

excellent land could be cleared with little trouble, and the remainder, though covered with large timber, is level, and may at some time be turned to account.

No. 6.

Kaste, situated at the head of Copper Bay, fourteen miles south of Skidegate, contains 40 acres. Its principal attraction is the salmon fishery. At present there are no permanent inhabitants on this reserve, and it is only occupied during the fishing season. Though thickly covered with timber, this reserve contains a large proportion of land that can be utilized should the Indians ever turn their attention to agricultural pursuits.

In addition to the land, I have further reserved to the Indians the right of fishing in the Kaste River for a distance of one mile above tidal water.

No. 7.

Cum-she-was, or Kin ool, is at the head of Cum-she-was harbor, 25 miles south of Skidegate.

Here are indications of there having once been a large village. The present population does not exceed 30, all told. The reserve, which contains 80 acres, is utterly worthless except as a halibut fishery.

In all probability this band will remove to Skidegate within a few years, and add another band to the long list of deserted villages on this coast.

No. 8.

Skedan, or Koona, is situated 30 miles south of Skidegate, and contains 160 acres.

This is also another village in the last stage of decay, the total population being only 25, who expressed their intention of migrating to Skidegate. The reserve is very worthless, being almost entirely rocky, mountain land, covered with timber. About four acres have once been cultivated as potato patches, which is all that is available for that purpose; it is, however, a good halibut and herring fishing station.

No. 9.

Ta noo, or Clue, a reserve of 65 acres on Tanoo Island, 45 miles south of Skidegate, the whole of which is worthless, rocky land, though it contains a sufficient supply of good timber, its only other value being that of a fishing station. The population is variously estimated at from 30 to 50.

As before stated, these Indians have, within the last 20 years, so degenerated that it is hard to realize that they ever were a powerful tribe.

From the last information obtainable on the spot, the bulk of the Indians being absent, I ascertained that the population of the Skidegate and Gold Harbor Indians is 317 and 102 respectively. Physically they are a much finer race of men than any on the coast, their canoes are larger and better sea-boats than those of the coast Indians generally, while the stormy rugged coast on which they reside has developed the qualities of hardihood and courage which has made them feared from Alaska to Victoria.

The principal industry is that of fishing. Dried halibut and herring spawn are bartered with the Tsimsean Indians for oolichan grease. Dogfish oil is always a marketable commodity, as also are the furs of the bear and fur seal. These Indians are also noted for their carvings both in slate and wood, and for the manufacture of silver ornaments, bracelets and ear rings.