

Many more words of English were then brought in, and for the first time the French, or rather the Canadian and Missouri *patois* of the French, was introduced. The principal seat of the Company being at Astoria, not only a large addition of Chinook words was made, but a considerable number was taken from the Ghehalis, who immediately bordered that tribe on the north, each owning a portion of Shoalwater Bay. The words adopted from the several languages were, naturally enough, those most easily uttered by all, except, of course, that objects new to the natives found their names in French or English, and such modifications were made in pronunciation as suited tongues accustomed to different sounds. Thus the gutturals of the Indians were softened, or dropped, and the *f* and *r* of the English and French, to them unpronounceable, were modified into *p* and *l*. Grammatical forms were reduced to their simplest expression, and variations in mood and tense conveyed only by adverbs or by the context. The language continued to receive additions, and assumed a more distinct and settled meaning under the North-West and Hudson Bay Companies, who succeeded Astor's party, as well as through the American settlers in Oregon. Its advantage was soon perceived by the Indians, and the Jargon became, to some extent, a means of communication between natives of different speech, as well as between them and the whites. It was even used as such between Americans and Canadians. It was at first most in vogue upon the Lower Columbia and the Willamette, whence it spread to Puget Sound, and, with the extension of trade, found its way far up the coast, as well as the Columbia and Fraser rivers; and there are now few tribes between the 42nd and 57th parallels of latitude in which there are not to be found interpreters through its medium. Its prevalence and easy acquisition, while of vast convenience to traders and settlers, has tended greatly to hinder the acquisition of the original Indian languages; so much that, except by a few missionaries and pioneers, hardly one of them is spoken or understood by white men in all Oregon and Washington Territory. Notwithstanding

its apparent poverty in number of words and the absence of grammatical forms, it possesses much more flexibility and power of expression than might be imagined, and really serves almost every purpose of ordinary intercourse.

"The number of words constituting the Jargon proper has been variously stated. Many formerly employed have become in great measure obsolete, while others have been locally introduced. Thus, at the Dalles of the Columbia, various terms are common which would not be intelligible at Astoria or Puget Sound. In making the following selection, I have included all those which, on reference to a number of vocabularies, I have found current at any of these places, rejecting, on the other hand, such as individuals partially acquainted with the native languages have employed for their own convenience. The total number falls a little short of five hundred words."

Mr. James Constantine Pilling, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, after inserting the above in the preface of his "Bibliography of the Chinookan Languages," goes on to state that "this international idiom is yet a live language, and, though lapsing into disuse (being superseded by the English) in the land of its birth, is gradually extending along the north-west coast, adding to its vocabulary as it travels, until it has become the means of inter-tribal communication between the Indians speaking different languages, and between them and the white dwellers in British Columbia and portions of Alaska." Indeed, there seems to be almost a revival of the early interest shown in it, if we may judge from the amount of manuscript material relating to it now being made ready to put into print. One of the most curious and interesting of all the curious attempts which have been made to instruct and benefit the Indians, by means of written characters, is that known as the "Kamloops Wawa." . . . . . Written in an international language, 'set up' in stenographic characters, and printed on a mimeograph, by its inventor, editor, reporter, printer and publisher, all in one, this little weekly seems to leave nothing in the way of novelty to be desired."

The above was written March 10th, 1883, about twenty months before the "Kamloops Wawa" began to be photo-engraved.