

BAYOU COCODRIE, LOUISIANA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING,

WITH A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, REPORT OF
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF BAYOU COCODRIE, LOUISIANA.

DECEMBER 15, 1909.—Referred to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors and
ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 13, 1909.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter from the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, dated 22d ultimo, together with copy of a report from Lieut. Col. Lansing H. Beach, Corps of Engineers, dated June 17, 1909, of a preliminary examination of Bayou Cocodrie, Louisiana, made by him in compliance with the provisions of the river and harbor act of March 3, 1909.

Very respectfully,

J. M. DICKINSON,
Secretary of War.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
Washington, November 22, 1909.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith, for transmission to Congress, report of June 17, 1909, by Lieut. Col. Lansing H. Beach, Corps of Engineers, on preliminary examination of Bayou Cocodrie, Louisiana, authorized by the river and harbor act approved March 3, 1909.

I concur in the opinion of the district officer, who is also division

engineer, and of the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, that Bayou Cocodrie is not now worthy of improvement by the General Government.

Very respectfully,

W. L. MARSHALL,
Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF BAYOU COCODRIE, LOUISIANA.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ENGINEER OFFICE, U. S. ARMY,
New Orleans, La., June 17, 1909.

SIR: I have to submit the following report of the preliminary examination of Bayou Cocodrie, assigned to this office by Department letter of March 8, 1909.

Bayou Cocodrie rises in the southern part of Rapides and the northern part of St. Landry Parish, La., and flows through the latter parish in a southeasterly direction for about 30 miles below Lake Cocodrie till it unites with Bayou Boeuf, about 5 miles above Washington, La., to form Bayou Courtableau. Lake Cocodrie is very shallow and is shown on many maps as merely a swamp.

A former examination of this stream was made a number of years ago, and the report of this examination, which was unfavorable, will be found in the Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers for 1891, page 1849.

Upon the assignment to this office of the preliminary examination directed by the act of Congress approved March 3, 1909, letters were sent out to interested parties and several replies received. These indicate that no commerce is being carried on at the present time, save the floating of rafts of timber to the mills, and that this can only be done during high water.

The stream is badly obstructed with logs, drift, etc., so that navigation at the low-water season is impossible under present conditions.

The country is apparently not thickly settled or greatly cultivated, but appears to be very fertile, and contains large quantities of timber, which is at present being cut. There is no town upon its banks.

It is possible that with the opening of the water route via Plaquemine to New Orleans the improvement of this stream, together with Bayou Courtableau, may at some time be of benefit to this section of the country, but nothing should be attempted until the improvement of the lower stream, known as "Bayou Courtableau," has been accomplished.

It is impracticable to secure any data at the present time, nor is any believed to be available in reference to the establishment of terminal and transfer facilities.

The character of the stream precludes the development of water power for industrial or commercial purposes.

An outline map^a showing the bayou and adjacent streams is submitted herewith.

^a Not printed.

Bayou Cocodrie is not believed to be worthy of improvement by the United States at this time.

Respectfully submitted.

LANSING H. BEACH,
Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers.

The CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY.

[Second indorsement.]

BOARD OF ENGINEERS FOR RIVERS AND HARBORS,
Washington, D. C., July 12, 1909.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.

From an examination of the within and an earlier report on this waterway, it appears that it is not navigable at low water in its present condition, that there is no commerce available for shipment except such logs and timber as are cut from its immediate vicinity, that the adjacent country is sparsely settled, and that there is nothing to indicate a commercial or industrial growth to create a commerce.

In view of these facts, the Board concurs in the opinion of the district officer, who is also division engineer, that Bayou Cocodrie is not worthy of improvement by the General Government at this time.

Interested parties were notified of the district officer's adverse report and informed that they might submit their views to the Board in regard to the necessity for the improvement, but no communications have been received.

For the Board:

D. W. LOCKWOOD,
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Senior Member of the Board.

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