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# INTRODUCTION

IN this volume is treated an unusual number of tribes, associated both geographically and culturally. These tribes comprise numerous groups, the multiplicity of whose component parts is much greater than appears from the group names; such a designation as Yakima, for instance, covers many small bands. Linguistically three stocks are represented: the Shahaptian, the Salishan, and the Kitunahan. Of the last there is but one tribe, while of the large number of Salishan tribes fifteen are here treated. Included in the Shahaptian family are the numerous small units grouped under the common designation of Yakima, and the Klickitat, who were closely associated with the Yakima, but were a distinct tribe. With the Salishan and Shahaptian stocks the plan of treatment has been to give in each instance a broad survey of all the branches of each of those families coming within the scope of this volume, and sufficient specific mention of each lesser group to afford a general insight into the interrelationship and the activities of the various scattered bands. It is believed that by this method of treatment the reader will be able to gain a more comprehensive view of the Indians occupying the area covered than if a separate chapter were assigned to each. The Kutenai, the sole representatives of a linguistic stock, are accorded sufficient space to afford a general understanding of their culture.

The area inhabited by the above mentioned tribes lies approximately between the eastern slopes of the Rocky mountains and the summit of the Cascades, and from south to north between the forty-sixth and the forty-ninth parallels. The character of this region, broadly viewed, is rugged mountain and semi-arid plateau, forested in the main, and formerly rich in game. The meadows and dales in the mountain masses formed natural gardens, from which the inhabitants gathered the stores of roots that contributed so largely to their sustenance. The region is almost exclusively within the watershed of the Columbia; perhaps a happier designation of it would be the Columbia river basin between the parallels above mentioned. This important river and its many tributaries course through the land in all directions, nearly as many of the branches flowing north as west or south. These countless streams furnished fish in unusual quantities; indeed, probably no other

like area in the United States afforded so large a supply of this variety of food. The limits of the volume do not permit treatment of all the tribes within this vast domain, consequently in Volume VIII will be considered the Nez Percés, the most important branch of the Shahaptian stock, and the eastern extension of the Chinookan family, which formed a part of the aboriginal inhabitants of the Columbia basin.

In gathering the material for this volume, numerous extended visits were made to the several localities and tribes. The closing work of collecting was performed during the year 1909, when the entire force of the writer's party was engaged in the task of completing the research.

Mr. W.E. Myers, who has been of such able assistance in the preparation of this and of other volumes, began his study of these tribes in 1907. Dr. A.C. Haddon of Cambridge University accompanied the research party during the final work with the Kutenai. It is with profound sorrow that the author announces the death, in the autumn of 1909 **,** of Mr.

A.B. Upshaw, his Crow interpreter and informant, whose assistance in collecting the material for Volumes III, IV, and V was of such inestimable value. Mr. A.F. Muhr rendered his usual valued aid in the photographic laboratory.

EDWARD S. CURTIS.

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