes down to the shore about 5 miles north of

Campeche and from here south follows the coast as far south as we went, i.e., Champoton (No. 96).

85. Campeche. Capital of State of Campeche Pop. 25000. It is connected with Merida by telegraph and also with the rest of the republic. It is also connected with Merida by railroad (5 hours). There is a wireless station located on the summit of the hill of San Miguel Castle (320' high) 3 miles south of the city (No. 86). We did not have an opportunity of seeing the station and I can give no information as to its equipment.

So far south as we went we encountered 3 lighthouses in the State of Campeche all burning regularly:

San Miguel Castle (No. 86)

Morros Point (No. 91)

Champoton (No. 96)

There is a wharf but the roadstead is so shallow that even the Lilian Y could only get within 200 yards of shore.

There are about 12 Germans in the town of which I give only the names of the most important.

1. Robert Alcantrop or Archentrupp is the Norwegian Consul, an officer in the German Army and manager of the electric light plant of Campeche and runs the newspaper. He is regarded as an able man.
2. Henry Luis Cramer is probably the ablest German in Campeche. He was described to me by an American named Watkins who worked for Mason and Mechling when they were down here as "a Mexican spy." Consul Marsh tells me that this name Cramer is probably only a *nomme du guerre*. He is an expert machinist, speaks English fluently, pretends to be very friendly with Americans but is crooked. He spends a great deal of his time in Progreso.
3. Henry Berger, a mechanic fairly skilled.
4. Adolf Hinze works in the electric-light-plant. Of these the first two are by far the most important.

We had less than a day in Campeche and as most of that was spent in the Custom-house in the vain endeavor to expedite the clearing of the "Lilian Y" for Champoton we did not see much of the town. Then too the American upon whom I had relied upon for most of my information about the place was away, and I did not know a soul there. As I expect to have to return to Campeche before finally leaving Yucatan I will defer further report upon the place until later.

When we finally got the "Lilian Y" cleared for Champoton only 33 miles distant it cost me \$25.00 gold! When I complained they dragged out a lot of dusty tomes and read me "leyes" until my head reeled. And all expenses everywhere in the peninsula are up in proportion.

You will not wonder when you see my expense account that I had to cable you for a thousand gold *muy pronto*, and I will have to have another five hundred before I get away.

86. San Miguel and San Luis Castles.

The former is on the high hill 3 miles south of Campeche where the single wireless tower is erected, and the other is at the foot of the same hill.

87. San Bartolo. Wood, charcoal and cattle plantation.

88. Lerma. Small village 4 miles south of Campeche.

89. San Lorenzo.

Pop. 20 to 30 Henequen and corn plantation owner a Yucatecan named Pedro Aguirre who lives at Campeche. There is a private telephone line connecting the plantation with Campeche.

90. Uoxel.

Pop. 20 to 30 Henequen plantation owned by Spaniard named Francisco Vetancourt of Campeche. There is a private telephone line connecting the plantation with Campeche.

91. Morros Light-house.

This light is fairly well elevated on a rocky promontory and is watched by two keepers.

92. Seibaplaya. Fishing pop. about 800 all Yucatecan or Indian, one negro in the place. No telephone or telegraph. The water is very shallow off the town. We anchored in 8' of water about a mile off shore.

93. Siho. Henequen plantation, a branch of the next described.

94. Haltunchen. Large henequen and sugar plantation, a great deal of rum was formerly made here, but since Campeche has gone dry this has been discontinued. It belonged formerly to the Banco de Londres de Mexico. The Mayordomo or manager is a Yucatecan. This is perhaps the largest plantation on the west coast of the peninsula.

95. Paraiso. Sugar plantation on the north bank of the Champoton river just across from the town of Champoton.

96. Champoton. Pop. 1200-1600. Telegraph station and light-house. The town is located on the south bank of the Champoton River at the mouth and just across from No. 95. The Champoton River has a depth at its bar of 3' to 3 1/2' at low tide a never more than 5' at any time.

