



CHILCOTIN
STUDIES:

1883-1913.



BY: DAVE FALCONER.



DOMINION OF CANADA.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1883.

CHILCOTIN
STUDIES

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1884.

CHILCOTIN STUDIES: Quite a lot of information about the history of the Chilcotin Indians may be gathered from old D.I.A. Reports. The Government in Ottawa has been putting out one of these reports every year for well over 100 years. When reading them, a person has to remember that the Government employees who wrote these reports would only say things that would make the Govt. look good! Often, the situations on some of the Indian Reserves was very bad, but the Govt. would say very little about this in their Annual Reports.

INDIAN OFFICE,
VICTORIA, B.C., 7th Nov., 1883.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to report my return to Victoria, after having made an extensive official visit throughout the interior, inspecting, *en route*, the Fraser, Kamloops and Okanagan Agencies and a large portion of the Lillooet District.

CHILCOTIN.

On my return to Soda Creek I met two of the Chilcotin Chiefs, Anahim and Toosey, who had come thither to meet and escort me through their country. I crossed Fraser River on the 5th September and rode thirty-six miles, camping at

Deer Park, where forty or fifty of Toosey's Indians had assembled to meet me before going to their camp, twelve or fifteen miles farther on.

In reply to my introductory words to them, Toosey addressed me as follows:—
"Chief: I know that my people have a bad name, but you are the first Queen's officer who has visited us, except for arresting some of our number.

"We have been afraid of white people because those we have generally met have imposed upon and deceived us. We have heard your words and we are glad that the Queen has sent you to us as our friend.

"You do not come among us to arrest us and punish us, but to counsel and advise us. You must remember that our people are as yet wild. They are like the deer which sleeps and starts suddenly at the first sound of alarm.

"Some of my people are hid in the mountains and have been afraid to come in. They will come in to see you, and when they hear your kind words they will not be afraid, and will do what you say.

"We will all meet you to-morrow."

Fortunately, I had received at Soda Creek, from Mr. Moffatt, Capt. Meason's appointment, and having sent a messenger for him, that gentleman accompanied me throughout the remainder of his Agency, a circumstance that greatly facilitated the proper understanding of his instructions, and enabled me to introduce him personally to the various tribes, as their future resident agent.

Captain Meason is a retired army officer, a resident of the country for the last twenty-four years, and therefore well acquainted with native tribes of the interior. He appears to be an active man (riding from fifty to sixty miles a day with me during my visit in his district) and, so far as I was able to judge, was well received by, and possesses the confidence of the Indians.

I had not previously met Capt Meason, but I think his selection was a good one. The Indians, without exception, seemed exceedingly pleased that they could now have his services as their counsellor.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

J. W. POWELL,
Indian Superintendent.

CHILCOTIN STUDIES: This letter, from the 1883 D.I.A. Annual Report, was written by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Mr. J. W. Powell. It tells about the first meeting between himself, and the Chilcotin Chiefs: Anahim and Toosey. This was before any Indian Reserves had been set up in the Chilcotin part of British Columbia.

WILLIAMS LAKE AGENCY, B. C.,
LESSER DOG CREEK, 15th September, 1888.

The Honorable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward herewith my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1888, together with tabular statement and list of Government property under my charge up to the same date.

On the 12th of April I started to visit the various reserves in my agency, proceeding first to the

CHILOCOTIN BANDS.

Toosey Band.—This reserve suffered much during the winter from measles, which carried off three adults and seven children. Nearly every member of the band was attacked by the disease; and, in consequence, no trapping was done, and the tribe had no means of procuring seed grain in the spring. With the permission of Indian Superintendent Powell, I supplied what seed was required, for which the chief expressed much gratitude.

Stone Band.—This reserve was laid off last summer by the Indian Reserve Commissioner. I was surprised to find the extent of good fencing which this tribe had made already, and the quantity of new land broken. This band had never before taken any interest in agriculture, devoting all their time to trapping, and it was not to be expected that in one season they would have changed their mode of life. With the advice of Messrs. Shuby and Menton, who own a large farm adjoining the reserve, none of the band left the reserve during the time when the measles existed in the other reserves, and, in consequence, not a single case occurred amongst them. The same gentlemen have kindly taken much trouble to show these Indians how to farm and how to build their fences; and have even cut part of the crop with their self-binder, as the grain was over ripe and much would have been

lost if cut with cradles. From being the wildest of the Chilcotin bands, this tribe will soon be an example to the rest as steady and prosperous farmers.

