The following tribes of Indians live in the Simpson District: The Tsimsheans, occupying the territory from Port Simpson to Chinaman Hat, at the north side of Millbank Sound; the Niskahs, on the Naas River; the Kitikshans, on the Upper Skeena; the Hailtzas, including the people of Kitamaat, at the head of Douglas Channel; the Kitlopes, at the head of Gardner Inlet; the Bella Bellas and the Oweekaynos, on Rivers Inlet. On the North Bentinck Arm there are the Bella Coolas and the people of Kimsquit and Tallio, and the Hydahs on Queen Charlotte Islands.

The Tsimsheans, the Niskahs, and the Kitikshans speak cognate languages. The Hailtas, from Kitamaat to Oweekayno, speak cognate languages distinct from the Tsimshean. The people of Bella Coola, Kimsquit and Tallio speak a distinct language from that of the other tribes, as also do the Hydahs. Although there are four distinct languages spoken besides the cognate tongues, yet, by means of the Chinook, a trade jargon, these tribes have a way of inter-