

2nd. The Carriers or Taxelh,¹ numbering 1,600 and whose territory borders on that of the Chilxotins in the south, and extends as far up as 56° north latitude, leaving to a band of Sékanais part of the forest land intervening between said latitude and about 57° north where we find

3rd. The Nahanés,² who may number 700 and hunt over a territory, the northern limits of which (about 65°) are the southern frontiers of the Loucheux³ hunting grounds in the extreme North-west Territories. Lastly we have in our district a number of

4th. Tsekenné⁴, more commonly called Sékanais who roam over the Rocky Mountains on either slope and the adjacent forests and plains from about 54° to 60°, north latitude. At present there are not more than 250 of them in British Columbia.

To these might be added the Beaver or Tsatens who trade at Hudson's Hope and Fort St. John's, Hudson's Bay Company's posts on Peace River, which, politically speaking, belong to our Province though east of the Rockies. But as (save a few individuals of that tribe) I have seen very little of the tribe, and to adhere to my resolution to speak only of what I have knowledge derived from personal intercourse, I shall refrain from alluding to them. Nevertheless, most of what shall be said of the Sékanais in the course of this monograph, may also be understood as largely applicable to that tribe.

All these tribes, especially the Chilxotins and Carriers, were originally quite numerous. In fact, if we are to credit the old men among them, and even the Hudson's Bay Co.'s employés who were early in this country, it would be necessary to almost decuple the existing numbers in order to obtain an idea of the population as it stood at the time of the discovery of the country by Sir Alexander Mackenzie in 1793. Repeated domestic and foreign wars and contagious diseases, which have several times in this century played havoc among them, have greatly reduced their numbers.

¹This word Taxelh is exotic to the Carriers' language, and, although very often used by them, they contend it was unknown among them before the advent of the traders. It is untranslatable.

²"People of the Setting Sun or West," as named by the Eastern Dénés. The Carriers and Sékanais call them Tseloné—"People of the end of the Rocks," because the band which is best known to them inhabits a plain north of a spur of the Rocky Mountains, which our Indians believe to be the extremity of the whole range.

³The so-called "Tukudh" or "Kut-chins."

⁴"Inhabitants of the Rocks."