

derable lowered, they were obliged to obtain the means of subsistence by laboring at hop-picking, and at other employments, in the United States.

It is gratifying to learn that at Hesquiat the Indians have abandoned the heathen custom of buying their wives, and have adopted the rite of marriage; also, that the young members of the band are abandoning the use of the old "rancherie," a large building, like a barn, in which a number of Indian families lodge together, and are building separate dwelling houses. There is a school in operation at this point, which is well attended.

At Ky-u-Kaht the Indians appear to be in comfortable circumstances. There is a school in operation on this reserve.

At Alberni matters appear to be improving. Some of the Indians are building houses, being desirous of giving up the old custom of living in common in "rancheries."

The Indians of this agency number three thousand four hundred and forty-five souls. They raised four thousand and seventy bushels of produce, out two tons of hay, cultivated eight acres of land, of which two acres were newly broken this year. The value of the fish and furs captured by them is estimated at \$21,150; and they are stated to have realized from other industries \$11,600.

#### EAST COAST OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND PART OF WEST COAST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

It is pleasing to learn from the agent's report that there are indications of improvement, both physically and morally, in the Kwawkewith Indians who inhabit these regions. And as a natural result an increase in the population of some of the bands is observable. A school is in operation at Alert Bay; and the energetic missionary who superintends it proposes, it is reported, to open schools also at Beaver Harbor, and at the Laich-kuil-tach village, near Cape Mudge.

The Indian population of this agency is one thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine. The value of the furs captured by them is estimated at \$3,770; and from other industries they are stated to have realized \$522.50.

#### LOWER FRASER AGENCY.

The numerous bands in this agency are very favorably reported of by their agent. They are described as a well-behaved, honest and progressive people. The abundance of fish caught and the large yield obtained by them from the soil have placed them in comfortable circumstances for the winter. The population is increasing. Their health has been, for the most part, good.

I regret to have to report the total destruction, last spring, by fire, of the village of the Semalcon band in the Douglas district. They are to spend the