Inside it varies from 18' to 24' deep and so continues for about 20 miles to Kanasalla (No. 97) the head of navigation. The chicle companies working in the interior i.e., the eastern part of the state and over into Quintana Roo land their supplies at Champoton send them up the river by boat to Kanasalla and thence overland by mule to the various camps.

The approach to the town is very shallow. We anchored in 8' of water a mile off shore.

The only foreigner of any nationality that we were able to locate in the town was an ex-priest, a Spaniard by the name of Rodriguez (Felix). Alvarado seems to have had a particular grudge against the Roman Catholic Church, and he allowed but one priest for the whole state of Campeche. This threw a good many of the padres out of jobs, and our friend Rodriguez himself looked a bit down at the heel.

The Government telegraph line from Merida and Campeche running south to the rest of the republic comes down to the beach between Seibaplaya and Champoton. It carries four wires entering and leaving Champoton, and after leaving follows south along the beach.

These four telegraph wires are carried across the Champoton River by 2 high poles one on each side perhaps 100 yards apart and each 60' high. From any distance out at sea these look like the two towers of a wireless station, indeed Held so identified them, before we came ashore and discovered their true function. This resemblance is probably the foundation upon which the story of a wireless station here rests, a rumor which crops up from time to time and has had rather a wide dissemination. It even reached as far as Belize where it appeared as a story that Germans were operating a wireless station at Champoton. Held got an even more circumstantial account from Consul Marsh at Progreso to the effect that there were two high towers at the Champoton River with wires between them. This story was brought in by Indians. Marsh also told me of vague rumors of a wireless plant at Champoton.

Diligent questioning at Champoton failed to develop any suspicious characters or in fact any foreigners in the region except the 2 Germans at the plantation of Saccacal (No. 98) next described; and the chance resemblance of these two high telegraph poles with four wires stretching between across the river to the antennae of a wireless installation seemed more than sufficient to account for the vague rumors already mentioned, especially since we saw no other poles or steel towers in the town.

For the rest the place is very much down at the heel like its ex-padre. The export of chicle was the chief business, but since the

American Chicle company was driven out of this region in the Manuel Castillo Brito revolution several years ago the place has been steadily declining. There is a Custom-house and an Administrador.

98. Saccacal. A henequen plantation 15 miles south of Champoton. It is owned by the American Manufacturing Company of Brooklyn. The manager until very recently was a man named Kosbiel, a German-American I believe, whom I knew fairly well five years ago before there were such pestiferous things. I understand that during the first years of the war-that is before we went in-he was pro-German. He has been in the states now for some 7 or 8 months, and the British Consul here in Merida told Gann last week that he had heard from K. recently to the effect that he (K.) had made a lucky strike in oil and would therefore not return to Yucatan.

The only two Germans south of Campeche that we heard of, say as far south as the eastern side of the Bahia de Terminos are employed on this plantation. One Adolf Raab is the manager in Kosbiel's absence, and the other Gustav Walker is his assistant. Raab is described to me as a clever and able fellow. As both are being employed by an American firm their discharge can easily be procured at that end if you deem the matter of sufficient importance to take it up. Raab has been in Progreso during the past week.

Kosbiel once asked me to go out to Saccacal with him and see some ruins that were on the place, and if I hear anything further about this alleged Champoton wireless plant I will take an archaeological pasear out that way before we leave.

Champoton was our "farthest south" on the west coast of the Peninsula of Yucatan and after reaching there we turned back.

(Copy of S. G. Morley's report, File 20977-14A. O.N.I.)

Appendix 3

Report No. 22: "Detailed Report of Coast Reconnaissance from Champoton, Campeche to Frontera, Tabasco"

South of Champoton (No. 96) the coast continues low and flat. The hills gradually draw away from the shore, and as the coast swings more and more away to the southwest they finally disappeared inland. There are no streams or arms of the sea until the eastern end of the Laguna de Terminos is reached, i.e., La Aguada (No. 109).

