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A Sketch of the Social Organization of the Nass River Indians.

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INTRODUCTION.

In February, 1915, a deputation of four Nass River Indians visited Ottawa on business connected with the Department of Indian Affairs. Through the kindness of Mr. D. C. Scott, the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, their attention was drawn to the anthropological work of the Geological Survey and to the ethnological exhibits in its museum. Opportunity was thus gained, on February 18 and 19, for the writer to secure a sketch of some of the outlines of the social organization of the Nass River division of the Tsimshian stock, a sketch which is confessedly imperfect in many respects, but which may, for the present, contribute its share towards the comparative study of the problems of West Coast sociology.

The Indians constituting the deputation were:

(1.) Chief T. L. Derrick (see frontispiece), living at the village of Aiyansh (*'a'ya'nc*). He formerly lived at the village of *ḡatlaḡta'mtck*, whence he moved to Aiyansh along with most of his tribesmen. He is 59 years of age and is the third chief by rank of the *ḡa'anwr'ḡkc* tribe. His present Indian name is *ḡe'ḡk'*, one of the noble names of the *ḡatw'ḡna'ḡr'* clan, to which Chief Derrick belongs and of which he is head chief.