

Several religious denominations in turn established missions among these Indians; but they successfully abandoned them as incorrigible. At present the Church of England has a school and mission premises at Alert Bay. The missionary appears to be sanguine of success, and his wife is making a praiseworthy endeavor to instruct some of the young girls in domestic duties.

These Indians are decreasing in numbers. There were during the year 148 deaths to 40 births. Infanticide is said to be practiced among them.

The medicine dance, "Tamawawas," was celebrated in the camp last winter at Fort Rupert, but threats to prosecute for assault had the desired effect of preventing the disgusting portion of the performance.

It is satisfactory to learn that even among these degraded Indians, although the elder Indians object to giving up the "Potlache" feasts, the younger appear to favor the proposed abolishment of these worse than useless heathenish ceremonies.

The Lower Fraser Agency consists of 42 bands and 3,556 Indians. The reserves are scattered between Yale and Waddington Harbor.

They are, as a rule, very industrious, and in great demand as laborers on the railroad, earning as much as \$2.00 *per diem*, and at the fisheries men receive \$1.75, *per diem*. At two saw mills at Burrard Inlet an average of \$18,000 per annum is said to be paid for Indian labor, and on the railroad \$40,000 at least were paid Indians this year. Dog-fish oil is also procured by them in paying quantities.

The houses on almost all of the reserves are built well and kept clean. The unusual height to which the water of the Fraser rose this year resulted in the destruction, by its overflowing its banks, of the crops and fences on the reserves at Chilliwack, Shokale, Cuttes Lake, Sumas, Naccounan, Squeane, Clattawa, Whonack, Matsqui, Langley, Kattseye and elsewhere. This has somewhat discouraged these Indians; the most of whom had very good crops in the ground, and had improved their reserves to a considerable extent.

Even at New Westminster, which is a large white centre, drunkenness is stated to be not half as prevalent as was formerly the case.

There were no criminal offences charged against the Indians of this Agency during the past year.

The Indians of Burrard Inlet are specially mentioned in the Agent's Report for cleanliness and industry. So profitable is the catch of salmon to these Indians that one Indian is stated to have caught the value of \$280 of that fish in fourteen days.

Their progress in agriculture was much hindered during this year by the overflow of the Fraser. Owing, however, to the facility with which labor at lucrative