

Their villages, however, are very dirty, but fortunately, their interests necessitating their being always on the move, they manage to escape the usual scourges engendered by filth.

The appointment of constables will, no doubt, enable the Agent, with their aid, to form such regulations, which these constables must see put into force during the Agent's absence, as will bring about the much needed social and sanitary reforms.

On leaving the Laich-kevil-tach country, I proceeded to Havannah channel, on the mainland, the home of the Mat-tee-lete-pees, most of whom were absent procuring their winter supply of salmon.

I found at their village several of the principal men, with whom I conferred on the different Agency matters, in which they are more particularly concerned.

These Indians, having been, in years past, notorious whiskey sellers, now feel the baneful effects of that demoralizing trade. They are fast decreasing.

I appointed two of the most trustworthy to act as constables *pro tem*, to keep their people in order.

This they promised to do and prevent also the further introduction of spirituous liquors into the camp.

They have at their very doors everything they could possibly wish for to make life enjoyable, but they are now so terribly degraded and regardless of the future that a strong hand must be held over them to bring about a change for the better.

The following tribes were also visited in the order named, viz:—

Klah-wit-sis, Turnour Island.

Mahma-lilli-Kullah, Village Island.

Kwick-so-te-not, Village Island.

Ta-nock-tench, Knight Inlet.

Ah-mah-eet-la-lah, Knight Inlet.

Mim-Keeth, Cormorant Island.

These tribes, morally and socially, differ but little from the last named community.

With the exception of a great check put to the introduction of spirituous liquors among these people, I can report no other favorable change. They are so wedded to their old customs, and even filth, that they have to be driven to make the least effort to rise above their present degraded level.

The census for the past twelve months shows 148 deaths and 30 births, the present population being 2,264.

The greatest mortality took place among the Kooe-ke-mos, showing 27 deaths out of a present census of 192, and only three recorded births. Infanticide is, no doubt, carried on to some extent among all the tribes.

It has long been a prevalent opinion that those tribes most given to frequenting Victoria and elsewhere at the south were the greatest sufferers.

The three tribes inhabiting Beaver Harbor have been notably so, but, in the case of the Koo-ke-mos, who seldom or ever left their homes, it is unaccountably different.

The demand for labor, on the Fraser in particular, being at present very great, a large number of the Indians in this Agency have availed themselves of this demand on account of the high wages offered, viz., \$2.00 per diem.

Previous to their leaving I counselled them in the strongest, but, at the same time, in the most friendly manner, to spend their gains in necessaries for themselves and families.

The temptation there will be so great, both for the men and the women, that, considering their present unhealthy state, should they abandon themselves to their old, former vicious, intemperate lives, all that has been done to make them a better and healthier people will have been done in vain and the task of encountering fresh complications of immorality and disease will leave but little hope for the future success of their instructors.

In giving recommendations to some of the best workers (leading men among these Indians) to the cannery proprietors on the Fraser, I expressed a hope in writing that