

for fishing and trapping purposes, were looked upon as the property of the individual who built the station or maintained the fence. The erection of another fence in the same pass, in proximity to the first, would materially affect the chances of capturing deer by it. Eyries of the golden eagle were also owned by individuals or families.

The berrying and root-digging grounds were also common property. Among the Upper Thompsons an old woman, chosen by the others or acting voluntarily, watched the larger and more important berry-patches, to see that no one picked the berries until they were ripe. When they were fit to pick, she sent word to the other women; and whoever wished picked the berries until the season was over. This custom has gone out of use. Women of one village could pick in the berry-patches of another as long as they did so at the proper season.

Botani Valley, situated in the mountains, some ten miles from Spences Bridge, and about fifteen miles from Lytton, has been from time immemorial a gathering-place for the upper divisions of the tribe, chiefly for root-digging during the months of May and June. Sometimes over a thousand Indians, representing all the divisions of the tribe, would gather there. The Lower Thompsons even permitted the Coast Indians to gather berries on their territory. Each division had, besides, its separate and recognized camping-ground.

Deer-fences, fishing-stations, and eagle's eyries were inherited by all the male children, the eldest having the right of dividing, and taking his choice. If he was a hunter, he generally took the deer-fence, leaving the fishing-station to his next or some other brother who might be a fisherman, and *vice versa*. Sometimes these places were used by all the sons in common, until some of them died, the survivor claiming all, and his sons inheriting from him. If a man died without sons, the nearest male relatives took his hunting-places. If the deceased had no near male relatives, his daughters and sons-in-law inherited the property. If a widow had children, she inherited the lodge of her deceased husband, and it belonged to her and her children. The widow or female children inherited all the kettles, baskets, cooking utensils, and some of the blankets or robes. Males always inherited canoes and all fishing, hunting, and trapping utensils. Those dogs of the deceased that were not killed became the property of the male children. The horses were divided among all the children, both male and female; the former, however, taking twice as many as the latter, or at least having the first choice. Daughters were supposed by some to inherit a deceased father's horses in preference to all male relatives, excepting their brothers.

A number of regulations determined the distribution of game killed by hunting-parties. The brisket and the skin were considered the share of the man who shot the deer, while the rest of the animal was equally divided among the other hunters, as was also the fat from the intestines. If a strange hunter, not one of the party, arrived on the scene when Indians were butchering a deer, he was accorded some share of the meat. Among the upper portion of the tribe, large game of all kinds was invariably divided among the members of hunting-parties.