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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER,

1887.

Printed by Order of Parliament.



OTTAWA  
PRINTED BY MACLEAN, ROGER & CO., WELLINGTON STREET.  
1888.

In all matters connected with mission work among the native tribes and who took a keen personal interest in their welfare.

The Hawaiian bark "Thomas H. Foster" was wrecked at Cape Cook in December 1886; the crew eighteen in number all got safely to land, but without provisions or clothing, and they were in great misery until they were picked up by the Chai-colesahk Indians, who took them to the Indian village and provided them with such provisions and blankets as they required, keeping them for a week, when they sent for the Reverend Father Nicolays of the Kyukshk who took them to the mission where they stopped until they were taken to Victoria. These Indians should have some recompense for the help they gave the shipwrecked crew. I have applied to the Hawaiian Government through the council in Victoria on their behalf, but have not, as yet, received an answer. There has been no drunkenness in the agency except at Nitinat. Gambling has caused trouble in some of the tribes, in the settlement of Albarut; but with the aid of the local justice of the peace, it has been put a stop to altogether.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HARRY GULLOD,  
*Indian Agent.*

KWAW-KEWLTH AGENCY,  
FORT RUPERT, B.C., 6th August, 1887.

The Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honor to forward my report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1887.

In August of last year I proceeded to take charge of this agency, and took up my residence for the time at Alert Bay, as being the most suitable and also the most central point in the agency; but owing to there being no suitable accommodation for the agent, I was most unwillingly obliged to remove to Fort Rupert, to the quarters occupied by the late agent.

The Indians belonging to the Kwaw-kewlth Band, who live at Fort Rupert, moved away in a body last October, to pay a visit to the Nim-kossh Indians at Alert Bay, and have been with them and the band at Mah-mah-lle-kullah ever since.

I have visited nearly all the different bands in the agency, but in several cases found them nearly all absent, and as the summer is the only time that any of them can be visited, I had to depend on their nearest neighbors for an account of their condition.

Generally the health of the different bands has been good, but the number of those afflicted with scrofula in its worst form is very numerous. During last winter I attended a large gathering of Indians at the Nim-kossh village, Alert Bay, about 800 or 900 being present. The gathering was so orderly that no disturbances took place, nor was any liquor brought among them, but I was informed that some most objectionable proceedings took place before my arrival, in connection with their medicine dances, but which I hope to put a stop to if they attempt them on another occasion.

They are no doubt anxiously looking to see whether any steps have been taken in other parts towards the suppression of the "Potlach," which custom they cling to with pertinacity, and which, I am convinced, is at the root of all the vices amongst these Indians, and the older members of the tribes take the opportunity at these gather-

ings to intimidate the younger ones who show any desire for reformation, and I doubt whether anyone has any idea of the persecution these younger members have to undergo.

As soon as the busy season is over, I hope to be able to induce the majority of the Nim-koosh and Kwaw-kowth Bands to take advantage of the Indian Advancement Act, as a means of counteracting the influence of the old men, who are singularly averse to adopt any measures that tend towards their improvement. I spoke to all the chiefs and principal men of the tribes gathered at the Nim-koosh village about giving up these customs; but, though nearly all admitted the evil consequences, not one was willing to relinquish them.

The colachan fishing grounds, at the head of Knight Inlet and Kingcome Inlet, were very productive this year, and all who went there secured a large quantity of the colachan oil, which is so productive of good health, especially among the children.

This year, as far as I can ascertain, promises well for the different tribes, as most of the canneries have been in operation and employ a large number of Indians.

The Rev. Mr. Hall, missionary at Alert Bay, has a steam saw mill in course of erection, and hopes to complete it in about two months. This will furnish steady employment to some of the young men after the work at the cannery ceases, and will also be a means of supplying them with cheap lumber, which it is hoped will be an inducement to them to build separate and better houses. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hall are exerting in their efforts to improve the condition of these people, and, though meeting with many obstacles, not from the Indians alone, have, I feel sure, accomplished much good, and I am indebted to them for aiding me in my work among the Indians.

Unfortunately the quantity of land suitable for agricultural pursuits is so small on the different reserves, that this can never form one of their principal industries, and they show no inclination this way whatever, even where they have the opportunity; but they would, in time, I think, prove good workers at different trades, if they could be taught.

They still get liquor in limited quantities from Victoria and elsewhere, but not enough to cause much trouble, though the craving for it is still strong, and it brings a high price among them.

On the 21st June we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee at Alert Bay with canoe racing and other sports, but there was not a very large gathering, owing to the funds at our disposal being small, and also to a majority of the Indians being away at the canneries; but a very pleasant day was spent, and ended in the Rev. Mr. Hall inviting them to a feast.

The attendance at the school is still small and very irregular, and will continue to be so until they get into more settled habits, which they will do as soon as the custom of the potlach is abolished, which is in every way so demoralizing.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. PIDCOCK,  
Indian Agent.