Anahm Bands.—The Indians of this reserve also suffered severely from the measles, resulting in the death of seventeen of their number. This band was also supplied with wheat and oats for seed. The ditch constructed on this reserve proving useless, on account of frequent breakages, caused by the soil being of an alkali nature, a new line was marked out by Mr. Shuby and myself which will prove to be solid and lasting. These Chilcotin Indians are far superior to most of the tribes of this agency as workers, and they seem to have a desire to acquire more than a bare existence. As an instance, one of the Toosey tribe, named Frank, owns two waggons and teams, with which he makes money by freighting goods for the settlers. The same Indian has just purchased a four horse thresher, part of which he has already paid for, with which he intends to thresh the grain of anyone who will hire it. As there is no thresher on that side of Fraser River, there is no doubt the investment will repay him.

Alexandria.—Seven adults and six children of this band have died since last report; five of the former and all of the latter from measles. Six births have, however, taken place in the same period, the result being a decrease of seven. Although most industrious and good hunters, yet I regret to say this tribe has not improved in regard to temperance. There are several half-breeds who live with this tribe, and as the law allows intoxicants to be sold to that class, even when residing upon reserves, it is impossible to prevent the frequent supplying of liquor by them to the Indians of the bands among whom they reside.

The harvest of berries has been abundant this summer in all parts of the agency, but the run of salmon has been very small, little more than what was consumed during the fishing season. The crops on all the reserves this season are abundant. With the exception of these reserves which suffered from the measles, the general health of the Indians of this agency has been good.

The general conduct of the various bands has been very good.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. LAING MEASON,
Indian Agent.

CHILCOTIN STUDIES: The local Indian Agent, William Meason, wrote this letter shortly after Indian reserves had been set up in the Chilcotin country. Despite claiming that the health of the Indians in this area "...has been good", it is obvious that there were some very serious health problems! In this one year, from 1887 to 1888, about 40 Indians at Toosey, Anaham and Alexandria had died; mostly from the measles.

CHILCOTIN STUDIES

Chilcotin Bands.

1892

Toosey Reserve was surveyed last summer by Mr. D.L.S. Fletcher.
The band is well provided with land of good quality. There is also a good hay meadow on the reserve. X

The dam built to turn the water of Mackin Creek has not proved a success—and I have instructed the chief and head men to run the survey line of the ditel up the creek until it runs into the latter—requiring only a log to turn the direction of the water.

I regret to say that intoxicants have been introduced amongst these Indians since last year. At a court held at G. Dester's, Esq., J.P., a Half-breed was fined fifty dollars and costs, it being his first offence, and an Indian was fined twenty-five dollars and costs, both for having whiskey in their possession on the reserve. X
These Indians are intelligent and industrious and are in comfortable circumstances. X

The births have been six, and the deaths six, in this band since last year.

Stone Reserve was also surveyed during the summer of 1891, by Mr. D.L.S. Fletcher.

The land on this reserve is of very good quality, and good crops are raised by the band. The houses in the village show that these Indians have only lately been converted from their former wild life in the mountains, but their fences are as good as those of many white farmers. The band is under the complete control of their chief, who shows them an example of untiring industry. There is a good grist-mill within four miles of the reserve, which is able to grind in the winter as well as the summer, and what wheat is not required for flour is purchased by the miller.

I consider this band is in a prosperous condition.

The births and deaths during the past year were equal—four of each.

Anahem Reserve was also surveyed in the summer of 1891.

This band is each year extending its fences and increasing the area of its cultivated land.

Trapping is still followed in the spring and fall, but not to interfere with farming operations.

This reserve includes a flat of over two miles in length and of excellent quality. There is also a large hay meadow on the reserve.

These Indians do not throw away their money in useless luxuries of food or dress, but invest it in wagons, harness and such like. They are still contented with the food which they can raise on their land or obtain by hunting, and they do not hanker for the expensive dainties of the whites. They dress well, however, and in that respect the young men can compare with the Sushwaps.

The Roman Catholic missionary visits these bands three or four times during the year, but from what I can learn they do not as yet "take much stock" in religion. Their nature is of a practical kind, and until they find that religion helps them in their mundane affairs, they will never become very zealous converts to any form of religion.

The health of these bands has been good during the past year, and this I attribute to their out-of-door life which they follow most of the year. The nature of the Indian is still like that of the wild animal in one respect—confinement is soon followed by premature sickness and death.

The births in this band during the past year were twelve and the deaths five, being a greater increase than any other band in the agency.

The conduct of the Chilcotin bands during last year has been good.

I regret to say that up to date the run of salmon has been only enough to feed those who are at the fishing stations.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. LAING-MEASON,

Indian Agent.

