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NOTES ON THE INDIAN TRIBES OF THE YUKON DISTRICT
AND ADJACENT NORTHERN PORTION OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

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Such information as I have been able to obtain during our journey ^{Region} respecting the Indian tribes of the extreme northern portion of British ^{included.} Columbia and the adjacent Yukon District, are given in the following pages. Between the northern edge of the ethnological map of British Columbia prepared by Dr. Tolmie and myself in 1884,* and the known portion of the area of Mr. W. H. Dall's similar map of Alaska and adjacent regions,† a great gap has existed, which I had proposed to endeavor to fill in connection with the work of the Yukon Expedition. While this intention has been very imperfectly executed, owing to various causes not necessary here to particularize, but especially to the fact that during a great part of our journey we met with neither Indians nor whites from whom information might have been obtained, it is felt that any facts on the Indians of the district possess some value, not alone from a scientific point of view, but also in their bearing on the Indian question from an executive standpoint.

Throughout the more southern portion of British Columbia, a difference of the most marked kind is everywhere found as between the maritime Indians of the coast and the inland tribes. ^{Inland and Coast Indians.} While this difference is largely one of habit and mode of life, it is also almost everywhere coincident with radical differences in language; the natural tendency to diversity as between coast-inhabiting fishermen and roaming hunters being intensified and perpetuated by the great barrier of the Coast Ranges. Only upon certain routes of trade which have existed between the coast and the interior is this striking diversity to some extent broken down. The Fraser, the Skeena, the Nass and—in the region here specially referred to—the Stikine and the passes at the head of Lynn Canal, constitute the most important of these routes.

From Dixon Entrance northward, with the exception of certain ^{Thlinkit.} small outlying colonies of the Haida on Prince-of-Wales Island, the

* Comparative Vocabularies of the Indian Tribes of British Columbia, 1884.

† Contributions to North American Ethnology, Vol. i.

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