

industrious, intelligent and receptive, than other Indian tribes. They are quiet, sociable, and hospitable; yet combined with the last two qualities are often pride and suspicion. Some are of a jocular, humorous temperament; and some are courageous, determined, and persevering, although the last-named quality is not a characteristic of the tribe as a whole. Some show it, however, to a marked degree when hunting or fishing. Being proud, they are easily offended, but seldom allow their wrath to get the mastery of them. As a rule, they are not vindictive. They admire a man who is athletic, active, energetic, industrious, strong to endure, brave, hospitable, liberal, sociable, and kind. They are fond of the wonderful, of oratory, gambling, story-telling, hunting, and horseback-riding. They are not as proud-spirited as they were, nor do they take as much interest in games, athletic exercises, and fun, as formerly. Disease and the knowledge that they are doomed to extinction are the chief causes for this: while change of pursuits, and the acquirement of new ideas, also have their effect.

At present these people, both socially and otherwise, may be said to be in a state of transition from the customs and modes of life of the past, to those at present in vogue among the surrounding whites. Although some of the old people cling tenaciously to many of the old habits and traditions, the one idea of many of the younger people is, to advance their material condition, and to copy and vie with the whites in many lines of industry, as well as in customs and dress. This latter propensity very often results in the adoption of more evil than good customs, as is true in the case of whiskey-drinking. I may add, that the ease with which liquor can be obtained, especially along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, principally from unscrupulous whites, is the cause of the ruin, both moral and physical, of many of the young people, as well as of brawls, and sometimes loss of life. Be it said to their honor, however, many of the tribe have little or no desire for liquor, and, although it is so easily procurable, never avail themselves of the opportunities so flagrantly brought to their notice. Those Indians who indulge in whiskey almost always do so to excess, and they are generally those members of the tribe who most closely copy the whites in other particulars. Moreover, these are often included among the most industrious and progressive members of the tribe. On the other hand, those individuals who are more exclusive and conservative have, as a rule, little or no craving for whiskey, and refuse to use it, nor will they accept other innovations brought by the white man.

The Lower Thompson Indians are quieter and steadier than the people of the upper division, but at the same time they seem to be slower and less energetic. They are better fishermen and more expert in handling canoes, while the Upper Thompson Indians are better horsemen. The difference in disposition between the two divisions of the tribe is brought out rather strongly on Coldwater River, where people from Nicola and Boston Bar live in close proximity. While arrests for drunkenness, assaults, horse-stealing, etc., are quite frequent among the former, they are almost unknown among the latter.