

gon because two late dictionaries which he has obtained show no great change. This is a mistake, but a very natural one for him to make, for I have examined seven dictionaries which have been published since that of Gibbs, and only one of them, that of J. B. Good, shows much change; and Mr. Hale while in Canada could not see the changes which are going on, but which are not shown in the dictionaries. The reason they do not show these changes, undoubtedly, is that the great change is in the adoption into the jargon of words from the English, and it is not necessary to put such words into a dictionary in order that English-speaking people may learn their meaning. Changes have been going on in the jargon just as steadily since the publication of Gibbs' dictionary as before that time. The great tendency has been to drop words of French and Indian origin, and to introduce others from the English. This is easily accounted for from the fact that during the last thirty or forty years the French Canadians of the Hudson Bay Company have mainly been crowded out of the United States and a large part of British Columbia to the very frontiers, while English-speaking people have taken their places, mingling and working with Indians.

*Usefulness and Future of the Jargon.*

The usefulness of the jargon is proved by the fact that it has lived and worked its way from its birthplace, at the mouth of the Columbia river, south to California, east to the Rocky mountains, and north far into Alaska, and this has been done notwithstanding the paucity of its vocabulary, its lack of grammar, the fact that nice shades of meaning cannot be easily expressed in it, and that it has numerous Indian languages and the English with which to contend, which the people have used from infancy and which they prefer to use whenever they can. In the region bounded by the above limits are scores of Indian languages which would be very difficult for the whites to acquire. The Chinook jargon obviates the necessity of learning them, as a person who has acquired it can easily converse with Indians who speak different languages.

It was this which led me to acquire it. When I came to the Skokomish reservation, in 1874, three entirely different Indian