

# INDIAN VILLAGE FORBIDS WHITES

Proo 18/9/27  
But Toronto Girl Was Made  
Welcome at Kitwancool in  
Northern B. C.

## STAYED OVERNIGHT

TORONTO, Sept. 17. — Penetrating into an Indian village where white people are forbidden to enter was one of the experiences of Miss Florence Wyle, Toronto sculptor, who has recently returned from British Columbia, where she has been modelling totem poles for the Dominion Government. The forbidden village rejoices in the name of Kitwancool and is governed by a woman who is the daughter of a previous chieftan. Miss Wyle stayed there overnight in the house of one of the principal families and found them very hospitable after she had won their confidence.

She says that this village was one of the best ordered and thrifty that she saw, and attributes it to the fact that the law against the entrance of whites keeps out many who in the other villages exploit the natives.

"We left Toronto on July 7 and got off the train at Hazelton, the farthest point north on the C. N. R.," said Miss Wyle.

### FINE TOTEM POLES.

"The Skeena River, which runs through this territory is bordered with Indian villages, which we visited. At Kispox we saw some of the best totem poles in the country. This village is situated on the bank of the river in a beautiful natural setting with mountains on three sides. The village of Hagwilget has four very fine totem poles and is famous for its salmon fishing, which is carried on by the Indians.

"We next visited Kitwanga, a village whose name means in English 'The Place of the Rabbit People.' This name is thought to have been given to the place as a reflection on the courage of its inhabitants. We heard stories in other places how people from the coast tribes had come up to Kitwanga and sorely molested the inhabitants.

"The Indians are a fine race, very hospitable. The various tribes are seldom at variance with each other.

"Marriage among Indians in the same tribe is taboo. The women of the district are dressed in conventional garments, but add a touch of color to their costumes with bright shawls and headpieces of silk. Their features have a Mongolian cast. They speak a language which is full of gutturals, but have soft musical voices.

### MONGOL ANCESTRY.

"The influence of their Mongolian ancestry is evident in the construction of their houses. Around the corners of the more pretentious structures the lotus motive is used. Another custom of these people which fits in with the Oriental way of doing things is the fact that they fence their houses in and let their horses and cattle run loose.

"I obtained some very interesting models of totem poles while I was there," continued Miss Wyle. "Some of the poles are 200 years old. The best ones are those which are unpainted. They are a lovely silver-grey in color and where they have not been restored lean in picturesque angles along the streets of the village. The government is restoring some of the poles which are falling into decay. There is no other race in the world which has erected monuments such as these."