

covered with fine spruce and cedar. The latter is valued for canoe-making, which industry is carried on here extensively.

A limited supply of salmon for winter consumption is secured at this place, and bear, deer and other game abound here.

The Hudson's Bay Company have maintained a trading post at Bella Coola for many years, and they claim, under an agreement with the Imperial Government, dated 11th October, 1861, a certain quantity of land immediately adjoining their buildings. Fortunately, in this case, their claim does not interfere with the Indian reserve.

Little or no attempt has been made to christianize these people, but I believe it is the intention of the Wesleyans to establish a mission without further loss of time.

These Indians are industrious and are noted on the coast for producing the finest quality of potatoes and other vegetables. I am credibly informed that last year they disposed of over one hundred tons of vegetables independent of those kept for their own use.

Since the establishment of the cannery at River's Inlet, they have obtained a fair share of employment at that place.

Owing to the absence of so many of the Indians from Bella Coola, during my visit there, I was unable to obtain a correct list of the population, but Rev. Mr. Tate, who took the general census, informs me that they number about 370.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

P. O'REILLY,
Indian Reserve Commissioner.

INDIAN RESERVE COMMISSION,
VICTORIA, B.C., 1st November, 1882.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you, that the Kemsquit tribe of Indians, who reside at the head of Dean Canal, was visited by me on the 14th August.

These Indians being remote from any settlement, have not been brought much in contact with the whites, they therefore retain their primitive habits and customs to a larger extent than most tribes on the coast.

They subsist largely on fish, of which several varieties are found in the immediate vicinity, and being good hunters, secure many furs; a sufficient quantity of potatoes and vegetables is raised for their own consumption, and there appears to be every disposition on their part, to secure a share of the trade in these articles of produce, carried on so successfully by the Bella Coola tribe.

The chiefs, Mala-kuse and Yal-touse, after a lengthened conversation, accompanied me, and pointed out the land they wished to have set apart for them, all of which I subsequently declared to be reserves for the use of this tribe.

No. 1.

Kemsquit, on which the village stands, contains 400 acres, and is situated in Dean Canal, at the mouth of the Kemsquit River, on its right bank. It is a level flat, formed by the debris of the river, principally wash gravel and sand, covered over with vegetable mould. A few large spruce are found on this reserve, but it is for the most part lightly covered with willow, birch and underbrush. At intervals the Indians have cultivated some 10 acres, one half of which is now under crop. The Kemsquit River yields a large supply of salmon, and in the spring oolachans are abundant; halibut are also found in close proximity to the reserve.