

Gambling has been suppressed among many of the bands, and the death rate has declined considerably in the past year.

The Agent states that a number of the cannery companies caused much ill feeling among their Indian employes by retaining their wages earned during the first run of salmon, until after the beginning of the second run, an interval of two or three weeks, but necessitating their loss of time for that period. It appears to me, however, that this temporary evil will work its own cure, and that canners will have difficulty in obtaining Indian labour without some more agreeable plan another year.

The work in the salmon canneries is peculiarly adapted to them, and during the active season affords employment to men, women and children, and in the winter the "Clutchmen" make good wages by manufacturing nets.

Reciprocal rules for settlement on the part of both employers and the Indians will be mutually advantageous and necessary, and, no doubt, inaugurated in the future.

KWAWKEWLTH AGENCY.

The Indians of this locality have always been and are inferior to any others in the Province in respect of morals and habits generally.

They imitate with avidity the vices of the whites, having little or no appreciation for their virtues, and appear to desire to resist, inch by inch, so to speak, the inroads of civilization upon old savage customs.

In consequence of their manner of living, abhorrence of ordinary hygienic rules and faith in their own medicine men, the death rate—usually large among them has been exceptionally so during the past year. A fatal epidemic of measles—general along the whole coast—carried off a great many children, while the births were comparatively few.

Owing to the facility with which they can obtain liquor at various points along an extensive coast line; a considerable traffic has been secretly carried on notwithstanding the efforts of the Agent to prevent it.

Mr. Breukinop, however, succeeded in capturing and fining several of the most notorious smugglers, a circumstance which has had the effect of putting a decided check upon the trade.

The school carried on under the auspices of the Church Mission Society, by the Rev. Mr. Hall, has been moved from Fort Rupert to Alert Bay, where commodious buildings have been erected, and where Mrs. Hall is also endeavouring to establish a "Girl's Home."

Owing to the character of the Indians and their great attachment to old camp life all efforts to civilize them have been found to be "up hill" work, and a number of Mr. Hall's predecessors of various persuasions abandoned the work from time to time as altogether hopeless.

The majority of Kwawkewlth Indians availed themselves of the high rate of wages to proceed to the canneries on Fraser River and the Puget Sound hop gardens, hence there was a considerable falling off in the quantity of oil and furs as compared with previous years.

These Indians do very little in the way of agriculture. They have limited land that is cultivable, but the immense sea farm with which they are surrounded affords them a much more profitable industry.

WEST COAST AGENCY.

The past year has been a trying one to the tribes of the west coast.

Though a much more industrious and thriving people than the Kwawkewlths they still inhabit the large and almost shelterless rancherias, so that the occurrence of any serious epidemic soon creates sad havoc among them.

In one village alone, Kyukut, an outbreak of measles and whooping cough caused the death of twenty adults and fifty children.

Being exceedingly superstitious, they at one period of the winter suspected the Roman Catholic Father, who is labouring amongst them, to be the cause of so much