

The decrease in the size of the fur pack was partly attributable to the Indians being less active in their hunting and trapping and partly on account of the fur bearing animals being less numerous in the country. The competition of white hunters and trappers had also an effect in bringing about the reduction of the Indian fur pack. Eight years ago there had been virtually no white trappers in the country, and settlement naturally drove the wild animals further back necessitating greater effort in securing them. Another reason for the lessened pack was found in the fact that the Indians might be trapping and making money thereby when they were potlaching, the potlach practice having increased probably five hundred per cent; when the Indians were making good money at handlogging was the time of the rapid growth of potlaching. The potlach had decidedly grown during the past 25 years. It was a sign of prosperity in that when the Indians had money they would potlach. Reverting again to agriculture in the Kwawkewlth Agency, in his opinion the soil, climatic conditions, etc., in certain parts of the Agency would be suitable for farming. If they had good soil and some assistance in practical instruction, the younger generation of Indians would adapt themselves to agriculture. With respect to educational facilities in the Agency, there were the Industrial for Boys, the Girls' School and the Day School at Alert Bay, as well as a day school at Cape Mudge. There had been a number of applications for admittance to the Industrial school which had necessarily been refused because of insufficiency of accommodation there, and the day schools except at Alert Bay had proven absolute failures because of the nomadic habits of the Indians, who were always trekking about, taking their children with them. As to the Industrial School at Alert Bay: It occupied a good site in a good location and had some good soil, although the land was very hard to clear. The part that had been put under cultivation had been cleared by the boys, the greater part of their farming instruction.....

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