

From a published report by Intendente Humbert Vaglio, July 1919:

Simral Colman ... is the one who is most stubborn against everything that might be called civilization and progress. ... this rancid old Indian ... who desires to continue exploiting his villages with absurd and ridiculous tales that he calls traditions of his race. In everything and for everything he invokes the God of the Indians, and to him he attributes everything he wants to do or what suits him that the superstitious indigenous people should believe.

... The indians are by nature careless and slovenly, lacking a great many comforts that are easily obtained and which they do not procure out of negligence. Curious in the extreme, they prefer to talk of life abroad and to meddle in political matters or matters of whatever sort in the house of the Ságuila [i.e. the village gathering house] rather than to find bread for their wife and children.

For them there is no other pleasure than to sail their canoes and to spend the day with the harpoon and fishhook in hand, while the fertile woods that they possess remain dirty and abandoned.