

Mill dams on streams have been a source of serious loss to the Indians of the various reserves, as their erection prevent the fish from going up the streams to spawn. In my opinion, steps should be taken to compel mill owners to forthwith place fish slides in their dams.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

T. P. WADSWORTH,  
*Inspector Indian Agencies and Farms.*

*That portion of Inspector Wadsworth's Annual Report which relates to Treaties 4, 6 and 7 will, together with the report of the Hon. Commissioner Dewdney, Inspector McCall and Agent Anderson, none of which have yet been received, appear further on in this volume.*

COWICHAN AGENCY,  
MAPLE BAY, B.C., 24th July, 1884.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1884, together with my Annual Report and a list of Government property under my charge.

Although, owing to the wandering habits of some of the natives, I have not been able to secure a reliable census in all the bands of the agency, I am convinced that there is a perceptible decrease in the Indian population, and this will, I feel sure, continue until the large "rancheries" (which are, at present, only kept up for the sake of holding "potlaches" and dances) are done away with.

These houses, which are more open to the weather than an ordinary barn, are not nearly so well built as they were twenty years ago, and are undoubtedly the cause of the death of a great many Indians yearly. Indeed, it is almost impossible for any one, suffering from a severe attack of any lung or kindred disease, to recover while staying in any one of them, owing to the damp floors and the constant change they are undergoing from extreme heat to severe cold; and also to the want of suitable nourishing food.

By the tabular statement it will be seen that there is a gradual increase in the quantity of grain grown, which, this year, will be in excess of any former one. Many Indians will have sufficient wheat to supply their families for the year. This is particularly the case in the Saanich, Cowichan and Nanaimo Bands.

The high price of beef, however, and the demand for work oxen, has induced many Indians to sell their cattle, so that the number of horned cattle has sensibly decreased. At the same time, the number of horses is rapidly on the increase, though many of them are unsaleable and of little use.

In November last I attended a large "potlach" held at Lacksem, on Valde's Island. There were over two thousand Indians present, speaking several languages. Some liquor was seized, but, on the whole, the Indians at these gatherings are remarkably peaceable. A very small number of the guests were housed, most of them living in tents or mat huts, and the weather being severe, they suffered very much indeed. There was much grumbling amongst themselves about their being obliged to attend a "potlach" at such a time of the year and where there was no protection from the wind and snow. One of the worst features of this potlach was the number of half-breeds who were taking part in it, and these, following the example of the old Indians, gave or threw away the earnings of years. One youth alone gave away over \$400 worth of goods, being the savings of years, and all to earn the praise or flattery of a few old people, who will, no doubt, be themselves entirely destitute in a few years.