Archaeology of Lytton, British Columbia

Harlan Ingersoll Smith, Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897–1903)
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VIEW UP THE FRASER RIVER NORTH FROM LYTTON, B. C.

VIEW ACROSS THE FRASER RIVER, SHOWING HOUSE PIT IN FOREGROUND
ARCHAEOLOGY OF LYTON, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

LYTON is situated at the confluence of the Thompson and Fraser Rivers, in southern British Columbia. Below Lyton the Fraser River breaks through the Coast Range, forming a deep cañon, while above Lyton it flows through the plateau, which extends from the Coast Range to the western range of the Rocky Mountains. The climate of this area is rather dry, and consequently the vegetation is somewhat scanty. The higher parts of the country are covered with open timber. The Indians inhabiting this area at the present time subsist largely on fish, of which there is an abundant supply in the rivers, particularly at the time when the salmon ascend to spawn; but fish is not by any means as important a staple as it is among the tribes of the coast. Roots and berries, which are gathered on the hills, form an important part of the diet of the people, who also hunt deer and bear, on which they subsist when living at a distance from the rivers.

On account of the importance of the fish diet, the more permanent villages of the Indians are located on the larger rivers, principally on the Fraser and Thompson. Places on the banks of the river which are not too far removed from berrying and root-digging grounds are the favorite resorts of the Indians. Lyton is most favorably located for all these pursuits, and consequently it has always been an important village. Evidently the same conditions prevailed in prehistoric times, as is shown by the extensive remains of villages and the large burial-grounds found at this place.

A large burial-ground on the point of land between the Fraser and Thompson Rivers has long been known. It was first described by Dr. George M. Dawson, who investigated it while engaged in geological work in southern British Columbia during the years 1877 and 1888-90.* The collections made by Dr. Dawson are in the Museum of the Geological Survey of Canada.

In July, 1897, the Jesup North Pacific Expedition made a series of explorations in this vicinity. The following descriptions are based upon these explorations, which were carried on by the writer.

The explorations were largely confined to the main burial place and village site, situated on the sand hill that is found along a terrace between the cañons of the Fraser and Thompson Rivers and immediately to the North of their confluence.† This is by far the most important site near Lyton. The hill is about 100 feet above the river, and is approximately 500 feet in length by 200 feet in breadth. A large pine tree is growing on the crest of the hill, in the middle of the burial place. An Indian trail passes to the West of the area, and the government road bounds it on the

† See upper view in the frontice-piece.
East. No definite age can be assigned to any of the remains secured, as
the wind, which sweeps strongly up the canon of the Fraser River, is con-
tinually shifting the light, dry sand from place to place. It uncovers the
graves, disarranges them, and sometimes re-covers the remains. Miners
and Indians often camp at this site; and the objects left or lost by them are
scattered on the surface, and often covered by the shifting sand. All these
objects must be distinguished from the undisturbed burial of the prehistoric
people. The surface is strewn with human bones which have been uncov-
ered by the wind. There are also scattered about shell beads, wedges made
of antler, scrapers and chipped points of stone such as are used for arrows
and knives, grinding-stones, celts, and other material similar to that found
in the graves. There is a large box at this place, in which the Indians
deposit the bones and objects as they are uncovered by the wind, but some-
times they bury them. The bones they consider to be those of Indians,
although they do not know whether they are of their own ancestors or not.
It is reasonably certain, judging from the complete absence of European
objects in the undisturbed graves, that they antedate contact with the whites.
A number of them must be several hundred years old.

Extending to the North from the hill, and on the same terrace, were
found old hearths, indicated by broken and cracked firestones, large slabs
of grinding-stones, and remains of underground houses. A few human
bones were secured from the edge of the gravel-pit made by miners near an
Indian cemetery known to be modern by the portions of the fence which
still remain.

Southward from the sand hill, on the level of the terrace, were found
traces of similar hearths, charcoal, and rolls of birch bark partly burned.
Here were also remains of underground houses. There were two large
bowlders which the Indians report were used in the ceremonials performed
by young men or by youths when reaching maturity. It is said that these
youths were required to cover the distance from one bowlder to the other
in a prescribed number of leaps.

