

also neatly papered and well furnished. These Indians obtain constant employment in the coal mines and from wharfingers.

In striking contrast to the foregoing is the condition of the Indians at Comox and Sooke, which form respectively the extreme northern and southern limits of the Agency. These Indians consist of remnants of distinct tribes. With a few exceptions they are depraved and filthy in their habits. Their principle article of food is fish, of which they can easily-obtain abundance.

The Agent reports that except in the vicinity of the city of Victoria the liquor traffic among the Indians of the coast has been almost completely suppressed.

The Soughces Reserve near Victoria is most unfavorably situated, owing to its proximity to that place. These Indians are described as among the most depraved on the coast.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that the old heathen feast known as the "Potlache" is gradually being abandoned on the east coast. At these celebrations a large quantity of personal property is wont to be squandered in largesses from one tribe to another, the lucky (?) recipients being expected to return subsequently as much as if not more than they receive. The old medicine men are also reported to be losing their influence on this coast. The Indians prefer to come sometimes long distances to the Agent for medicine.

The West Coast Agency embraces eighteen bands of the Aht Nation with a population of over 2,823. These Indians live by fishing, by otter and seal hunting, and manufacturing oil, and do not require to turn their attention to agriculture for a subsistence. Some of them own good houses, but the majority of them live in the old rancheries. They buy extensively goods that are usually purchased only by white people. The liquor traffic is also well under control among the Indians on this coast. They are, however, much addicted to "potlaching" feasts, and gambling, though they are much more industrious and amenable to law than their neighbors the Kwahkewlths. Some of the Aht tribe are anxious to improve their social condition and to have their children educated.

The Kwahkewlth Agency comprehends 25 bands and 2,264 Indians, who are the most depraved and uncivilized in the Province. The ruinous Potlache feast is constantly held by them. In the autumn of 1881 these Indians met at Fort Rupert for the purpose of having a succession of these feasts. They remained there until July. Thus the most valuable portion of the fishing season was lost by them. And when the Superintendent visited them, he found that although they had a large quantity of goods to give away at these "potlaches," their camps were in a wretched condition. During last winter they were crowded in rancheries, and consequently suffered greatly from sickness, which was attended in many instances with fatal results.