- No. 99 Chankon. 8 leagues south of Champoton, pop. about 6 [?]. This is the landing or "paso" of the large American owned plantation "San Pablo" (The San Pablo Development Co., Philadelphia) which figured in our courts five years ago, and whose promoters, Martley and Miller, were sentenced to prison for misuse of the United States Mails in connection with the same. Formerly there was a wharf, but this has now fallen into disrepair. There is a telephone-line connecting this landing with San Pablo, 10 kilometers inland, and also a Decauville tram-line thereto. A small stream "El Rampida" enters the sea at this point; it has 1 1/2' at the bar at high tide, and is only navigable for a short distance even by the smallest canoes. It is used chiefly in getting out lumber.
- No. 100 San Pablo. Pop. 200 to 300. Headquarters of the San Pablo Development Co. The only work now going on here is the cultivation of sisal. The present manager is an Italian, Felipe Beltramo. The lands of this company extend south to within 2 miles of Varadero (No. 102).
- No. 101 Niche. Few fishermen's huts only occupied occasionally during the fishing season. It is on the lands of the San Pablo Development Co.

- No. 102 Varadero. A few deserted huts on the mainland behind the Estero de Sabanuey. This arm of the sea commences in the neighborhood of Varadero and parallels the sea from here southwest to La Aguada opening into the eastern end of the Laguna de Terminos. There is a short tram-line from Varadero across the intervening strip of land down to the beach. The owner is a Yucatecan named Aceret.
- No. 103 Paso de Sabancuy. Pop. 6-8. There is a government telegraph station on the beach here the first south of Champoton and three or four huts.
- No. 104 Sabancuy. Pop. 400 all Mexican. This is a mile from the preceding and back from the shore on the Estero de Sabancuy. It is a fishing village.
- No. 105 Las Palmas. Pop. 8-10 large cocoanut plantation owned by a Mexican, Emilio Acosta living at Ciudad del Carmen.
- No. 106 Tichel. Pop. 8-10 just behind the preceding on the Estero de Sabancuy, a lime and cattle plantation also owned by Acosta. Mr. Robert Boyd of Ciudad del Carmen, an American citizen, holds a mortgage on this and the preceding.
- No. 107 Cubos. Pop. 8-10, large cocoanut plantation owned by the widow of a Mexican named Manuel Pinto now living in Campeche.
- No. 108 Puerto Escondido. This mouth of the Laguna de Terminos is closed now, and indeed most of the time. It is only open during rare intervals of exceptionally high water. No one lives here.
- No. 109 La Aguada. Pop. 330, all Mexican. Government telegraph station and lighthouse. It is chiefly a fishing village. It is located on the mainland at the eastern entrance of the Laguna de Terminos.

The Laguna de Terminos

The Laguna de Terminos is a large body of salt-water approximately 30 miles long (east and west) and 15 miles wide (north and south). It is separated from the sea by the long narrow island of Carmen (No. 115) and Point Xicalango (No. 124) 4 miles wide; and the smaller and eastern one—just west of La Aguada (No. 109) a quarter of a mile wide.

Formerly there was a third and very much smaller entrance at Puerto Escondido, (No. 108). This is incorrectly shown on Chart No. 1295 of the Hydrographic Office as being open and having 2 fathoms of water, but as a matter of fact as already noted, it is now closed practically all of the time.

The eastern entrance has 10' of water at all times and 12' at high tide. With a skilled local pilot who knows the courses, it is possible to pick a 10' channel on the inside i.e., through the laguna, clear around to Ciudad del Carmen at the western extremity of the island. This should not be attempted however without such a pilot, as the channel is tortuous and the laguna filled with shoals; 6' depths are found almost everywhere.

The western and larger entrance has a 13' channel right up to the wharf at Ciudad del Carmen. The official depth of this channel is 12' 6," but loaded vessels with drafts not exceeding 13' 1" or 2" can dock. The Captain of the "Wheeling" claims to have found a new 15' channel but I was told he went aground in following it. The safe maximum for this channel would seem to be 13'.

There are 7' to 9' channels from Ciudad del Carmen to various points within the laguna, but as the secondary bars i.e., those of the rivers opening into the laguna, are all under 5', for inland navigation i.e., for river-boats, the maximum usable draft is 4' to 5'.