About half a mile below Lytton, on the high gravel terrace on the left
bank of the Fraser River, was found a second village site.

A third village site was located on the high terrace on the left bank of
the Fraser River, about 2 miles North of Lytton. The place is a meadow
in an open pine forest East of the government road. South of it is a small
brook, ending lower down in a marsh. This may have determined the
location of the site, since it affords a supply of fresh water high above the
Fraser River.

A fifth ancient village and a burial place were located at the North side
of the mouth of Stein Creek, which empties into the Fraser River, from the
West, at a point about 4 miles above Lytton. This place is on the table-
land overlooking the Fraser River, and near the present Indian village of
Slane. Here were human bones, fragments of pecten shells, fragments of
steatite pipes, and wedges of antler, scattered by the wind. On the lower
terrace, close to Stein Creek, are remains of ancient houses which measured
from 50 to 60 feet in diameter.

Some attention was given to the sixth site, which is marked by burials
and traces of habitations on the low sandy terraces on the West bank of the Fraser River, about opposite the main burial-place. These sites may or may not have been occupied at the same time.

All through this region are evidences of prehistoric habitations, located at varying distances from the larger village sites. This suggests that the mode of life of the prehistoric people was similar to that of the present Indians, among whom one or two families often live at some distance from the main villages.

Resources.—The resources of the prehistoric people of Lytton, as indicated by the specimens found in the graves, hearths, and about the village sites, were chiefly stone, copper, shell, bone, antler, teeth, the skins of animals, and vegetable substances.

Many evidences of the association of animals with man were found. While it may be that some of the animals whose remains are found in the village sites and burial-grounds did not live with the people, having taken up their abodes in these places after they had been deserted, numerous worked and broken bones and teeth show that the animals to whom they belonged must have been useful to the prehistoric inhabitants of Lytton.

The present Indians of this area used dentalium shells, which are not imported along the Fraser River, but from the region North of Vancouver Island, over the mountains, down to the upper course of the Fraser River. The trade in these shells is in the hands of the Chilcotin, an Athapaskan tribe of western British Columbia. It is probable that in prehistoric times dentalium shells found their way to Lytton over the same route. It seems at least that the use of dentalium shells was much more extensive in the interior than it was in prehistoric times in the delta of the Fraser River.

Vegetable substances include charred pieces of wood from the hearths, and other charred fragments which had probably been portions of canoes, sticks, etc., that were found in various parts of the village sites. Pieces of wood were found wrapped in copper, and preserved by the action of the copper salts, the whole being probably an ornament of some sort. Birch bark charred, or preserved by the dryness of the climate, was found in the graves as lining or covering, and in the form of rolls. Probably it was also used for dishes. Charred berries, including bearberry, were found in the hearths; and to this day edible roots are plentiful in the vicinity. That they were dug for food is suggested by the presence of the digging stick handles. The seeds of a western species of *Lythospermum*, which may have been used for food, were frequently found in the hearths; and large numbers of them were sometimes over the skeletons in the graves, as if that plant had been used as a covering of the bodies. A kind of gum that was found in a clam-shell spoon and on a bone handle for a stone knife resembles that from the fir and pine. Woven fabrics of vegetable fibre, possibly sagebrush bark, and portions of string made of the bark of red cedar, were found in the graves.

Hunting and Fishing; Digging Roots.—Many implements used in procuring food were found. By far the most numerous were chipped points of various sizes and shapes for arrows, knives, and spears. The material commonly used for chipped points is glassy basalt. Practically all the
smaller implements are made of this material. An unusually large number of fantastic forms of small chipped objects were found here. These are of the same material as the other small points.

It is remarkable that no rubbed stone points for arrows or spears, such as are numerous on the coast, were found, although rubbed fish-knives are quite common, and one rubbed slate point was obtained at Kamloops, 95 miles above Lytton in the Thompson valley.

