

THE PURDY ISLANDS
PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS
MOUSE ISLAND

SCALE

8 CHAINS

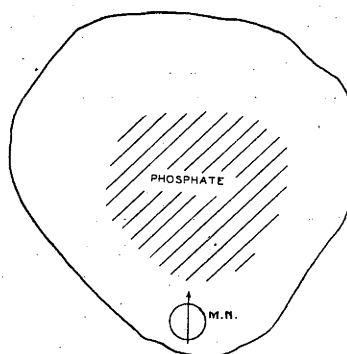
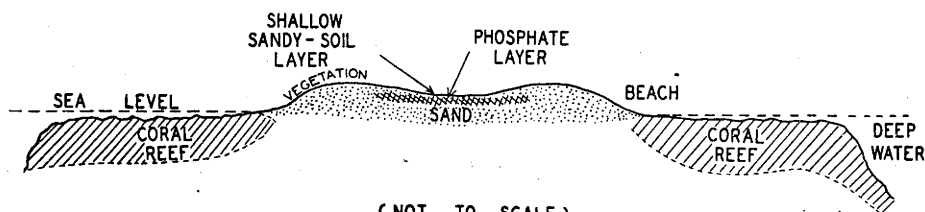


Figure IV.



(NOT TO SCALE)

Figure V.

THE CONVERSION OF COCO-NUT OIL INTO A SOLID CRYSTALLINE MASS.

While engaged in the study of thermal decomposition of coco-nut oil, J. Banzon (*The Philippine Agriculturist*, Vol. XXVI., No. 5, p. 399) observed that a particular catalyst had the unique property of converting coco-nut oil into a crystalline solid mass.

The process is the simple distillation of coco-nut oil with ferric oxide or finely divided iron. The distillate thus obtained is dark-yellowish with a bluish fluorescence. On cooling, it sets to a crystalline greenish-yellow mass, which may be purified by repeated washings with methylated spirits.

The purified product is a light, white, crystalline powder, tasteless, and with a faint odour similar to stearic acid. It melts sharply at 55°C. , to a clear transparent, colourless liquid, and solidifies to a hard, rather brittle, crystalline solid. Owing to its close resemblance to paraffin, this solid may possibly be used interchangeably with the latter, as, for example, in candle-making.