

less enables the otherwise imperfect food to go further in supplying the wants of the system.

The Haidas are not great hunters. They kill a considerable number of black bears at two seasons of the year, when they are found prowling along the sea shore, but do not follow them far into their mountain fastnesses. In early spring, when the grass along the edges of the woods begins to grow green, with the skunk-cabbage (*Lysichiton Kamtschatense*) and other succulent vegetables, bruin coming out to browse upon the tender shoots may fall a victim to the lurking Indian. Again in autumn, when tempted to the shores and estuaries by the dead and dying salmon, he is apt to get into trouble, and at this season his skin, being in good condition, is of some value. Haidas not good hunters.

There is pretty good evidence to show that the wapati occurs on the northern part of Graham Island, but it is very seldom killed. The small deer (*C. Columbianus*) is not found on the islands, nor is the wolf, grizzly bear, mountain sheep or mountain goat. Geese and ducks in vast numbers frequent the country about Masset and Virago Sound in the autumn, and for a time form an important item in the diet of the natives. They now shoot them with the flint-lock trade muskets with which they are generally armed. I have seen a bow, with blunt wooden arrows, also in the canoe, to be used in despatching wounded but still living birds, and thus to save ammunition. Sea-fowl of many kinds are articles of food on occasion, though the gull, the loon and some others are exempt on account of their exceptionally rank flavor. The eggs of sea-birds, and especially those of the large white gull, are collected in great quantity in the early summer. Every lonely and wave-washed rock on which these birds deposit their eggs is known to the natives, who have even these apportioned among the families as hereditary property. The singular rocks extending southward from Cape St. James are frequented by myriads of sea-fowl, and some of them are so abrupt and cliff-surrounded that, lashed by the never-ceasing swell of the Pacific they remain inaccessible even to the Haidas. Wapati. Water fowl. Eggs.

The potato, called *skow-shit* in Haida, introduced by some of the early voyagers, now forms an important part of the food supply. A Skidegate Indian told me that it was first grown at Skidegate, but I do not know how far this statement may be reliable. The greater part of even the flat low lands of these islands is so thickly wooded, and with trees of such great size, that the task of clearing the ground is quite beyond the energy of the Indian. There are places, however, near the shore, where by cutting down and grubbing out small bushes limited garden patches may be made. These are very often spots which have been occupied by Indian houses, and where great quantities of shells and other refuse have accumulated, forming a rich soil. Such spots.