LOWAN FRASER AGROBY,

New Westminster, B.C., 15th August, 1887.

The Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit my annual report and tabular statement and a list of Government property in my charge, on the 30th June, 1887.

In consequence of the unusually severe weather of last winter and spring in this Province, the Indians suffered severely from the loss of their stock. In the Douglas

AGENCY No. 2, KESTVILLE N.S., 30th November, 1887.

The Honorable  
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

Sir,—I beg to apologize for sending in my report as late, but have to plead the state of my health at the proper time for doing so; indeed there is very little to write concerning them. There are no Reserves—except thirteen acres at Cambridge—in this Agency. But as a rule they are industrious and quiet, and with what aid the Department gives them, make out a somewhat comfortable existence. With two exceptions there has been no serious sickness. Joe Basso and child, both very sick, came in from the extreme eastern section of the county, and died. Mr. Peter Glade recovered, after a serious sickness, causing a heavy medical expense. The tabular statement, compiled from my own knowledge and with the help of these Indians, was sent in during the month of July I think, it showed a population of seventy-eight souls. The products of their labor much the same as the previous year.

I have the honor to subscribe myself, Sir,

Yours, very sincerely,

J. R. BECKWITH,  
Indian Agent.

INDIAN OFFICE,  
VICTORIA, B.C., 26th November, 1887.

The Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit the following report upon Indian affairs in the Province of British Columbia, for the year ended 30th June, 1887.

Immediately after the close of the last Departmental year I paid an official visit to Kootenay in connection with the land reserves in that district, for which I beg to refer you to my special report thereon of the 18th November, 1886.

The serious difficulties which occurred in that district, subsequently necessitating the unusual course of sending thither a force of the North-West mounted police, where it is now stationed, have engrossed most of my time and attention since, so that I am unable to report any extended visits of inspection to other agencies in the Province.

It will be remembered that three years ago considerable agitation prevailed throughout Kootenay, owing to the alleged murder of two white miners by Indians.

Beyond suspicious circumstances little proof was obtained, and, on account of the absence of the supposed murderer, the matter was allowed to rest until last winter, when the resident constable, having heard that Kapla, the suspected Indian, and a member of Isadore's Band, was in camp at the Roman Catholic Mission, arrested and conveyed him to the gaol at Wild Horse Creek.

Great excitement among both Indians and white settlers followed this act, and, a few days afterwards, Chief Isadore, with twenty-five armed followers, proceeded to the gaol, broke down all barriers, and by force liberated the prisoner, who returned with them to camp. The Indians having taken the law into their own hands, the white settlers, being scattered and in a minority, held meetings and made such strong representations for assistance, that, after my personal report to you at Ottawa, it was arranged to send into the district a company of seventy-five mounted police.

In June, I again visited Kootenay in company with Col. Horehmer and Stipendiary Magistrate Powell, to arrange for the peaceable entry of the police, which was accomplished, and I obtained at the same time, from Isadore, a promise in writing that the prisoners liberated by him would be returned whenever the authorities were ready to have an investigation.

The important task of reserving lands for the Chillicothe Bands was accomplished in July last, by the Reserve Commissioner.

The concentration of Anahem's Band upon a large reserve on the banks of the Chillicothe River which they wanted instead of having scattered small cultivable patches, is a wise action. It is greatly to be hoped that the Indians concerned are thoroughly satisfied with the award, and that there will be no future disturbing influence to agitate them.

Sufficient irrigation water appears to have been set aside by the Commissioner, but I am not aware that any of such reservations have been placed in the Provincial Government records, and, while this is not done, I do not see what is to prevent a settler from recording water which really belongs to a reserve. Indeed this has been done with a number of the water allotments made by the Joint Reserve Commission, and very serious trouble is likely to ensue in time, if this state of affairs be not corrected and put right.

For the year ended 30th June last, the various bands of the Agency owned:—

Ploughs .....	51
Harrow's .....	41
Wagons .....	1
Handing mills .....	6
Implements .....	124
Horses .....	2,558
Cows .....	186
Pigs .....	425
Young stock .....	50

They have raised of:—

Wheat, bushels .....	9,000
Oats do .....	2,000
Peas do .....	200
Barley do .....	300
Potatoes do .....	8,000
Hay, tons .....	1,000

Their buildings and personal property are valued at—

Buildings .....	\$16,450
Personal property .....	41,900

Mr. Messon closes his report with a favorable comment on the health of the Indians in his agency, and thinks that the population is not decreasing.

**KWAKWETH AGENCY.**

This is one of the coast agencies, situated on the northern part of Vancouver and adjacent islands.

The report of Mr. Agent Pidcock is not, by any means, as favorable as one would like to see. The Indians however are the poorest and most degraded in the Province and no doubt much "up hill work" will have to be overcome by an energetic and hard working agent ere there will be marked change.

