

to the wishes of the archers, generally from forty to a hundred yards. In another game one man shot his arrow as far as he could, the others trying to shoot as near to it as possible. The one who shot nearest then tried to fire as far beyond the first arrow as possible, and the game was repeated. The man that could shoot the farthest and truest generally won. A large open space with rather soft ground was best suited for this game.

The Indians used to gather at a bluff close to Nicola River, and about ten or twelve miles from Spences Bridge. Here they tried to shoot their arrows over the top of the bluff, and passers-by did the same. Only the strongest shooters could shoot easily over the bluff.

Shooting-games are no longer in vogue, although a few of the young men compete at rifle-shooting once in a while.

Foot-races were frequently run, and bets made on the result. The best runners travelled long distances to meet each other. Sometimes celebrated Okanagan, Shuswap, and Thompson runners competed with one another. The largest bets were made on races between champions. It is said that when the Indians were numerous, and almost all the men in constant training, there were some excellent long and short distance runners among them. Two men of the Spences Bridge band were said to be the fastest runners in the surrounding tribes. One of them raced against horses and against canoes paddled downstream.

Games at jumping (high running jump and long running jump) were also practised by young men, and bets made on the competitors. One young man from Spences Bridge used to take a short run and jump right over a horse's back.

After horses became common in the tribe, horse-races were frequent, bets being made upon the horses. The Spences Bridge and Nicola bands sometimes had riding tournaments to see who could ride wild horses the best.

Wrestling-matches were also sometimes indulged in. Neither taking hold around the neck, nor tripping with the legs or feet, was allowed in their style of wrestling. Sometimes a good runner or wrestler would make a bet that he would run or throw all comers. Each man that competed with him had to put up something equal in value to the original stake. A man would thus sometimes run five or six men one after another, or throw from five to eight men one after another, until at last he was thrown himself.

Games at tug-of-war were also played by both boys and men. An equal number of men pulled on each end of a rope. Bets were made on this too.

Another pastime was the lifting of heavy stones to test the strength of the players, or the carrying of large stones to see who could carry them farthest. A stone used for this test was near the village of Slaz. Most of the men who passed that way tried their carrying powers, because this stone was known all through the neighborhood.

Gambling is now carried on principally by means of cards, the common games being monte and poker; but gambling of all kinds has greatly decreased during the last ten years.