

steel needles are now used. In place of pins long thorns were used. Thread was made of willow and other bark, and also of deer-sinew and buckskin, and the same is still used. In olden times embroidery was done with porcupine-quills, often dyed different colors, and more recently, but before the arrival of the whites, with horsehair, which was also often dyed. Beads also were very largely used prior to 1858. Embroidery in beads rapidly went into disuse after the year 1858, and was superseded by embroidery done in silk thread, which at the present day is almost universal. Very little beadwork has been done by the tribe for the last twenty or twenty-five years. Although some of the patterns wrought at the present day with silk may be old, most of them are copies of the white man's patterns.

BASKETRY. — Basketry-making is an important industry among the tribe. Above Lytton, baskets of various shapes were made of birch-bark, while spruce-bark was used for the largest kind of baskets. The bark is generally cut as shown in Fig. 130. The edges are stitched with split spruce or poplar roots. The rim is strengthened by means of a hoop made of split willow-twigs that is placed on the inside, over which the bark is stitched with split spruce-roots. The rim is often ornamented with stitches made of the bark of *Prunus demissa* Walpers. The outside of these baskets is often ornamented with incised or red painted designs.

The lower division of the tribe and the Upper Fraser division make beautiful coiled basketry of cedar-twigs. This type of basketry is made by the Chilcotin, Lillooet, Lower Thompson Indians, and by a number of tribes inhabiting the Cascade Mountains, in the State of Washington.

Only women and girls occupy themselves with this work. These baskets are made from the small trailing roots of the cedar (*Thuja gigantea* Nutt.). They are dug up with an ordinary root-digger, and pieces of the desired length and of about the thickness of a finger are cut off. These are buried in the ground to keep them fresh. When required, they are taken out, and peeled or scraped with a sharp stone or knife. They are then hung up until dry enough for use. Next they are split into long strips by inserting and pressing forward the point of the bone awl used in basket-making. The awl is made of a long bone of a deer, which is split and pointed. The pieces which split the desired width and thickness throughout their entire length are used for stitching purposes,

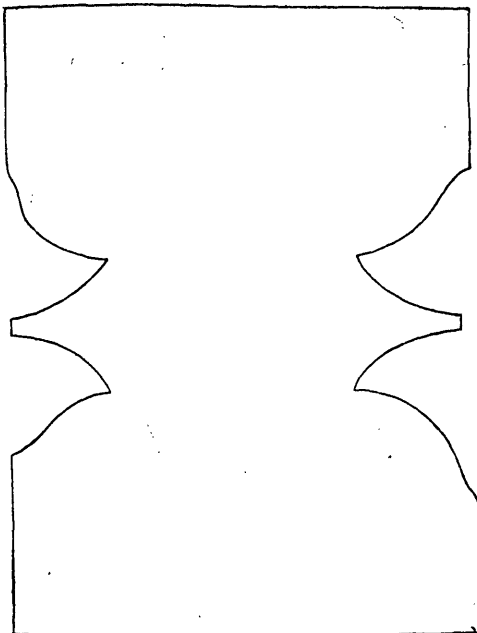


Fig. 130 (1889). Pattern for Birch-bark Basket.