

The canoe is to the North-west coast what the camel is to the desert. It is to the Indian of this region, what the horse is to the Arab. It is the apple of his eye and the object of his solicitous attention and affection. The canoes are hewn out of one solid cedar trunk, and are now seldom made over 30 feet long, although formerly they were made over twice that length and carried several tons. Every year finds the Indians more and more abandoning their old form of one-room houses, earth floor and central fireplace, and adopting our manner of building. In short, the Indian is day by day becoming more of a white man. He is still fond of dogs, ad infinitum one might say, especially when one hears the apparently preconcerted simultaneous howl of the colony. Their food, they mostly find on the tide flats, where the Indian table, too, is set twice a day. The advance of civilization has not robbed the Alaskan Indian of his means of sustenance, as the disappearance of the buffalo has our North-west Indian. Commerce and civilization can never rob the Alaskan Indian of his food. Sepulture as now practiced is mostly by inhumation-at-length. They also buy cheap paper-covered trunks into which the corpse is packed and placed in a small enclosure or house, over which float streamers or flags to ward off the evil spirits. Cremation and aerial deposition are not practiced now. The shamans, or medicine-men, witch-craft, and slavery received their quietus after the United States came into possession of Alaska. Similar it is with the potlach, or grand party as we would call it, which served as in modern society to a great extent to give a social standing. The Indian often gives potlaches beyond his legitimate means; he probably anticipated the white man. At the ceremony of an Indian house-warming at Wrangell it cost the host \$5,000 in blankets and other presents.

In conclusion I will speak briefly of the Survey being made in Alaska by our Government.

The definition, by treaty in 1825, of the boundary line of Alaska was the outcome of, and a side issue in the protest of Great Britain against the unwarranted assumption by Russia of exclusive jurisdiction in Behring Sea. The British position was at the time tersely stated by the significant words—"We negotiate about territory to cover the remonstrance upon principle."