The shores are low, flat and marshy, mango swamps and mudflats forming the margin of the laguna. The water near the shores is very shallow, and in the rainy season the shores themselves are under water for a long distance back. There is a 2' difference in the tides.

Beginning at the eastern end of the laguna the following tributaries empty into it: Rio Chivoja, bar 5', no settlement at the mouth, navigable for boats drawing not more than 5' up as far as Chivoja (No. 110) where the Campeche Laguna Corporation (see No. II in the following list of American corporations owning property in this region) have a settlement of laborers. There is another settlement 12 miles farther up the river belonging to this same company, Pop. 100.

Rio Mamantel, 5' at bar, a fisherman's hut west bank at the mouth, navigable for boats drawing not more than 5' of water for 20 miles up as far as Pital (No. 112), the headquarters of the Campeche Laguna Corporation. Pop. About 300. There is an American named Hobart in charge at Pital. Between Pital and the mouth there are no settlements. East of Pital there are some 60 kilometers of Decauville tram-line, 8 kilometers from Pital to San Isidro (No. ?) and 12 kilometers from San Isidro to Chivoja (No. 110).

Rio Candelaria runs into the Rio Mamantel from the south 3 miles from the mouth of the latter. The Mexican Gulf Land and Lumber Co. and the Campeche Timber and Fruit Co., Nos. I and III in the following list own properties along this river.

Rio Chumpan, bar 3', settlement on the west side at the mouth Balchaca (No. 113). La Encantada (No. 114), the headquarters of

the Campeche Timber and Fruit Co., is also on the west bank 20 miles above the mouth.

Rio Palisada or the Boca Chica of the Rio Usumacintla, bar 5'. A light-house marks the entrance of the channel. There is a small island in the mouth of the river, the main channel passing to the east of this. There are a few houses on the west bank just above the mouth, and scattering ranches on both sides up to the Rio Usumacintla. The only large settlement is Palizada (No. 116) on the west bank, 25 miles above the mouth. Pop. 800. There is a government telegraph station here; the chief industry is stock raising.

The Rio Palizada leaves the main branch of the Usumacintla 12 miles above—i.e., south of Palizada—at the Boca de Amatitan. At this point the main stream turns west, and 3 miles below on the north side of the main stream is the village of Jonuta (No. 117), Pop. 500. There is a government telegraph station here also. From this point the Usumacintla bears northwest to Tres Bocas (No. 128) where it is joined by the Rio Grijalva and Rio Tulida, 5 miles above Frontera (No. 127); and below here the three flowing together empty into the sea 3 miles below Frontera. There are no villages between Jonuta and Frontera but scattering ranches on both sides of the river.

The Rio Usumacintla is the largest river entering either the Gulf of Mexico or the Caribbean Sea from the Rio Grande down to the Isthmus of Panama. It has three different mouths as follows: the Rio Palizada just described, the Rio San Pedro and San Pablo and the Rio Usumacintla, the last being the largest. The intervening country is a vast network of shallow lagoons connected during the rainy season but separated during the dry months; a great part of the region is under water all of the time.

There are two steamship lines running from San Juan Bautista, now called Villahermosa (No. 129) down the Grijalva River to Frontera, thence back up through the Usumacintla River to the Palizada and Usumacintla to Monte Cristo (No. 118), Balcan (No. 199) as far south as Tenosique (No. 120), the end of steam navigation.

There are 6 or 7 boats in the two lines, all wood-burning side-wheelers drawing not more than 4'. These do a considerable river freighting business.

Returning to the Laguna de Terminos there is but one tributary on the west side, the Estero de Atasta, 3' to 4' at the bar. This gives access to a series of shallow connecting lagoons.

The village of Atasta (No. 121) is on the west side of the lagoon of the same name. It is a farming and cattle settlement all Mexican. Pop. about 100. Just west of Atasta is Pom (No. 122), a cattle and

cocoanut plantation belonging to a Mexican named Manuel Repetto. Pop. 75.

