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INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME 13

THE geographical limits of this volume are especially broad, including as they do the northwest coast of California and sweeping eastward across the northern counties of the state to the and plains of Nevada and northward to the Klamath Lake region of Oregon.

A study of the Indians of this large area shows marked diversity of culture. The sea was the principal source of food for the Coast Indians, and their homes were found wherever marine products were easily obtained. The mountain tribes of the Coast range also depended largely upon fish, and built their villages along the larger streams where salmon were abundant. These mountaineers, however, had an even more important source of food in the groves of oak, which yielded a fairly abundant supply of acorns, and in the grasses and other plants of the open hillsides, from which they harvested seeds to be ground into nutritious meal. In north-central and eastern California the natives led a more precarious existence, depending upon less abundant acorns, plant seeds, small mammals, and insects. The Klamath Lake region could well be termed an ideal homeland for a primitive people. The pine-forested mountains and the plains teemed with game; the lakes swarmed with fish, and vast areas of marshland with waterfowl.

Linguistically the field includes, besides stocks not found elsewhere, offshoots of the Algonquian and the Athapascan. While it is not the purpose of these volumes to dwell largely on the wrongs of the Indians, in the present instance it is impossible to evade this distressing subject entirely. All Indians suffered through the selfishness of our own race, but the natives of California were the greatest sufferers of all. They were not warlike. They consisted of small, isolated groups lacking the social instinct and the strength for self-defense against a force so strong as ours. By what was supposed to have been a treaty they signed away their lands, in lieu of which they were to be granted definite areas much smaller in extent, together with certain goods and chattels, and educational advantages. This treaty was never ratified, yet we took advantage of one of its proposed provisions by assuming immediate possession of the Indian lands, by which cunning the majority of the natives were left homeless. Little by little, tardily and grudgingly, action toward providing homes for the surviving unfortunates has been

taken; but what has been granted them in most cases only intensifies the outrage, for many of the reservations are barren, rocky hillsides of less than an acre for each individual — land the tillage of which is next to impossible. The conditions are still so acute that, after spending many months among these scattered groups of Indians, the author finds it difficult even to mention the subject with calmness.

In collecting and preparing the data embodied in the present volume, Mr. W.E. Myers has continued his collaboration and assistance as in the past. The field work was conducted in the years 1916 and 1917.

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