The Indians now living in the valley of the Thompson River, near Lytton, still possess the art of chipping small stone arrow-points. To obtain the basalt they make journeys up the mountains, where they break it fresh from the quarry, in which state they claim that it can be worked more easily than the material sometimes obtained by breaking up the large chipped points found in the vicinity. These they believe were made by the raven before there were men on the earth, and they call them 'raven arrows.' Thus it would seem that at least the points were not made by the last few generations of the present tribe of Indians.

Two harpoon points made of antler, were found. Each point had two bars on one side; and the base, which was slightly wedge-shaped, was perforated.

Preparation of Food.—Pestles or hammers served for crushing dried meat, berries, and other food. They are of various shapes, made usually from fine-grained, tough river pebbles, and many are much weathered. Some are simply cylindrical, in which case they are usually but slightly changed from the natural pebble by a little pecking or rubbing.

The typical pestle of Lytton has a well defined head, larger than the tapering body, the sides of which meet the base at nearly right angles. These pestles seemed to have been used for rubbing as well as pounding. One of them, a fine-grained schistose gneiss shows no evidence of having been used for pounding, but its corners and base are smooth.

Slate knives were discovered in excavating graves and hearths. They are similar in form to those now used on the coast for cutting up fish. A spoon made from the shell of a unio was found in one of the graves. It was the only spoon-like object discovered, and was partly filled with a gum resembling that from the pine of the neighborhood.

Habitations.—The houses of the prehistoric people of Lytton were similar to those used by the Indians up to recent times. This is evident from the large number of ancient house-pits at all of the sites explored.

The Thompson River Indians, who inhabit this area at the present time, used to live in underground lodges. This lodge is made by digging a circular hole in the ground, and erecting over it a framework of timbers shaped like a cottage roof. These timbers are covered with fir-boughs and earth. Since there is but little rain, a roof of this kind offers sufficient protection. An opening is left in the centre to serve not only as a chimney and window, but also as a door. A notched log—one end resting on the middle of the floor, the other projecting from this opening—constitutes the only means of entering the house.

When one of these houses goes to ruin, the circular pit is partly filled, but not enough to be entirely obliterated. It remains as a depression
surrounded by a slight ridge. This ridge is composed of the earth and decomposed timbers of the roof. When the house is abandoned, much of the earth covering the roof slides down to the margin of the hole, where it accumulates, while the thin layer left on the roof only partly fills the room. Under the space where the composite door, window, and chimney were, the hole is left about as deep as ever, but may be partly filled with debris blown in by the wind.

For digging holes as well as for gathering roots the present Indians use a stick with a crutch-like handle. Such handles made of antler were found in the old village sites.

Tools.—Numerous wedges made of elk antler were obtained, which must have been very efficient for splitting timbers in the building of houses, for cutting firewood, and for general carpentry work. They were usually made from the large part of an elk antler, near its base, and cut off diagonally across. Some wedges which may have been used for special purposes were made of curved pieces of antler. They resemble in shape the curved wedges of the canoe builder of the coast Indians. The heads of some of the wedges are bruised and slivered by being driven with a stone pestle or maul. The use of a pestle for driving wedges gives it a concave base or one with a hollow in it. Rubbing tends to form a convex base. Some of the specimens have convex bases with a hollow in the centre. It seems probable that pestles were used for a variety of purposes.

The common deeply-pitted hammer-stone was not found at this locality; but stone-hammers or mauls were secured, that probably had been hafted in some way, and used on both ends. They have a slight pit on either side, and the two ends are battered. One small granite pebble has a groove which extends nearly around it, and which, if continued, would form a spiral. There is no evidence of its use as a hammer-stone. It may have been a sinker, or it may have been covered with skin or other material and used as a club head. In the latter case the tendency of the groove to a spiral form would allow a withe to be firmly attached.

Oval bowlders and flat pieces of sandstone were found which were probably anvils upon which to pound or to rub various substances.

The coast Indians use celts mounted as adzes for finishing the boards that have been split out with wedges. Until recently these celts were made of stone. Those found at Lytton are made of light green translucent material and vary in size from more than 4 inches in length by 1½ in width and ¼ in thickness, to scarcely an inch in length, with other dimensions in relative proportion. On some the grooves which were made in cutting them out of the blocks of raw material still show slightly. Other specimens have been polished until no trace of these grooves remain.