Some of the missionaries on the North-West Coast who have endeavored to prejudice the minds of the Indians against Indian agents, so that they might retain their own temporal influence among them, point to the Kwakweth Indians as an evidence of backwardness.

It must be remembered, however, that from a long time back various missionaries of different sects having from time to time settled among the Kwakweths with the intention of evangelizing them have given it up, and left them as incorrigible.

The present incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Hall of the Church Mission Society, is the only gentleman among his predecessors who has exhibited a perseverance worthy of the cause, and with his wife have made up their minds to remain and "Hold the Fort" in spite of the numerous obstacles and discouragements.

They have a school at Alert Bay and Mrs. Hall teaches a number of resident girls some of whom will no doubt carry the lessons and principles taught them into distant camps.

With commendable energy, Mr. Hall has imported and put up a good saw mill and upon the agreement, that Indians are to be supplied with lumber, at cost, the Department has appropriated from its funds substantial aid towards its erection.

The agent should be assisted, with a firm hand to put a stop to the assembling for the purpose of holding medicines and potlach feasts, which prevent the adoption by them of more creditable and settled habits.

It is gratifying that a stop has been made to a great extent, to the large quantity of liquor which these Indians used to obtain in former years.

The Kwahkwatthe, with the exception of a few potato patches cultivate no land, but their wealth in canoes and all sorts of fishing gear is considerable and they live altogether on the products of the sea.

#### FRASER AGENCY.

Mr. Agent McTiernan reports considerable loss of stock in the Douglas and Harrison districts owing to the unusually severe weather during the past winter and early spring. In fact, this is unfortunately the case with most of the Interior tribes who like white settlers suffered much in losses of stock during the rigorous weather which prevailed both in the east and west during the months of February and March.

The failure of the salmon run the previous year obliged the Indians to leave their reserves and obtain work in the hop fields of Washington Territory, and they remained away so long, that they failed to cut enough hay for their stock, and, as many had to feed their cattle during the two months mentioned, the largest percentage of the stock thus unprovided for perished.

It is most creditable to the character of these Indians, that although 3,600 of them from various parts of the Province encamped on the lower Fraser during the fishing season, there was not a single case of theft or assault complained of, and the arrangements made by Mr. McTiernan, for keeping the peace, seems to have been very satisfactory.

The reservation of some land at Semiahmoo, near the 49th parallel, in June last, was a most necessary proceeding, urgently required, as the Indians were being closely pushed by land seekers in all directions. The reserve is small, but it is all that could be obtained in this vicinity, and its allotment has pleased the band.

Mr. McTiernan is an energetic agent, who is most conscientious in the performance of his various duties.

#### COWICHAN AGENCY.

The Cowichan Agency embraces the southern portion of Vancouver Island, and like their kin-people on the Fraser, the Indians have similar industries both on sea and land, and speak the same language. They are the only Indians so far (with the exception of the Kincolith Indians on Nass River) who have taken advantage of the Advancement Act, and have a Municipal Council. They are progressing every year, extending the cultivable area of their fine reserve, which they accomplished with very little or no aid from the Government.

The younger members of the band obtain constant employment at the saw mills, canneries and hop fields of Washington Territory, and are very well off, as a glance at their houses, their stock and implements, all purchased by their own exertions fully prove. There is a slight falling off from the quantity of crops raised last year, but this is due to an exceptionally dry season.

## SCHOOLS.

During the past year the following schools have received the Departmental grant:—

Lakshap, Nass River, Wesleyan.  
 Kincolith, do Anglican.  
 Port Simpson, Wesleyan.  
 Massett, Anglican.  
 Port Essington, Wesleyan.  
 Bellabolla, Wesleyan.  
 Alert Bay, Anglican.  
 Nanaimo, Wesleyan.  
 Kyuquat, Roman Catholic.  
 Clayoquot do  
 Hesquahlt do  
 St. Mary's do

## MEDICINES.

Medicines have been applied to the various agents throughout the Province and to missionaries and others in distant parts, who have applied for and undertaken to dispense the same. A good supply of vaccine lymph was obtained and distributed to the agents and others.

## FISH, FURS, OIL.

Under this head a considerable increase will be observed over the last year, particularly in marine and land furs, which are almost entirely the product of Indian labor:—

Furs, marine.....	\$ 287,377 00
do other.....	299,268 00
Salmon, canned.....	601,812 00
do salted.....	13,823 00
Fish oil.....	7,327 00
do preserved.....	171 00
	<u>\$1,209,877 00</u>

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

I. W. POWELL,  
*Indian Superintendent.*

BATTLEFORD, N.W.T., 20th October, 1887.

The Honorable  
 The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,  
 Ottawa.

Sir.—I have the honor to submit for your information my annual report of my inspection of agencies and reserves in the North-West Territories.

Having been instructed by the Indian Commissioner to meet the Half-breed Scrip Commission at Prince Albert early in April, I proceeded to that district at the time named, and as the Commission had not arrived, I immediately undertook the duty of inspecting the agency.