

The coast, for miles, shows evidence of violent volcanic action; the country is densely covered with spruce and hemlock trees, and the heavy beach grass extends far into the timber; but the general appearance is of a rock-bound coast, which, with the exception of the timber, is worthless to a degree, and shows the general character of the extreme north-west coast of Graham Island.

At this place I saw drift logs and planks of California Redwood, showing the drift of the inshore current, which almost invariably sets to the north, from Lower California. The southern, or offshore current, caused by the impinging of the *kuro shiwo*, or Japanese gulf stream, on the north-west coast in the latitude of Queen Charlotte Islands, which takes a bend to the south, and another to the north past the Kurile Islands. The southern current seems to produce an eddy in shore which almost invariably sets to the north, as before remarked, bringing all sorts of drift wood from California and Oregon, and casting it ashore on Queen Charlotte Islands, where an interesting collection of debris may be found in all the coves of the group. It is the influence of the Japanese warm stream which affects the climate of the whole north-west coast, particularly modifying that of Queen Charlotte Islands, which resembles that of Neah Bay, Washington Territory.

At 9 A. M. on the 17th of August, I left camp Klakakoon, and at 2:30 P. M. again made a landing at a place called Tledoo, a summer camp for sea otter hunters.

I remained at this place till the 21st, being detained by constant rain and head wind, with heavy sea. At 5:20 A. M. I broke camp and started for Hippah, or Nesto Island, as it is called by the Haidas.

In the afternoon we passed Tsi-kwa-koon Point, near which, on its northern side, is a stream of water which, I think, is the Otard Creek of Chanal.

From Tsi-kwa-koon to Shoot-koon, is an inlet which, Edinso told me, is named Athlow. This has a small island at its southern entrance, and is, I judged, the Port Louis described by Chanal.

From Shoot-koon Point we passed across the entrance of an inlet which I believe to be Port Chanal, but the fog setting in thick, I could see no more, but kept on and made camp for the night on the east side of Nesto Island, at an old Indian camping ground, named Ta-wa-tise. Directly opposite our camping ground, I saw the entrance to a fine inlet, the Indian name of which is Ska-loo. This inlet has never been described or surveyed, and I recommend it to the particular attention of the government as a place eligible for settlement, as well as Ports Louis and Chanal.

From Hippah, or Nesto Island, I continued my course towards Skidegate, passing, on the 22d, the mouths of two inlets, Kung-wa and Chathl, in the former of which, I was informed by Edinso, is plenty of yellow cedar, and both inlets are good harbors, well protected and safe. There is also a small bay making in between Skwa-ka-tance and Na-wa-dun Points, called Tkiew.

As the fog commenced to obscure the land, we ran across Rennell Sound, and made a camp at a most dangerous place, called Tehnwa, a mere cove, where we remained, amid much discomfort, till the 25th,

when we started for Skidegate, and reached the oil works of the Skidegate Oil Company, Sunday morning, August 26th, after a tedious and dangerous canoe voyage of twenty days from Massett. As Skidegate channel and inlet are fully described by Dr. Dawson in his report before alluded to, it will be only necessary for me to state, that I found his report correct.

Besides the harbors and inlets I have named, which are not laid down on the chart, I discovered that Buck Point, of Vancouver, as shown on the Admiralty Chart is a point or peninsula, and not an island as the chart shows, but there is an island three miles due south of Buck Point in the entrance of Skidegate Channel, named Kwigets, and some rocks inside of it bare at high water. I also discovered an inlet making in on the north shore of Skidegate Channel west of the North Arm, as laid down on Dawson's map.

I am of the opinion, that when the west coast is surveyed, many of the openings to harbors, bays and inlets, as mentioned in this paper, will be found as simply channels around islands, like those on the east coast of Moresby's Island, and further south toward Cape St. James.

Cruise to Laskeek.

I remained at Skidegate till September 4th, when I went to visit the villages of Skedana, Cumshewa, and Laskeek or Tanoo, and was absent a week. I found more of interest at the village of Laskeek than at any of the Indian towns I had visited. The reason for this is, that Massett and Skidegate, the principal villages, are under the influence of missionaries who have succeeded in inducing the Indians to abandon many of their superstitions, and dispose of their masquerade dresses; but at Laskeek, everything seems in its primitive condition, and I was enabled to see more of the ancient customs than elsewhere, and to study their strangely carved columns, many of which bore emblems different from anything I had before seen. There were, however, but few Indians in the village, as most of the inhabitants were absent at the canneries on the main land, or at the oil works at Skidegate. I believe if there could be settlements of whites on the Queen Charlotte Islands, who would furnish means of employment to the Indians, they would be induced to remain at home, and not flock to Victoria and other places to engage in questionable means for securing wealth, which is lavishly thrown away at their ceremonials and masquerade dances.

The Haida Indians have a marked talent for the fine arts, as is evinced in their carvings in wood and stone and the precious metals—in their works of sculpture, their architecture, their paintings and drawings. Their imitative talent is excellent as shown in carvings in ivory and stone from designs found in pictorial papers and magazines. Some of their stone work which I sent to Washington, such as caskets, plaques, columns and images, elaborately and elegantly carved in high relief, showed genius and talent of a high order, that should be encouraged. All writers upon the natives of Queen Charlotte Islands are agreed in describing them as of superior intelligence. Fleurien, the editor of Marchand's