

"The Indians of the Queen Charlotte Islands have evidently long employed the antlers of the native Caribou for the manufacture of various implements, clubs, etc., as some of the oldest of these in our collections are of that material, which was evidently prized. These Indians are not great hunters and in fact dislike going into the interior of this island and on the higher ground where the small bands of Caribou occur.

"You will notice from my remarks above quoted that these animals must in all probability have been a long time entirely separated from any others, and I should think it highly probable with an animal so variable as the Caribou that they may have developed considerable peculiarities."

A fortnight later I was in Victoria, Vancouver Id., and had an interview with Mr. W. Charles, at his home on Fort St. Mr. Charles was Hudson Bay Co.'s factor at Victoria for years, and the Queen Charlotte Islands came within his official district. He informed me that while visiting at Masset in the north end of Graham Island, he several times heard reports that Caribou were found on the island. But the Indians never brought any in, for they have a superstitious dread of the interior and of the west coast, where the Caribou are found. They believe that if they go there they will be devoured by some fabulous monster that comes up from the sea. At best they are poor hunters, and rarely think about the chase when they can get a meal of fish. One day in 1882 (?) when Mr. Charles went as far as the west slope of the mountains on the Pacific side he noticed a great extent of beautiful level upland pastures, and remarked that if there are any Caribou on this island this is the place to look for them. Accordingly Mr. Alex. Mackenzie, an ex-employee of the Hudson's Bay Co., set out with some Siwash Indians and found near the place a large herd of Caribou, and opened fire on them. The first to fall had only one horn. They brought its skin and skull to Mr. Charles, who states that the skin was of a mouse colour and the animal too small for the Woodland Caribou, and too dark to be the arctic species. He is of the opinion that it is closely related to the Barren Ground Caribou. The skin was destroyed, but the fragmentary skull with its one horn was deposited in the Provincial Museum of Victoria, B.C.