

Fourth Report of the Committee, consisting of Dr. E. B. TYLOR, Dr. G. M. DAWSON, General Sir J. H. LEFROY, Dr. DANIEL WILSON, Mr. R. G. HALIBURTON, and Mr. GEORGE W. BLOXAM (Secretary), appointed for the purpose of investigating and publishing reports on the physical characters, languages, and industrial and social condition of the North-Western Tribes of the Dominion of Canada.

THE Committee report that, in addition to Mr. Wilson, of Sault Ste. Marie, who contributes some valuable remarks upon the Sarcee Indians, they have been enabled to secure the services of Dr. Franz Boas (now of New York, and one of the editors of 'Science'), who has been for several years engaged in ethnological investigations in America, particularly among the Eskimo and in British Columbia, and who has consented to return to that province for the purpose of continuing his researches there on behalf of the Committee, and in accordance with the instructions comprised in their 'Circular of Inquiry.' Only eight or nine weeks—in May, June, and July last—were available for his trip, but, with the advantage of the experience and information obtained in his previous journey, he has been able to gather a large mass of valuable material. The results of his inquiries will be given in his final report, to be presented next year. For the present occasion he has prepared some preliminary notes, with an introductory letter (addressed to Mr. Hale), containing a brief account of his proceedings, and some important suggestions concerning future inquiries and the condition of the Indians of that province. The letter is as follows:—

'I beg to transmit the following report of my proceedings, with preliminary notes on the results of my researches in British Columbia. In your instructions dated May 22, 1888, you made it my particular object, on the present trip, to obtain as complete an account as possible of the coast tribes and their languages. As on my previous journey, in the winter of 1886-87, I had collected a considerable amount of material respecting the southern tribes, I turned my attention at once to the Indians inhabiting the northern parts of the coast, including the Tlingit. On June 1 I arrived in Vancouver, and after ascertaining certain doubtful points regarding the Skqomish, who live opposite the city, I proceeded to Victoria on June 3. Mayor J. Grant, of that city, kindly gave me permission to take anthropometric measurements of such Indians as were in gaol. This proved the more valuable, as the natives were very reluctant to have any measurements taken. I sought to obtain measurements and drawings of skulls in private collections in Victoria, and was fortunate enough to be able to measure eighty-eight skulls from various parts of the coast. The results of these measurements must be reserved for the final report. I will mention only the remarkable fact that skulls of closely related tribes show great and constant differences. Comparisons of ten skulls each from Victoria, Sanitch, and Comox give the following results:—

	Length	Length-breadth	Length-height
	Mill	Index	Index
Victoria . . .	184.5	77.7	75.0
Sanitch . . .	161.0	95.5	80.8
Comox . . .	176.6	77.9	77.4