These celts were made from bowlders of greenstone secured along the river bank. Some of these are said to be nephrite. The series of specimens will illustrate their method of manufacture. Grooves were first ground or rubbed into the bowlders. In some the grooves had been rubbed from both sides until a portion was nearly cut off, after which it had been broken away. Such selvage pieces broken off from large bowlders were found. A number of finished celts show this break along one or both edges.
1. Chipped chalcedony point, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 2. Chipped basalt point, 2-5; 3, 4, 5 & 6 fantastic chipped basalt forms, \( \frac{1}{2} \); 7. Antler harpoon point, \( \frac{3}{8} \); 8. Antler handle of digging stick, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 9. Stone pestle, \( \frac{1}{8} \); 10. Stone anvil, \( \frac{3}{8} \); 11. Slate fish-knife, \( \frac{1}{6} \); 12. Antler wedge, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 13. Nephrite celts, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 14. Serpentine from which pieces have been cut, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 15. Grinding stone, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 16. Stone club-head, 1-5; 17. Stone skin scraper, \( \frac{3}{8} \); 18. Whetstone, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 19. Knife and handle, \( \frac{1}{2} \); 20 & 21. Antler objects, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 22. Bone awl, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 23. Bone needle, 2-5; 24. Pair of grooved stones, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 25. Beaver tooth knife, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 26. Bone skin scraper, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 27. Copper war club, from Spuzzum, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 28. Antler war club, 1-5; 29 & 30. Copper ornaments, \( \frac{1}{2} \); 31. Abalone shell object, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 32 & 33. Shell objects, \( \frac{1}{4} \); 34. Mica pendant, \( \frac{1}{2} \); 35. Bone pendant, 1-3; 36, 37, & 38. Tooth pendants, \( \frac{1}{2} \); 39. Hair tassel, \( \frac{1}{2} \); 40 & 41. Dice, \( \frac{1}{2} \); 42. Antler implement, \( \frac{1}{2} \); 43. Pipe collected by Dr. Dawson, \( \frac{1}{3} \); 44. Design on 43; 45 & 46. Fragments of pipes, \( \frac{1}{6} \); 47. Sculptured antler \( \frac{1}{2} \). *Fractions indicate reductions.
Fragments of siliceous sandstones with beveled edges that fit these grooves were obtained. They are evidently the saws or grinders used for cutting the grooves.

Whetstones, probably for sharpening celts, slate knives, etc., were made of fine grained schist. They were of frequent occurrence, and were usually found in a group of implements in graves at the main burial place.

Blades for small knives used in wood-carving, were made from beaver teeth. The posterior side of the long curved tooth had been cut off, which made the tool thinner. The natural cutting edge of the tooth served as an excellent carving instrument. The base is rounded, and was probably inserted in a handle.

A knife-handle made of the rib-bone of some large animal was found in a grave with fragments of glassy basalt, one of which may have served as the blade. The end into which the blade was inserted is covered in places with gum similar to that of the pine. There are twelve notches or tally marks along the side, nearly obliterated by wear. The chipped point of glassy basalt figured with this bone handle, although found on the surface apart from it, shows how well adapted the handle is to the common forms of stone points.

Pairs of coarse siliceous sandstone implements, sometimes daubed with red ochre were frequently found in the graves and scattered among the traces of hearths and village sites. In general these resemble the arrow shaft smoothers found in other parts of the continent. They have the form of a half cylinder with a groove extending the length of the flat side. When a pair of these are placed with their grooved faces together, they form a cylinder about 6 inches in length, 1 ½ inches in diameter, and with a central bore ¼ of an inch in diameter.

Some fragments of skin, which were evidently portions of blankets or garments, were preserved by the dry climate and the action of copper salts. A considerable series of specimens was secured which suggests the preparation of skins and their manufacture into garments. Scrapers and awls made of stone and bone, and bone needles, belong to this series.

