

whom takes precedence of the others. Among these head chiefs one is the chief of chiefs. The rank of the chiefs is denoted by the height of their totem poles, and there are frequent quarrels among them on the subject.

The ten crests are : Whale, porpoise, eagle, coon, wolf, frog, sea parrot, raven, dog, and grizzly bear. A man may not marry one of his own crest—a frog may not marry a frog, but a frog may marry a whale—and these marriages are recorded by carving the crests upon the totem pole, some of which are at least fifty feet high. The children always inherit the mother's crest, and when a chief takes part in any particular ceremony he paints his crest upon his forehead, or upon the blades of the paddles of his canoe.

These things are, however, rapidly passing away, as has the blanket and the long hair, which used to be worn by the men, and the paint and feathers, and the Columbian Indian of to-day is for the most part dressed like his white brothers, and well to do in this world's goods. Indeed, if he is not, it must be his own fault, for certainly no other Indians, or indeed white men either, have a better chance than he of acquiring at least a comfortable living. The ways of doing so which are open to him are catching and drying fish, both gold and silver mining, working on the railways, agriculture, cattle herding, working on steamboats, seal hunting, trapping furs, manufacturing fish oil and jewellery, working at mills, hop picking, etc., while he can always obtain a plentiful supply of meat for the winter, as the mountains abound with game, and he can catch and dry as much salmon and other fish as he may desire. The chief at Lowe's Inlet, assisted by his sons, caught and sold to two canneries on the Skeena River last year forty thousand fish, at an average price of seven cents each. While on the Lower Fraser, several Indians, with their wives, who rowed the boats, earned during the season as much as \$1,200 each. Most of these people reside in comfortable houses and spend their money to advantage. Polygamy is not practised except among some of the Kwawkewlths, who are still very degraded—indeed, not many years ago were cannibals. However, even they are improving.

Most of the women I saw looked very picturesque, with their bright skirts and shawls, and gay handkerchief tied turbanwise on their heads, and one was in the very latest fashion, for she rode her horse astride, as I hear has been done lately in Regent's park. Two more facts I was told which I think are worth recording, as showing the advance of these Indians on the road to civilization. The Comekin and Khempsin Indians last year constructed a substantial dyke, which reclaimed a lot of land and formed a roadway between the two villages; and the Comax band requested that their reserve might be divided into allotments for each family, as they had ordered a quantity of fruit trees which they wished to plant out.—*Toronto Mail*.