

On the diffusion of Central American culture to Coastal British Columbia and Alaska.

By WILLIAM CHRISTIE MACLEOD.

The following paper is an attempt to explain the derivation of some significant features of the culture of the northwest coast of North America. It will confine itself to traits which in the opinion of the author are in all probability instances of diffusion from the Central American culture by way of the greater southwest. The study of traits of northwest coast culture which are of northeast Asiatic origin and of direct Oceanic origin is left for future consideration. In the case of this paper it has seemed to me well to first state the salient conclusions of the paper and then to go on to explain the basis for these tentations. These are that:

1. The cultivation of tobacco (specifically, of *nicotiana attenuata*); the practice of masticating tobacco with lime; the use of the labret (lip-plug) by women; cremation; the astronomical calendar; the matrilineal sib; the double-headed snake, in myth; the stone mortar and pestle; the use of five as a ritual number; the *mere* type of club; the concept of disease as due to the loss of a soul; pit purification; the taboo on the use of whale and the absence of whaling; wish representations; certain aspects of the guardian-spirit concept; and suttee; are traits of the northwestern culture of North America ultimately derived from Mexico by way of the southwest passing to the northwest in some cases probably along the west coast and in other cases probably over the now Uto-Aztec interior and down the valleys of the FRAZER and the Columbia.

2. The matrilineal chiefship of the Pomo of California (with certain related survivals among the Wappo and perhaps the Gashowu, Yokuts) is a survival of a matrilineal sib institution probably once of considerable distribution on the west coast and in the valleys of California.

3. The matrilineal sib of the northwest coast may be perhaps considered as revealing something of the nature of a sibal organisation in the archaic culture of Central America.

4. Cremation passed on from Alaska into Paleo-Siberia before the intrusions of Eskimo broke the old cultural bridge between the Na-Dene and the Paleo-Siberians.

5. The former much closer linkage of northwestern and southwestern culture was destroyed by the invasion of the west coast by new peoples and new cultures.

Tobacco-Lime Chewing.

In eastern Asia betel-chewing appears to have reached Japan as an aristocratic luxury in the middle ages but did not persist long. However, the practice of dental blackening which appears both in Asia and America to