

tsho-ti-na at the little post at the mouth of the Dease, and their curiosity proved to be very embarrassing. Mr. Egnell, who was in charge of the post, excused it by explaining that they had never seen so many Whites together before, the number being nine in all, including our party, Mr. Egnell himself and Mr. McDonald, of the Hudson Bay Company. Of these Indians, only two had been as far west as Dease Lake, and none had ever seen the sea. They are, however, fairly well off, as their country yields abundance of good furs. They visit the trading post only once in the course of the year, spending the remainder of their time moving from camp to camp in isolated little family parties, hunting and trapping; each one traversing a very great extent of country in the course of the twelve months. Some of their traps or household goods are packed on dogs, but the greater part of their impedimenta is carried by themselves on their backs, canoes being seldom employed. Rivers and lakes are crossed in summer by rafts made for the occasion. They generally bring in only the fine furs, as bear-skins and common furs are too heavy to transport. They evidenced great curiosity with regard to our equipment, being particularly struck by a canvas boat and an air pillow. These and other objects, I have no doubt, furnished subjects of conversation round many camp fires for the ensuing year. Migrations.

The Kaska form a portion of the group of tribes often referred to by the Hudson Bay Company's people as the Nahanie or Nahaunie, and so classed collectively by Dall in the absence of more definite information.*

For the northern district, drained by the Pelly, Stewart and other rivers, I am unfortunately unable to give much detailed information respecting the Indians, a circumstance due to the fact that we scarcely met any of these Indians, nor did we proceed far enough down the main river to meet the traders, from whom something might doubtless have been obtained. Indians of northern district.

The name of the Indian tribe inhabiting the Upper Pelly valley was given to me by the Indians at the mouth of the Dease as Ta-koos-ooti-na, by Indians met by us near the site of Fort Selkirk as Na-ai'. The territory of this tribe includes also the basin of the Macmillan and that of the Stewart as far down as the mouth of the Beaver, or "First North Fork," a very extensive region. I believe, however, that the names above noted either refer to local sub-divisions of the tribe, or are terms applied to them by neighbouring tribes and not recognized by themselves. Dall in his article already cited (following Ross) gives Abbato-tenā' as the name of a tribe inhabiting the Upper Pelly and Macmillan, while Petitot places the name Esba-ta-otinnē in the same Indians of Upper Pelly.

* *Op. Cit.*