

deserted villages, Ki-oo-sta and E-ouk, the houses, crest-poles and graves, are still standing, but the surrounding land, and old potato patches, are now covered with scrub and grass. These villages must have at one time been inhabited by a large number of Indians, and being in a favorable position for sea-otter and seal-hunting, are temporarily occupied. Halibut and other fish are plentiful in the neighborhood. The land is for the most part level, and lightly timbered, the soil light and sandy, with moss and peat in places; there are many old potato patches which would repay cultivation.

No. 16.

Ta-tense, a reserve of 20 acres, situated on North Island, in Parry Passage; about one-half is open land, covered with rank vegetation, the remainder being timbered. Two small patches are cultivated with potatoes. The reserve is permanently occupied by two families of Masset Indians, and is a favorite camping place, being well sheltered and also convenient for sealing or halibut fishing.

The principal chiefs of this portion of the Hydah tribe, are We ah and E-den-saw.

Owing to the absence of so many, I found it impossible to take a census of the tribe in the prescribed form, but I was informed from reliable sources, that the total population is about 400. This can be easily verified by the general census recently taken.

These Indians support themselves principally by hunting, and fishing. Large number of fur-seal and sea-otter are captured by them each season, while their sea fisheries abound in halibut and herring, and the streams produce an unlimited supply of salmon.

Many of this tribe are expert carvers and realize, each year, a handsome sum by the sale of bracelets and carved posts of wood or stone.

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

P. O'REILLY,
Indian Reserve Commissioner.

INDIAN RESERVE COMMISSION,

VICTORIA, 27th October, 1882.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that I arrived at the village of Skidegate, in the Skidegate Inlet, on the 15th July.

Nowhere on the coast are the effects of small-pox, drunkenness and immorality so apparent as in the decrease of this once powerful tribe, formerly many thousands in number, now reduced to about 300.

At the several deserted or partially occupied villages, evidence of their former number and power is everywhere visible in the numerous old houses, crest poles and carved graves, while the population of the villages at present inhabited grows yearly less, the young men and women migrating to the towns and the older ones dying off. I was particularly struck, when visiting the several villages, by the small number of children.

In a conversation with regard to their lands, at which all the chiefs were present, they expressed a desire that the Skidegate Reserve should be made as large as possible, as they hoped in time that the remnants of their people who resided at the several old villages might be induced to move thither. This I cordially concurred