

altered it into an *n*. Thus for gold, they say *gon*; for silk, *sink*; for dollar, *dana*. The word *kas* for barrel they owe to the Tlthinket, who had themselves borrowed it from the English speaking skippers and traders (*kas* = cask).

Chinook has contributed *masmas* (a corruption of *musmus*), cattle, and probably *kindan* (for *kiutan*), horse. Following the example of the coast Indians, the Nah'ane have likewise changed the Chinook for cat, *pus*, into *tuc*.

At times this propensity for appropriating foreign terms leads to curiously hybrid compound words. For instance, the Nah'ane equivalent of organ is half Tlthinket and half Déné. All the Déné call that instrument a "paper that sings." As the Nah'ane had already borrowed the Tlthinket word 'kák' for paper, and on the other hand, as they did not know or could not use the Tlthinket synonym for "sings," they unscrupulously retained the first vocable to which they added their own equivalent for the verb and said 'kák-etqine.

The dictionary may be regarded as a thermometer which faithfully registers a people's status and chief avocation. Its readings are seldom at variance with fact, and when it records, for instance, a multitude of fish names or, still better, when it possesses several names for the same fish according to its age or condition, it will inevitably denote a nation of fishermen. In like manner the sociological status of our Nah'ane is betrayed by their vocabulary, which abounds in fine distinctions for the names of the larger animals on which they mainly subsist.

I will take but one example to illustrate my meaning. With them the generic name of the marmot is *tətiyé*, and the female is called *hosthelh*, while the name is known as *oel'getha*. A little marmot in general is named *oe'kane*, or *usthe-tsetle*. But if it is only one year old it goes as *usaze*; the next year it will be known as *oekhutze*, and when in its third year, it will be called *tətiyé-tucitze*. And note that all of those eight words apply to only one kind of animal, since there is another term to denote the smaller variety of marmot (*arctomys monax*).

We have therefore our Nah'ane stamped by their very vocabulary as a people of trappers and huntsmen, and the abundance of their terms for a mountain animal furthermore sheds a good ray of light on the topography of their country.

Another reliable indicator of a primitive people's main occupations, to which it adds a valuable hint at the nature and climate of its land, is