

The Indian Tribes of the Lower Fraser River. By Dr. FRANZ BOAS.

In the sixth report of the Committee I described the customs of the Lku'ngén, the most southern group of the Coast Salish living on British territory. The northern neighbours of the Lku'ngén, who will be described in the following pages, speak the K'auëtcin (Cowichan) language. This dialect of the Coast Salish is spoken on Vancouver Island from Saanitch Inlet to Nonooos, on the islands north of Saanitch Peninsula and on the Lower Fraser River as far as Yale. The language as spoken on Vancouver Island and on the mainland shows slight dialectic differences, the most striking ones being the general substitution of *l* for *n*, and of *ä* for *a*, on Fraser River. I have given elsewhere some notes on the tribes of Cowichan River and of Nanaimo which belong to this group.¹ Therefore I confine myself in the following pages to remarks on the tribes of the mainland, whom I studied in the summer of 1890.

The Cowichan of the mainland are divided into fourteen tribes, each forming a village community. The inhabitants of each village are believed to be the descendants of one mythical personage. I give here a list of tribes, their villages, and the names of the mythical ancestors:—

Tribes.	Villages.	Ancestor.
1. qmE'ckoyim.	Mä'lë, on North Arm of Fraser River.	Pä'pk'eltel (flag).
2. K'oa'antel.	Steuwä'cël, near South Arm of Fraser River.	K'alë'tsemes (badger).
3. K'e'ëtsë.	Tcë'tstlës, at New Westminster. Seltä's, at head of Pitt Lake, summer village. Cuwä'leçet, at lower end of Pitt Lake, winter village.	Tsatä'selten.
4. Mä'çqui.	Mä'mak'ume, above Langley, on left bank. Kökoä'uk', on Sumass Lake.	Sk'elë'yitl (beaver).
5. Lëk'ä'mel. (Nëk'ä'men).	Lä'qau', summer village. Skuyä'm, winter village.	Iälep'k'ë'lem (sturgeon).
6. Tc'ilequë'uk.	Ts'uwä'lë, Që'les (on upper part of Chilliwak River).	T'ë'qulätca.
7. Stsëë'lis.	Stsëë'lis.	Ts'ä'tsemiltq.
8. Sk'au'ëlitk.	Sk'au'ëlitk, Skuä'tats.	K'ultë'mëltq.
9. Pelä'tlq.	Tcä'tcöhil, Tcë'iam.	Qä'latca.
10. Pä'pk'um.	Pä'pk'um.	Aiuwä'luq (mountain goat).
11. Siyi'ta.	Squhä'men (Agassiz).	Autltë'n.
12. Ewä'wus.	Sqë'ltëx (two miles above Hope).	
13. Ts'akuä'm.	Cilek'nä'tl (Yale), Cuwulsë'lem.	Suwilä'siä.
14. Qelä'tl.	Asilä'o.	Që'lqëlemas.

The tribes above Skuyä'm are collectively called Të'it = those up river. The tribal traditions tell that Qäls, the deity (see p. 463), met the ancestors of all these tribes and transformed them into certain plants or animals which generally abound near the site of the winter village. For instance, Mä'lë is well known for the great number of flags growing in the slough near the village, mountain-goats are found not far from Pä'pk'um, and so forth. In many cases the ancestor is said to have been transformed into a rock of remarkable shape or size, which is found not far from the village. Thus T'ë'qulätca, Qä'latca, and Autltë'n are still shown. I do not understand that the tribe itself claims any relationship with these animals or plants, but nevertheless these ideas must be con-

¹ *American Anthropologist*, 1889, p. 321; 'Zur Ethnologie von British-Columbia', Petermann's *Mittheilungen*, 1887, No. 5; *Verhandlungen der Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte*, 1891, p. 628.