

IMPLEMENTS OF BONE AND IVORY.

Bone implements of various kinds were found both in the hut bottoms and in the kitchen-middens, but mostly in a fragmentary condition. The most abundant were bodkins of a rough type. These were made in most cases by pointing split pieces of the leg bones of moose, deer or other large animals. An implement like a bodkin in form, but hollow, and having a diagonal slit at the smaller end, was made of the leg bone of a bird. Not knowing the use of this implement, I sent it to Dr. Daniel Wilson, of Toronto, for examination. He thinks "it may be assumed with much probability that it is a modelling-tool, such as the Western Indians still use in the fashioning and ornamenting of their finer pottery."

Several fragments of netting needles, or implements which for their size and form appear to have been available for this use, were found, and one perfect needle of this kind, about eight inches long, was met with. It had one eye about the middle, another broken needle had two perforations. Many fragments of channelled bone implements, which appear to have been pieces of needles and bodkins, were exhumed in the hut bottoms. The harpoons were of the ordinary form, with lanceolate blade, barbed on one side. Only fragments of this kind of implements were obtained.

Among the worked bones which are not, strictly speaking, implements, there was one which was scored on the back, and another that was notched on the edge. Such bones may have been of the nature of tally-sticks; but Dr. J. W. Dawson suggests that objects of this kind, which are also found among the ancient relics in European caverns, may have been used for playing games, small pieces of wood, ivory and bone being carried about by the Indians of British Columbia at the present day, and are used like playing-cards.

Of ivory implements the only ones found were made of the tooth of the beaver. By cutting the point of the incisor of this animal in various ways, chisels, gouges, and other pointed implements were formed. These would be used where the material to be operated upon was not too hard, and such implements were more easily made than the quartz scrapers or tools.