Cerrillos (No. 123) is a cattle ranch owned by a Mexican named Tomas Riquena of Ciudad del Carmen. Pop. 50.

No. 115

Ciudad del Carmen. Pop. About 5000. Government telegraph and light-house. No wireless. Presidente de Municipalidad: Onesimo Cahuicho. The town is located on the western extremity of the Island of Carmen. Vessels drawing up to 13' can lay alongside of the wharf although the official depth of the channel is 6" less, i.e., 12' 6."

The government telegraph coming from Campeche and Merida crosses under the eastern entrance to the laguna to the island and thence west to Ciudad del Carmen, and thence under the western entrance across to Point Xicolango (No. 124) 4 miles. The place where the cable leaves the island—on the southern side of the town—is marked by a buoy.

In addition to the river-boats already mentioned as plying between Tenosique, Balancan, Monte Cristo, Palizada, Jonuta, Frontera and Villahermosa there are about 50 power-boats at Ciudad del Carmen ranging from small cayucas equipped with Evinrude engines to 50 ton motor-canoes, which cruise east as far as Campeche and Progreso and west as far as Frontera, Puerto Mexico and Vera Cruz. About 20 belong to our nationals the rest to Mexicans.

There are two regular steamship lines calling at Ciudad del Carmen: The Compania de Fomento del Sureste de Mexico, which maintains a more or less regular tri-monthly service and the Mexican Gulf and Fruit Co. a more regular bi-monthly service. In the season mahogany tramps frequently call here for lumber.

The following countries have consular representatives:

France, Jose Cue, a Spaniard.

England, George Ludivig (German descent but said to be loyal to the allies) now in the United States

Norway, Jose Rivas, a Spaniard, has taken out his first papers for American citizenship.

The foreign colony is composed roughly of the following nationals:

75 Syrians, 50 Chinese, 40 Spaniards, 8 Americans and 2 Germans.

The Syrians are overwhelmingly pro-ally. They have collected money for the French Red Cross and can be counted upon as on our side. Unhappily they are technically Turkish citizens and as such, are subject to the rulings against alien enemies, particularly

in regard to drafts. If some special dispensation could be granted them in this particular, it would not be a bad idea, for they are really our friends.

The Spaniards as nearly as I can find out are about neutral.

The two Germans are George Goldsmith and Alfred Lehmann. The first has already figured in a previous report (No. 21). He was formerly employed by the Mexican Gulf Land and Lumber Co. being an old friend of the resident manager, C. W. Woodruff. Recently he was discharged, I believe at the instance of Consul Marsh. He is an able fellow and the active head of the German propaganda work in this region. He has no visible means of support and yet spends plenty of money. Finally he is known to be the distributor of the German "war literature" in Ciudad del Carmen. Agent Watkins will keep an eye upon him and his activities.

The other German, Alfred Lehmann, is still working for the Laguna Campeche Corporation in spite of the fact that they are aware of his nationality. He is a book-keeper. The resident manager, Mr. Thomas Ward, told me he was harmless, but I heard from other Americans there, that Lehmann had been actively engaged in German propaganda work.

And now about our own nationals at Ciudad del Camen, and the large American corporations they severally represent there.

The southern half of the state of Campeche, as you will see by a glance at Mr. Held's map, is for the most part held by 6 or 7 American corporations engaged in the lumber and chicle business. The resident managers of these live at Ciudad del Carmen and constitute the American colony there. For the general location of their respective holdings see the accompanying map A where they have been outlined in yellow and given Roman numerals. No. VI is not located on the map.

- No. I. The Mexican Gulf Land and Lumber Co., Davenport, Iowa.
Resident Manager, C. W. Woodruff
- No. II. The Campeche Laguna Corporation, New York City.
Resident Manager, Thomas Ward
- No. III. The Campeche Timber and Fruit Co., Boston, Mass.
Resident Manager, Leslie Moore
- No. IV. The Hearst Estate, New York City.
Resident Manager, W. M. Ferris
- No. V. The Pennsylvania Campeche Land and Lumber Co., Williamsport, Penn.
Resident Manager, Robert Boyd

- No. VI. Campeche Land and Development Co., Chicago, Ill.
Resident Manager, Robert Boyd
- No. VII. The San Pablo Development Co., Philadelphia, Penn.
Resident Manager, Felipe Beltramo, an Italian. He lives
at San Pablo.

