

## Introduction.

The following clipping from the *Montreal Gazette* of Nov 29th, 1894, will make a convenient introduction to this little pamphlet —

"The 'Chinook Jargon,' or Oregon Trade language, is a curiously composite form of speech, being partly Chinook, partly Nootka, partly French, partly English, and partly the result of onomatopœia. During the early intercourse of Europeans with the West coast, Nootka was the emporium of the traffic, and the Indians gradually picked up from the sailors some English words. Later on, when traders began to frequent the Columbia River, they used the words learned at Nootka, and in this way the Chinooks, always quick in catching sounds, added Nootka and English words to their own vocabulary. As early as 1804 a *lingua franca* had thus come into use on the coast. The Nor'-West, Astor and Hudson's Bay Companies servants, and the French *royageurs*, all contributed their share to the jargon. When Mr. Horatio Hale, whose manual is a work of authority, first visited the coast, it consisted of about 250 words. Of these 18 were of Nootka origin, 41 of English source, while 34 were French and 111 formed the Chinook substratum. That was more than fifty years ago. In 1863, when the Smithsonian Institution published its dictionary of the language, the number of words had grown to 500. Of these 221 were considered Chinook, 94 French, 67 English, while the Salish or Flathead Indians are credited with 39. The nationalities of their civilized visitors were designated respectively Pasai (Français); Kintchoss (King George, whose medals are known all through the North-West, being the type of an Englishman), and Boston (from the French-Canadian *Bastouais*). A man named Pelton, going insane, furnished a term for fool or madman. The term of salutation—*clak-oh-ah-yah*—used to be traced to the visit of Clark, and his friends' enquiries after his health, and their origin satisfied Sir D. Wilson. Mr. Hale, however, prefers to assign it to a Chinook origin. *Tum-tum* is a sound word for heart (from the pulsation), and is used for will, purpose, desire. *Lip-lip* (to boil) is another such word, imitating boiling water. *Kole-sick-waum-sick* is the expressive jargon for fever and ague. *Stik* is used for tree or anything made of wood. *Hee hee* clearly denotes

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