Skin scrapers were made of quartzite pebbles which occur in great numbers in the gravel on the bank of the river and on the mountain sides. Often almond shaped flakes were broken from these pebbles. These pieces are about one-third the thickness of the original pebble. The finished skin scraper was simply one of these almond shaped flakes which had been perfected by being chipped all round the edge.

Many scrapers of this sort, and some natural fragments of convenient form from neighboring out-crops, have been seen in use among the women of this region for softening skins. They were inserted in the split end of a wooden handle about 3 feet in length, and held there by winding with a thong that portion of the wood that held the stone. After the skin has been fleshed and freed from hair, it is stretched upon a framework of poles and prevented from becoming hard and stiff by being scraped and poked with such a scraper until it is thoroughly dry. Scrapers were also made of bone, but they were of another shape.

Several of them were found finished, and some in process of manufac-
tecture. In an ancient grave at Spences Bridge, 22 miles above Lytton on the Thompson River, a scraper of this kind was found with traces of wrapping at the ends. The Indians of to-day have a scraper of a similar shape, made from a horse's rib or a barrel hoop by winding the ends with rags to form handles. This they use like a draw knife to beam deer skins.

Awls and needles were required for the manufacture of garments. A pointed object made of steatite, about 1 inch long and ⅛ of an inch in diameter, smoothly polished, was found, as were also several natural pieces of chalcedony which may have been used for awls. The chipped specimen of glassy basalt and the chipped opalescent chalcedony more closely resemble what are usually called "drills" or "perforators." The bone awls are well adapted for use in sewing skins.

Needles made of bone, both fine and coarse, were found in the graves, and scattered through the ground. Each of them was provided with an elliptical eye, with its major axis lying in the axis of the needle.

War.—Many of the implements that were used for hunting were undoubtedly also used in warfare. The points for arrows, spears, and knives certainly served either purpose. A number of special war implements have been found. A large dagger or knife made of antler, and much weathered by long exposure, was found on the surface of the main burial site; and from the excavations a much disintegrated war club of particular interest was secured. It is made of an elk antler. The prong near the base is beveled in the shape of a wedge, and the longer branch forms the handle.

A copper war club was obtained by Mr. James Teit from Indians who dug it out of a prehistoric grave at Spuzzum, B. C. This place is at the mouth of the cañon of the Fraser, 42 miles South from Lytton. The practical difficulties of the journey were great before contact with the whites; but the geographical nearness, and the fact that the present Indians of Spuzzum are of the same tribe as those of Lytton, induce me to describe this specimen with those from Lytton. Its edge is beveled, and in some places is knife-like. The grip and base are flanged by lateral pounding, and a design is engraved on each side of the blade.

Dress and Ornament.—Skins and garments woven of bark of the sagebrush and of mountain goat wool probably furnished the material for clothing for the prehistoric people of Lytton. Fragments of deer skin and fabric woven from vegetable fibre, probably sagebrush, and a considerable number and variety of personal ornaments, were found. Red, blue, yellow, and white paint, and probably charcoal mixed with grease, were used for painting the body. Combs were in use, and body and clothing were decorated with ornaments and pendants of copper, stone, shell, bone, teeth, and hair. A fragment of a comb made of antler came from the surface of the main burial place. It is much bleached and weathered.

A pair of copper ornaments was found in a grave a foot and a half deep at the main burial site. The body was so much decayed that it was impossible to see what position they occupied in relation to it. There are some pieces of hair preserved and embedded in the copper salts which incrust them. These ornaments resemble in shape similar copper objects
which were used in recent times as hair ornaments for girls by certain tribes of the coast.

Other copper ornaments were found while excavating in the main burial place, but the skeleton with which they were buried was too much decayed to distinguish the part of the body upon which they were worn. They are very thin, much corroded, and may have served as bangles or pendants. A number of pendants or bangles made of sheet mica were found in one of the graves which contained a great variety of objects.

Many irregular pieces of the shell of *Pecten caurinus* with edges rubbed smooth and with one or two perforations, were found in the excavations at the sixth site, and fragments of the same shell were found scattered on the surface of the fifth site. Some of them were daubed with red ochre. Several pieces of abalone shell, with squared edges, were found. One was perforated as a pendant. Such shell ornaments are now highly prized by the coast Indians on account of the iridescence of the shell.

