

Alaska the investigation is being carried on by the Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington.

Early European voyagers to the Pacific coast have given, in their narratives, varied accounts of the habits, customs and actual condition of the natives in those days. In 1741, Bering came down from the north on that coast; and in 1774-5, two Spanish navigators, Juan Perez and La Bodega T. Quadra, sailing up from the south, explored the coast. In 1778, Captain Cook, with Vancouver as a midshipman, visited the coast; and they were followed by several expeditions anxious to establish trading posts. In 1789, the Queen Charlotte Islands were explored by Captain Gray; and in 1792-4, Vancouver, who had attained the rank of captain, made a thorough exploration of the coast in search of a north-west passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean. His name has been well preserved in the island, now the oldest-settled part of British Columbia; and the new city springing up on the mainland, destined to be a second San Francisco, has rightly been called after him also. In 1800, a fortified post was established at Sitka, by Baranoff, from which date the natives may be said to have entered on a new phase of civilization, due to contact with the white man. A great massacre took place soon after this by the Tlingits; but the post was re-occupied and fortified by Baranoff again in 1805, and trade with the natives was thoroughly established, the Russian, American and Hudson Bay Companies being the great commercial factors of the whole of that part of the north-west coast. The region is very humid owing to a warm Japanese current sweeping the coast, and which, meeting the colder waters of the north, gives rise to fogs very similar to those met with off the Newfoundland shores. Rains and fogs are almost continuous during the summer, the annual rainfall being from sixty to ninety-five inches. Travel is entirely carried on