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NOTES ON THE SNANAIMUQ.

BY DR. FRANZ BOAS.

The following notes were made during an ethnological reconnoissance on the coast of British Columbia in the winter of 1886–'87. The author remained among the Snanaimuq only a few days in order to collect a vocabulary. No attempt has been made to study the customs and religion of this tribe systematically, which accounts for the disconnected character of the following notes.

The Snanaimuq are one of the numerous tribes belonging to the group of the Coast Salish, who occupy the coast of British Columbia on both sides of the Gulf of Georgia, the coasts of Puget Sound, and the eastern part of Juan de Fuca Strait. The dialect of the Snanaimuq is spoken by a great number of tribes—on Vancouver Island from Nōnō'os Bay to the west side of Sanich Inlet, on the mainland in the delta of Fraser River, and as far east as Yale. There are slight differences of dialect in this region, such as we should call provincialisms. The Snanaimuq are called by the Çatlōltq of Comox, "Nanai'mō."

The territory of the tribe embraces Nanaimo Harbor as far north as Five Finger Island and as far south as Dodds Narrows. The coast strip from Dodds Narrows to Yellow Point belongs to both the Snanaimuq and Qalāltq. The basin of Nanaimo River and Gabriola Island belong to the Snanaimuq.

The tribe consists of five clans—Tē'wětqĕn, Yē'cĕqĕn, *K*oltsī'owotl, Osâ'loqul, Anuē'nes. Each of these has its own chief, while in time of war a war chief leads the warriors of the whole tribe.

The child belongs to the clan of the father. After the death of the chief, the chieftancy devolves upon his eldest son. If he had no son, the eldest daughter takes his place until her son is able to fill his grandfather's place. If the chief dies childless, the eldest son of the chief's younger brother or of his younger sister succeeds him. The father's property is equally divided among his children.

When a woman is to be delivered, all the women are invited to come and to rub shredded cedar bark, which is used for washing and bedding the babe. Two women, the wives of chiefs, wash the newborn babe. All those who do any work on behalf of the mother

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