Pendants made of the canine teeth of the elk were found in large numbers in the graves. Sometimes they were lying in the vicinity of the neck bones of the skeleton. The perforation drilled from side to side through the base of the root is usually worn smooth, and many of these objects are stained by copper salts. This again proves that ornaments made of copper were in use. Mr. James Teit has learned from the Indians that elk teeth were often sewed on the garments, and also fastened to the prows and gunwales of canoes with string or gum. One pendant was made of the canine tooth of a wolf, perforated through the root for suspension, and ornamented with three grooves running around it.

Shell beads of various kinds were used for necklaces, fringes, and the like. There are perforated disks or short cylindrical beads which average an \(\frac{3}{4}\) of an inch in diameter, a 1-32 of an inch in thickness, with a perforation about a 1-32 of an inch in diameter, drilled with a bevel from each side. Specimens of these shell beads were so numerous on certain parts of the surface of the main village site, that after picking up a great many of them, their number seemed undiminished. Dentalium shells, and sections of these shells cut about an \(\frac{3}{4}\) of an inch in length, were found, as well as little olivella shells, the ends of all of the latter being broken off, probably to make a hole for stringing. Some of these olivella shells had holes in the body near the lip, which, however, may have been merely accidental. In one of the graves some short cylindrical beads made of sections of dentalium shells were found still upon a portion of the string, which had been preserved by the dryness of the sand. According to identification by Mr. Willard N. Clute, this string is made of the bark of the red cedar. This material is more commonly used on the coast, and may have been imported with the shell beads upon it.

Several tassels made of dentalium shell and hair were found. These tassels are much stained by copper salts. A doubled lock of hair, held in the middle by a loop of string the strands of which are twisted to the right, was pulled up into the shell.

*Games, Amusements, Narcotics.*—Sets of dice were often found with
other objects at the sides of the skeletons. Although beaver-teeth, some of which were covered with red ochre, were found in the same places, and dice made of beaver-teeth were secured from prehistoric graves at Kamloops, B. C., yet all of the dice found here were made from the teeth of the wood-chuck. These are so much like the dice made of beaver-teeth which the modern Indians of British Columbia use, that our knowledge of that game enables us to explain these specimens. The counting varies slightly at different places, but the game is practically the same.

The practice of smoking is indicated by the presence of stone pipes. The present Indians of this region mix bearberry with their tobacco to render it less strong for smoking. According to information obtained by Mr. James Teit, before the introduction of manufactured tobacco, the wild, narrow leaved tobacco of the region was used.

The pipes were made from steatite. Blocks of the raw material broken from the rock, and pieces of the same which had been cut and rubbed, were found on the surface. Finished pipes, highly polished, and ornamented with incised lines, have been found in situ in the old graves. The bowl of this style of pipe is of the shape of a wine glass, and the stem is simply an extension of the bowl, the axes of both being in a straight line.

Art.—The art of these people is illustrated by paintings, engravings, and carvings, and also by the ornaments used for personal adornment. A small bowlder was found on which there was a circle painted in red. Many pieces of bone, antler, etc., are also stained with red ochre, which may or may not have been intentionally applied.

The incised lines on some of the bone tubes that were found may have been intended as decorations. The handle of a digging stick made of antler bears an incised design at each end. The similarity of these designs to those used by the present Indians induced me to request Mr. James Teit to submit drawings of these specimens to several old Indians. Their interpretations are as follows:—

The ladder-like design is a snake or worm pattern, which is intended to represent the striped skin of those animals. When used as patterns in ornamentation, these were generally drawn or carved without showing the head or tail of the animal. The two end designs on the large half of the handle represent a hairy insect. The long line with numerous short lines at right angles to it depicts a snake or a worm, which was probably the Manitou of the woman who owned the handle, as it was customary for women having such guardian spirits to carve representations of them on their root diggers. Snakes, wood-worms and other insects, were among the manitous most commonly possessed by women in this region. The root digger and the thumbline were themselves the manitous of some women. The lines which cross each other probably represent cross-trails. The circular design on one specimen represents the butterfly or the eye. The short lines with one very short mark extending from the middle of each may be a sign of the wood worm, as may also the long lines with marks at right angles to them.

