

I have explained to the tribes the wishes of the Department and proclamation issued to stop the "potlach." They reply: "It is very hard to try and stop us; the white man gives feasts to his friends and goes to theatres; we have only our "potlachs" and dances for amusement; we work for our money and like to spend it as we please, in gathering our friends together and giving them food to eat, and when we give blankets or money, we dance and sing and all are good friends together; now whenever we travel we find friends; the "potlach" does that." There are no doubt evils unavoidably connected with the gathering of large bodies of Indians together, but while they are perfectly satisfied with their present way of living (I speak of those tribes I have to do with), it is very hard to make them understand the advantage of giving the "potlach" up, or the justice of making them do so, and the Indians on the West Coast do not make a practice of prostituting their wives and daughters, nor is the "potlach" made an occasion of drunkenness.

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

HARRY GUILLOD,
Indian Agent.

KWAWKEWLTH AGENCY.

ALERT BAY, B.C., 4th June, 1884.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the Annual Report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1884.

It is with regret that I have to bring to your notice the great mortality which has taken place during the year, the majority of those carried off being men of advanced years, nearly all of whom succumbed to lung diseases and inflammation of the intestinal organs, brought about by continued exposure, want of comfort and want of nourishing food.

But few children are on the death list, and there are now in the entire Agency nearly 300 fine looking children of school age, showing signs of good health, all of whom would, if allowed by their parents, eagerly accept the proffered hand, particularly in the matter of education.

It is worthy of note that the only two tribes who are steadily on the increase are those living at the Oolachan fishery, on Knight Inlet, where they have an unlimited quantity of good food, particularly the famed Oolachan grease.

The children in these two tribes far surpass all others in physique, and especially in intelligence; and on a late visit to this place, the whole of them flocked to the school, and during their stay were earnest in their studies and regular in their attendance.

The great mortality can, in a great measure, be traced to the neglect of the bulk of the Indians to procure their accustomed annual supply of Oolachan grease. They have, with the exception of the two tribes referred to, entirely abandoned the preparation of this life-giving food. It has been proved, over and over again, that the life of many invalids has been prolonged by its free use among civilized, as well as uncivilized, people.

The births in several of the larger tribes have been but few, in some none at all, and this is to be accounted for by the absence of girls of a marriageable age. Of this class there is not even one, at this moment, among the Beaver Harbor tribes.

The demand for labor at the south still continues to draw the majority of the natives from their homes during the greater part of the year, where they earn good wages, particularly on the Sound; but, unfortunately, the saloons there being open to them, and no prohibition against open gambling, but few of them return with their hard-earned gains.