

extensive deposit of beach sand, covering the bottom of the channel, and allowing, under no circumstances, more than three feet of water upon it. The route they have selected avoids this among the rest; for whose permanent correction would be required the most skilful, as well as most hazardous, application of the principles of Hydraulics.

Herring Creek is an arm of the Saint Martin River, and, with that, has its estuary in the Isle of Wight Bay; a sheet of water three miles wide, protected on its eastern side by marshy islands, from which whatever of current there may be is directed southward to find egress by the Chincotigue inlet. Across this bay, by a wide channel, may be carried a draught of five and a half feet, up to Fenwick's Island, or rather to Romney Marsh. An account has been before given of this part of the route: it will be sufficient here to add, that the line has been laid across the marsh from a point indicated in the notes of the survey as No. 20, near which is six feet water, to another south of that called No. 19, near which is five and a half feet water, a distance rather more than a mile; and in a course parallel as nearly as possible with the direction of the ditch at Fenwick's Island. An estimate for this will be found in a succeeding section. From No 19, the canal will follow the water of Assawoman Creek, an arm of the sound, (which here takes the name of the Little Bay, to distinguish it from the great or Isle of Wight Bay,) up which a draught of four and a half feet may be carried to another trigonometrical point designated as D. in the said notes.

At this point the use of the sound terminates. Indeed, it proceeds but a little way further up, and for that distance is so impeded, not by occasional shoals only; but by an almost co-extensive shelf of sand from the beach, as to render it inapplicable for the purpose of commerce. About two miles further up, the sound receives the water of Turkey Branch Creek, abreast of which it has been by some proposed to go, and thence to locate a canal across the peninsula of Muddy Neck, over to White's Creek, an arm of Indian River. The want of sufficient depth, however, and principally the sandy bottom, have appeared to the Commissioners a sufficient reason for abandoning that route and for the adoption of the one they have selected.