It was customary for men to carve on their pipes, and chiefly on sacred
pipes, representations of the beings appearing in their dreams, especially in their first important dream in which they received their manitou. Owing to the secrecy of treatment of sacred objects, it is difficult to obtain specific interpretations of such designs, for these secrets would be kept by the individual even from his friends, and with his death the knowledge of the significance of the design would pass away.

Among the present Indians the following conventional designs are frequently used. A long line and short strokes arranged at regular intervals perpendicular to it usually represent hair or something similar growing from a surface, as trees from the earth. Zigzag lines represent snake-tracks; when they run down, they may mean lightning. Long straight lines represent trails, creeks, the earth, etc. The grouping of the patterns on such objects determines the meaning to a certain extent. The similarity of the art designs of the prehistoric people to those of the present natives is the strangest argument in favor of the theory that the culture of this area has not materially changed since the times when the prehistoric burial-ground of Lytton was in use and the prehistoric sites were inhabited.

Pipes made of steatite, besides being engraved, were sometimes carved. On some there is a ring about the tube where the bowl joins the stem; on others there is a mouthpiece with incised ornamentation. The bowl of a pipe, a fragment only of which was found was in the form of a head of an animal with its mouth wide open. The material is steatite. A very beautiful animal form carved in antler has a hole drilled through it, tapering from below upward; and another hole from the posterior end of the carving runs forward about a ¼ of an inch. The legs stand out in relief, while the stripes on the sides are incised. The piece has been broken or decayed in such a way that it is impossible to tell how much, if any is lacking. A head of the same style of carving, in the same material was found. These carvings so closely resemble each other, that one may easily be taken for a fragment of the other.

These animal carvings are entirely different from the engraved designs, and of a high order of art, which resembles that of both the old and recent coast culture perhaps more than anything else found near Lytton.

No specimens of the ceramic art were found. The modern Indians boil food by dropping hot stones into water tight baskets containing it.

Method of Burial.—Dr. Dawson, in his notes on the Shuswap, refers to bodies found buried sitting upright, and to others lying upon the side. In still other cases he found a few bones placed in such a manner as to suggest that they were buried after the decomposition of the soft parts. Dawson* saw the Indians in Nicola valley reburying a body that had been dead for about a year. He found the heads of many bodies covered with red orche, which still adhered to the skull when it was taken up. He considers that the objects buried with the dead were to represent their property rather than to be of any future use to them. For instance, flakes of glassy basalt and crooked arrow points would represent property, though in themselves of little value. Quartz crystals, calcite, mica, and stone objects resembling slate-pencils, were found. He saw no iron, and believes that some of the graves

*Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, Section II., 1891, p. 13.
at least antedate the coming of the whites to the West coast of America. The bones of small animals and bear teeth indicate that some were hunters, and the stone adzes suggest canoe manufacture. At Lillooet, about 40 miles to the North, Dr. Dawson discovered beads or pendants of galena, and many flat bone beads such as were frequently found by us at Kamloops, but which we did not see at Lytton. He found bodies at Lillooet wrapped in bark.

We did not find any grave in which the body was in a sitting posture. The description of a few graves will serve as examples of the types of graves found by us. In one of them the head was to the East, and the pelvis to the West. The feet were drawn up to the pelvis, so that the knees were in front of the chest. The head rested on the right side. The arms were flexed parallel to the body, with the hands to the face. The whole body rested horizontally. The depth in the shifting sand was a foot and a half, that originally may have been a few inches or from 10 to 15 feet, according to the changes in the superimposed sand caused by the wind. There was a knife made of a beaver tooth at one knee; and many implements of antler and a beaver tooth were in such a position as to suggest that they had been placed in a pouch. This bundle of objects extended in the direction from knee to face.

