

paid the \$20 (£4) necessary to obtain a licence, found that as the result of one night's sport as many as eight hundred fish at ten cents each (value £16) had fallen to their nets. In more than one instance the load was heavier than the boats could hold, with the consequence that men and booty were all swamped, and owed their escape from a watery grave to the assistance given by those around them.

It was, therefore, with no small pleasure, when the season was at its height, that we accepted an invitation kindly given by Mr. MacNab, Government Inspector of Fisheries, to take a trip in the little steam-launch and see for ourselves the working of this great industry.

A brilliant August sun shining down with fierce intensity made the fifteen-mile run down the river a perfect luxury in its contrast to the white and dusty town, for, no matter how hot it may be elsewhere, a fresh breeze is always blowing off the Gulf, and it was not long before we were glad to make use of some of the extra coats and wraps we had brought in readiness for the return journey.

On we went steadily, but surely, leaving by degrees the familiar hills covered with their bare and blackened fir-tree stumps, standing some of them three hundred feet in height (relics of a forest fire which ravaged this part of the country some years ago), past the rich alluvial land of Lulu Island, with its prosperous farmsteads and smiling orchards, till coming under the bridge which connects this island with the City of Vancouver, a most unmistakable odour, and the presence of several large white wooden buildings looming in front of us, announced that the goal of our ambition was almost attained. Five minutes more and the little boat was brought alongside at the landing-stage, and we stepped out on to the wooden platform, and by the edgy bank of the river, where little Indian children coolly had in the scantiest of frocks were amusing themselves by tumbling about on the grass, their big round faces, black eyes, and straight, dark hair, carrying one back in imagination to the days not so long

distant, when their immediate progenitors were practically the monarchs of all they surveyed, and before the time when the white man with his trains, his steam-boats, and electric cars had come to teach them the doubtful advantages of European and other forms of civilisation, in return for the possession of whatever land they might require or desire to obtain.

A branch of the Flatheads, those Indians are yet a most peaceable and, when taught, a fairly moral people, squarely built and stunted in growth; a race who for many generations have depended for their livelihood upon the water, and are, therefore, accustomed to long and continuous paddling of their heavy wooden canoes or "dug-outs," hollowed by themselves from the trunk of some giant of the forest. To this day whole large families of relations will travel along the coast, or down from the mountains, to the town in these primitive, yet capacious boats, bringing with them their various household goods, and, after sojourning for a few months in diminutive shanties or tents, according to circumstances, will return later in the year laden with their recent purchases, the result of their summer labours. No small amusement was it during the first weeks in September of last year to stroll down to the wharves and watch the packing in of their stores, for, owing to the aforesaid wonderful drift, the Indians were in a posi-



A New Westminster Group.