CHILCOTIN STUDIES: From this 1892 D.I.A. Annual Report, we are able to pick out some interesting facts:

1. Indians were forbidden by law to have liquor with them, or in their houses.
2. Local Indian reserves were surveyed by a Government surveyor, D.L.S. Fletcher. (Fletcher Lake is named after this man).

This report mentions a Mr. G. Dester, who was the local Justice of the Peace (or "J.P.", for short). A J.P. was something like a magistrate or a local judge. Dester had a trading post near Cynthia Isnardy's place, and was the local Postmaster. He sold out to F.M. Becher, later.

ANAIHAM BAND.

Reserve.—The reserve of this band is situated in a valley near the Chilcotin river, and about sixty miles from its mouth. It has an area of nine thousand nine hundred and twenty-two acres.

The natural features are open bench-lands, excellent hay meadows, and fair timber on the mountain-slopes.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this band is two hundred and twenty-three, an increase of five during the year, there having been eight births, and three deaths.

Health and Sanitation.—The health of these Indians has been very good. Their houses and surroundings are kept clean, and all refuse matter destroyed.

Occupations.—These Indians raise considerable grain and roots, have excellent horses and quite a large number of cattle and pigs. Quite a number own teams and wagons, and haul freight for merchants from the nearest railway station, a distance of two hundred miles. They also earn considerable money as drovers with cattlemen, being expert riders.

Buildings, Stock and Farm Implements.—They have good dwellings, good stables, good horses and quite a number of cattle and pigs. They are well supplied with all kinds of farm implements; also wagons, sleighs, saddles and harness.

→ * Education.—None of the children of this band have ever received any education, there being no schools within seventy miles of the reserve. *

→ Religion.—They are all Roman Catholics, have a small church on the reserve, and are occasionally visited by a missionary of the church.

Characteristics and Progress.—They are good workers and making steady improvement each year.

STONE BAND.

Reserve.—The reserve of this band is situated on the west bank of the Chilcotin river and has an area of four thousand two hundred and twenty-five acres. Its natural features are bench-lands, good grazing lands and hay meadows.

Vital Statistics.—The population is one hundred and eight, an increase of two, there having been five births and three deaths during the year.

Health and Sanitation.—The health of these Indians has been good. Their dwellings and surroundings are fairly well kept.

Occupations.—Farming, hunting, fishing, trapping, and working as labourers with white settlers, as farm-hands and cow-boys are the principal occupations of these Indians.

Buildings, Stock and Farm Implements.—They have good dwellings and horse-stables, good horses, sleighs, harness and saddles, and a fair supply of farm implements.

→ Education.—None of these Indians have ever received any education.

→ Religion.—They are all Roman Catholics and have a small church on the reserve.

TOOSEY BAND.

Reserve.—This reserve is situated on Riskie creek, a small stream that flows into the Chilcotin river. It contains six thousand three hundred and fifty-two and one-quarter acres. Its natural features are bench-lands requiring irrigation, good grazing and hay-meadow lands.

Vital Statistics.—The population is sixty-three. During the year there were no births nor deaths.

Health and Sanitation.—The health of these Indians has been good, and their dwellings are in good order.

Occupations.—Farming, hunting, fishing, trapping, working as labourers with white settlers, and as cowboys with stockmen, are the principal occupations.

Buildings, Stock and Farm Implements.—They have good dwellings and horse-stables, good horses, cattle, pigs, wagons, sleighs and a good supply of farm implements.

→ Education.—No Indian of this band has ever received any education.

→ Religion.—These Indians are all Roman Catholics. They have a small church on the reserve.



(TOTEM POLE) / Tony Hunt. (1972).

CHILCOTIN STUDIES: From this 1904 D.I.A. Annual Report we are able to learn some interesting things about life in the Chilcotin, for the Chilcotin Indian people. One observation is that while each of these 3 Indian reserves had a church, none had access to a nearby school. True, Chilcotin Indian children could go to the Williams Lake Industrial School near Sugarcane, but this was a long distance

ANAHAM BAND.

Reserve.—The reserve of this band is situated in a valley near the Chilcote river, about 50 miles from its mouth. It has an area of 9,922 acres. The natural features are open bench-lands, excellent hay meadows, and fair timber.

Population.—The population of this band is 219.

Health and Sanitation.—The general health has been good and sanitation well observed. With the exception of a few cases of grippe, no other epidemic diseases visited this band.

Occupations.—The chief occupations of these Indians are farming, stock-raising, freighting and working as farm-hands, cowboys and packers with white settlers; while some are engaged as guides with hunters after big game.

Buildings, Stock and Farm Implements.—They have good dwellings, good horse stables, good horses, cattle and pigs, and are well supplied with farm implements of all kinds, including farm and spring wagons, mowers, and self-binders, and they have also a steam saw-mill on the reserve.

