

about half a mile above the village. A substantial part of this work has already been done, and it is hoped the dam will be finished and the water main completed to the village in the near future.

The surveyor's plan to remodel the village necessitates the demolishing of many of the old houses, and the building of new ones. This is being effected in a more rapid manner than would ordinarily be expected from such a slow-moving race. At the time of writing, one new home has just been completed, another one is receiving its finishing touches, and lumber is in the village for the erection of six others. In addition to the foregoing several other men have plans and lumber bills ready in anticipation of building.

The modernization of the village is further evidenced in the industrial activity of the inhabitants. Their chief occupation is fishing. Not so very long ago, this industry was carried on by them in canoes. The march of progress, however, as exemplified by the white men, soon convinced the Indians that a gasoline boat could cover more water at less expense, and be a safer craft than a canoe. The more enterprising members of the band adopted the modern method, and their example has been zealously followed. Last season six new gasoline fishing boats were added to their already numerous fleet. This coming season promises some further additions; and the indications are that the last lone Indian canoe will soon be lying neglected on the sands alongside of others already there—the sands of time having passed over their day of usefulness. The working of a fish oil plant by the men of this village deserves more detailed treatment than we can give now. We mention it to show a further evidence of their progressiveness.

Between thirty and forty years ago—the exact date has been forgotten by these timeless children of the wild—a Church of England missionary visited Skidegate. He was well received by the Indians, and returned several times from his headquarters at Massett. Under his guidance a log building was erected by the villagers for public worship. For about two years this gentleman, and a christian Indian from Metlakatla who succeeded him, continued to preach and to teach among the people.

When they abandoned the work here, the people were without christian leadership for a season, until the Methodist church sent them a man. This man, Mr. George Robinson, entered into his work with great energy, and in a short time a new church, the first Methodist church to be erected on the Queen Charlotte Islands, was built under