Of these companies the holdings of Nos. II, V and VII are very extensive, ranging between 600,000 and 800,000 acres each.

In addition to the foregoing the following chicle companies maintain buying offices at Ciudad del Carmen:

The William Wrigley Jr. Co.—agent, Robert Boyd

The Mexican Exploitation Co., a branch of the American Chicle Co.—agent, Alfonso Echeverria.

You will note that these properties pretty effectually dominate the eastern end of the Laguna de Terminos and that Ciudad del Carmen commands the western end so that it would be difficult if not practically impossible for the Germans to utilize this body of water against us in any way without news thereof quickly reaching one or other of our nationals at Ciudad del Carmen and being immediately forwarded by them to Consul Marsh at Progreso, the speediest channel for transmission to the outside.

All own, or control, motor-boats, and I arranged that if any trouble should arise, and use of the government telegraph should be found impracticable or forbidden, they are to get word to Consul Marsh by motor-boat at once, a matter of 24 hours.

Such a contingency, however, all agree, appears extremely remote; the absence of Germans in the region, the vigilance of our own nationals who have little to do but look out for just such activities, and finally the physiographic unfitness of the Laguna de Terminos, i.e., its shallow depths and marshy shores, practically preventing its manipulation against us in any way.

Continuing the coast reconnaissance the next point is:

- No. 124. Point Xicalango. Western boundary of the Laguna de Terminos. Pop. about 50 all Mexican. This is a cocoanut and cattle plantation owned by Tomas Riquena, who lives at Ciudad del Carmen. The government telegraph cable from Carmen emerges here, and there is a station. There is also a light-house. There are no settlements on the coast between here and the mouth of the San Pedro and San Pablo River.
- No. 125. San Pedro. At the mouth of the San Pedro and San Pablo River on the east side, the last settlement owned by a Spaniard, Manuel Gutierrez, said to be strongly pro-ally.

The bar of the San Pedro and San Pablo River is 6' to 7'. The river is now somewhat choked up with vegetation, but with very little clearing could be made navigable for boats up to that draft, as far as the main channel of the Rio Usumacintla, of which it is one of the mouths.

- No. 126. Victoria. Small village about 20 people all Mexican.

- No. 127. Frontera. The town is on the east bank of the Usumacintla River about 3 miles above the mouth. Pop. 5000, chiefly Mexican. The Spaniards and Syrians are the most numerous of the foreigners. The sympathies of most of them are pro-ally, particularly the latter. Although there are only three Germans in the place plenty of German propaganda finds its way down here. We have a consulate here and there is a government telegraph and at the mouth of the river on the east bank there is a light-house.

Formerly boats drawing up to 12' and 14' were able to get over the bar and up the river to the town docking alongside of the wharf, but some years ago another channel was opened up west of the old channel and before the breakwater at the mouth was finished so that it would remain open, the project was discontinued and the work stopped. This had the unfortunate result of shallowing both channels the old channel now being reduced to 5' to 9' and the new channel to 3 1/2' at the bars. Even the small 800 to 1000 ton boats of the Compania de Fomento del Sureste de Mexico are obliged to anchor outside and load and discharge cargo from lighters.

Formerly Frontera divided with Ciudad del Carmen all the large export business of the Rio Usumacintla and the Rio Grijalva, the chicle, mahogany and dye-woods coming out through the former and the coffee and bananas out through the latter.

The exorbitant export duties imposed on bananas by the present Government of Mexico have killed the fruit business at Frontera and the town is very dead, Ciudad del Carmen now being almost twice as large.

The Compania de Fomento del Sureste de Mexico has boats call here tri-monthly, and the Mexican Gulf and Fruit Co. boats bi-monthly. In addition there are occasional mahogany tramps in the season.