



GEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY.

Alfred R. C. Selwyn LL.D., F.R.S., Director.

MUSEUM & OFFICE, SUSSEX ST. OTTAWA.

2 April 1884

Dr W. H. Dall
Washington

My dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your kind letter of the 25th in answer to mine on Ethnological Maps of B.C. In reference to your valued suggestion as to the phonetic rendering of names, I may explain that a series of short vocabularies of B.C. Indian languages by Dr Folsom & myself is intended to accompany the maps. In these a system of spelling practically identical with that of Gibbs which was the only one available at the time (1875) we began the work, has been adopted, & uniformly maintained. Such slight changes as were made on Gibbs system (the most notable of which perhaps is the



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2 April 1907

Mr. W. B. Ball
Washington

My dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your
kind letter of the 22nd in answer to mine
on Entomological Paper of B. G. de Selys-Longchamps
you value sufficient on the minute handling
of names, & my opinion that a series of
short vocabularies of B. G. de Selys-Longchamps
to be taken & arranged in the a systematic
shelling brackets. I have not had time
to do what was the top on available at the
time (1878) but from the work has been
collected, & uniformly convenient, such
slight changes as were made on the system
(the most desirable of which perhaps is the





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use of oo for the long sound of u) are perhaps not improvements, but were adopted partly in deference to the opinions of my Collaborators Dr Tolmie. Had Major Powell's more perfect system been known to us at the time it is probably that it would have been used.

I had some correspondence a couple of years ago with Major Powell as to the publication of the vocabularies, but Dr Tolmie's wishes as to the publication in Canada were so pronounced that I could not do otherwise than defer to him in the matter.

Some of the names on the map, however, do not seem to fall in exactly with our own system of spelling, ~~but~~ this arises either from ignorance as to the true names, or their correct pronunciation. Thus with regard to the subdivisions of the Great Sierré people,



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Tshiskotin is correct. Tokulle is variously rendered by authorities & I find I have on note & on present means of ascertaining these peoples correct name for themselves. The same remarks apply to the Sekane system I have only noted local names of minor importance. While in regard to the Beaver subdivision I find I have on note whatever of their own names. This you will easily understand when it is remembered that the matter has been to me, a side issue while engaged in the County on expeditions ~~in the County~~ with other main objects in view. It is certainly unfortunate that facts of this kind, so important in view of maps would have remained unnoted while much care has been given to the collection of the limited vocabularies, but this want of knowledge is an excuse for the somewhat heterogeneous character of the nomenclature on the maps.

Yours truly
George H. Dawson

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