In another burial the skeleton lay with the head to the North. The body and head were covered with birch bark. Red paint was found at the shins; and white and yellow paint, 6 inches East of the pelvis, or one foot East of the heels. The heels were towards the South, the face towards the West. The body rested in a horizontal position on its right side. The hands were over the face and forehead. Near the chin were dentalia, copper covering a wooden cylinder, as well as pieces of loose copper, and perforated elk teeth stained by the copper. A nephrite celt was secured from below the lower end of the left femur, with the sharp edge towards the East. Charred berries were found above the shoulder. Six inches East of the head were an arrow-point, roughly chipped points, chips, a little nephrite celt, red paint, bone needles and other implements, a knife point made of a beaver-tooth, and animal teeth. Five inches East of the middle of the back a long celt was found.

The skeleton of a young adult lay with head to the North. The body had been flexed as usual. The face was to the East. Little black arrow points were found throughout the grave. Some beaver teeth and red paint were found between the middle of the tibia and the femur of the right leg the left leg was not flexed quite so close as the right.

A group of antler implements and chips of black stone, probably the contents of a pouch, were located a few feet East of this grave, and four inches directly West of another skeleton of an older individual, which faced West, with the head to the South. The latter skeleton was disarranged either by the wind or because it had been reburied. With it were found chipped points of stone and pieces of the same material. A pair of grooved arrow-shaft smoothers, three whetstones, several finely carved pieces of antler, bone awls and needles, a bone scraper and pendants, dice made of woodchuck teeth, white paint, pendants of mica, and bits of birch bark.
Grotesquely formed pebbles of various bright and clear colors were sometimes found in the graves, and these may have been prized as amulets or charms. There were some irregular piles of human bones. In the typical graves the bodies were buried upon the side, with the knees drawn up to the chest. They were often covered with pieces of birch bark as was evidenced by small fragments preserved by the dry soil. At the side, in a position indicating that they were buried in a pouch, were found pieces of glassy basalt, points chipped out of the same material, celts, and a number of other implements, varying with each grave. Near the neck elk tooth pendants were frequently found.

Closely rolled pieces of birch bark varying from 1 to 6 inches in length, rolled to a diameter of from ½ an inch to 1 inch, were found in the hearths, scattered over the village sites and over the graves. Whether these originally had paintings or drawings on them is not known. Many of them have been partly burned, which suggests their use as torches.

Pieces of birch bark were sometimes buried with the dead by both the Thompson River Indians and the Lilooets. The latter tribe now extends from some 40 miles above Lytton into the valley next West, as far South as Harrison Lake. The Lilooets formerly wrapped some of their dead in birch bark, and often lined the graves with the same material.

**Conclusions.**—The prehistoric culture of the interior of British Columbia as evidenced by finds at Lytton, Kamloops, and Spences Bridge, was quite uniform, although there may have been slight variations in these localities. On the whole this culture resembles that of the present inhabitants of the interior of British Columbia. The mode of life of the prehistoric tribes, their utensils, their methods of manufacture, and even their customs must have been practically the same as those of the recent Indians. One of the strongest evidences for the identity of culture is the ability of the modern Indians to interpret the conventional designs found on prehistoric remains.

There are however, slight differences between the prehistoric and the recent cultures. These are indicated by the change in the style of arrow heads, which were much larger among the prehistoric people. The ancient type of pipe resembles the prehistoric pipe of Oregon and California, while the recent pipe is practically of the same type as that found on the plains. No indications were found suggesting that the prehistoric tribes knew the potter’s art, which, up to the present time, is unknown in this area.

The style of carving exhibited in some of the specimens suggests that at this early time the people of the interior of British Columbia were influenced by the coast tribes, who have developed a very high plastic art. The use of slate fish knives and harpoon points may be due to the same cause. The occurrence of dentalium and olivella shells, and of pendants made of the shell of *Pecten carinus* and abalone from the Pacific Coast, proves the existence of intertribal trade in that direction. On the whole, however, the prehistoric culture of the interior of British Columbia shows greater affinity to that of the western plateaus than to that of the North Pacific coast. Up to this time we have no evidence of a change of type or of a material change of culture since the earliest times of which we have knowledge.