

JORDAN ABEL / “A feud over this pole”

“A *feud over this pole*. Old chief Mountain or Sakauíwan, some time before his death in 1928, gave an account of the rivalry between the Eagle-Raven clan and the Killer-Whales or Gispewudwades of Nass River, over the size of their new totems.¹ In summary here it is.

The Killer-Whale chief, Sispagut, who headed the faction of the earlier occupants on the river, announced his determination to put up the tallest pole ever seen in the country. Its name was to be Fin-of-the-Killer-Whale. However, instead of selecting for its carver Hladerh whose right it was to do the work, he chose Oyai of the canyon. Hladerh naturally felt slighted and confided his grudge to Sakauíwan, chief of the Eagles, and his friend. From then on the Eagles and the Wolves of their own day were to be closely allied, as the ancestors of both had moved in from Alaska and at one time had been allies.

¹ For a fuller account see *Alaska Beckons* by Marius Barbeau. The Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho and the Macmillan Company of Canada, 1947, pp. 127-136.”

—Marius Barbeau, *Totem Poles*, 1950: 29.

or Sakauíwan

and

Sispagut

the river

the country

the canyon

allied

by Marius Barbeau

his

new totems

his determination

his

Eagles and Wolves

an account
or
summary

was to be
carve d

from Alaska

his
 his
 their s¹ h is
 h i s h i
 his i
 H i s H i s
 h h i s
 his h i s
 h i s h i s
 h i s h i s

¹ For a fuller account see *Alaska Beckons* by Marius Barbeau.

In summary

, his