Education.—There are a few children from this band attending the Williams Lake industrial school, in which the parents take much pride.

STONE BAND.

Reserve.—The reserve of this band is situated on the west bank of the Chilcote river, and has an area of 4,225 acres. Its natural features are bench-lands, good grazing lands and hay meadows.

Population.—The population of this band is 96.

Health and Sanitation.—The health of this band has been good. Dwellings and surroundings are in a good sanitary condition.

Buildings, Stock and Farm Implements.—They have good dwellings and horse stables, a few horses and a fair supply of farm implements.

Occupations.—Farming, hunting, fishing, trapping and working as labourers with white settlers are their principal occupations.

Characteristics and Progress.—The majority of this band are inclined to pay more attention to hunting, fishing and trapping than to the cultivation of their lands. Lately they have been doing better.

Education.—None of the children from this band have received any education.

Temperance and Morality.—They are temperate and moral.

TOOSEY BAND.

Reserve.—This reserve is situated on Riskie creek, a small stream flowing into the Fraser river. It contains 6,352 acres. Its natural features are bench-lands, good grazing lands and hay meadows.

Population.—The population of this band is 63.

Health and Sanitation.—The general health has been good. Dwellings and surroundings are kept in a good sanitary condition.

Occupations.—Farming, trapping, fishing, hunting and working as farm-hands and cowboys with white settlers are their principal occupations.

Buildings, Stock and Farm Implements.—They have good dwellings and horse stables, a few horses and cattle, and are well supplied with farm implements.

Education.—A few children from this band are being educated at the Williams Lake industrial school.

CHILCOTIN STUDIES: From this 1907 D.I.A. Annual Report, we can see that some, but certainly not all, Chilcote Indian children were attending school at the Mission. Although having an education at the residential boarding school at Sugarcane was likely much better than having no education at all, it was far from being an ideal situation. Children were away from their families, and from their villages for months at a time. Often, children would only see their mothers and fathers 2 or 3 times each year.

CHILCOTIN STUDIES
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DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN
AFFAIRS
ANNUAL REPORT: 1907,
OTTAWA

CHILCOTIN STUDIES:

Chilcotin Indian Territory

At the present time, in the 1980's, Chilcotin territory is defined by the Fraser River on the east; Good Hope Mtn., Razorback Mtn. and Charlotte Lake on the west. North to south, it roughly reaches from the upper reaches of the Chilcotin River south to a point south of Chilco Lake. Within that area there are several Chilcotin Indian settlements, including Toosey, Anaham, Stone, Nemiah, and Puntzi.

At one time, up until about 125 years ago, the east boundary of Chilcotin territory was about 30-40 kms. west of the Fraser River, near where Big Creek enters the Chilcotin River. The area between there and the Fraser was home for a group called the Canyon-Shuswap. These people weren't really Shuswap at all, but were a mixture of Shuswap and Chilcotin blood-lines. Many of the Canyon-Shuswap people were cousins of the Chilcotin people. Unfortunately, most of the Canyon-Shuswap people died during the winter of 1862-1863 of a terrible disease called small-pox. Since that winter, the Chilcotin people have claimed all land west of the Fraser River as their hunting and fishing grounds. About this same time, the Chilcotin people started moving east, out of Anahim Lake. As they left, their cousins the Carrier Indians moved into Anahim Lake. Today, there aren't many Chilcotin Indians living there, although some of the Chilcotin still hunt and fish there.

Traditional Economy

Before the Europeans came, the Chilcotin people hunted beaver, muskrat, marmot, snowshoe hare and caribou for food, clothing, blankets and trade items. Other foods included salmon (often dried; trout, berries and roots). Another popular food was cambium, the inner bark of trees like the lodgepole pine, spruce and aspen. Other animal and plant foods, which we will discuss later, were eaten as well.

Before the arrival of the European fur-traders, the Indians had no guns, no metal knives, no steel fish hooks, and no steel traps. They did have many other ways of getting their food. Rabbits were caught in snares. Larger animals, such as elk or black-tailed deer or mountain sheep were captured in blinds and deadfall traps. Dogs were used for hunting a lot. Wooden sticks were used for digging roots. Nets and fish traps made of stones and saplings were used for catching fish.

Questions

1. List 4 present day Chilcotin Indian settlements:
2. What happened to the Canyon-Shuswap Indian people, who were closely related to the Chilcotin Indian people? (Explain in 3-4 sentences of your own).
3. List 8 animals that were (and still are) killed by the Chilcotin Indians:
4. What were dogs used for?