

## Territories

The field notes do not permit a precise delineation of q. lodzau territories. Two informants provided information on the subject, Wallace to Barbeau in 1915, and Benjamin Tate to Bygon in 1927. The two sets of notes ~~do not~~ are not at the same level of detail, but it is difficult to find <sup>more than the most general</sup> areas of agreement between them. Since Bygon's 1927 notes are more complete, they will be used as the basis for this report.

q. lodzau territories included the Labela River, Labela Lake, and, at least, <sup>most</sup> of the streams which empty into the lake. The physical characteristics of this Labela watershed are very different from those of other tributaries of the Skeena, which usually are neat units ringed in with high mountains and accessible only from the <sup>mouth of the</sup> Skeena. Labela Lake lies in a broad valley which extends south to Kitimat and north across the Skeena and along the Litsumgalum river to the Nass. In earlier geological times this valley undoubtedly carried the outflow of both the Skeena and Nass rivers. As a result of its position, Labela Lake is easily accessible from several directions: from Kitimat in the south, from the Skeena ~~not~~ near Kitselas (by way of the Zymoety) or overland from the Terrace region or up the Labela River itself. This last is probably by no means the easiest route.

It is therefore not surprising to find that the people who occupied the area are of diverse - one might say confused - origins and that the claims on territories are complex and conflicting. The ganhada, <sup>nizskimas IV</sup>, <sup>nizskenet III</sup>, and <sup>nizskamozis II</sup> each have claims, supported by their traditions, on areas about the lake. The earliest ganhada (VI) seem to be a composite group from Kitimat and from the Skeena. The Lanekik (II) seem to be an early gwanhuk group also having close relatives at Kitimat. The One qispwudwads house (III) claims no other place of origin than Labela Lake, and the other

original gisp house (V) seems to have come in via the Zymoty River and to have relatives at Kiteelas (It should be mentioned that Kiteelas houses claim at least two areas on Lakebe Lake as well as tributaries of the Kitimat R. even further south).

For part of their early history the inhabitants of the lake did not know the people of the Skena, and vice versa. It was only in later times that the tribal village was established at the mouth of the river. They seem to make no claims on the Skena itself.

The village site at the mouth of the river