

when it is close enough the Esquimau raises quickly and with deadly aim throws his harpoon, striking the seal close to the head.

The harpoon is made of three pieces, and fastened together with hidé, the point of which is made of the bone of the walrus, with a long piece of hide attached, to the end of which they put what is called a floater, made of the skin of a small seal and blown up like a bladder, but much larger. When the harpoon strikes it comes apart, the pole coming to the surface of the water. The point, going through the body of the seal, turns crosswise, so that it will not injure the skin. After the struggles of the seal are over, the floater comes to the surface. Then the Esquimau, having launched his boat, rows to the floater, picks it up and tows his seal ashore.

This goes to show that they, like all aboriginies, have a great deal of ingenuity.

THE ESQUIMAU AS A MECHANIC.

It is quite an interesting thing to know how these people make their boats and sledges, using no nails, screws or metal of any kind. In making a boat, they make a complete skeleton of a boat with strips of wood, fastened together with strips of hide. They then take seal skins, with the hair removed; sew several of them together; soak them in water to make them easy to handle; stretch it tightly over the frame of the boat, and sew it with reindeer sinews along the top, leaving a round hole in the centre for the Esquimau to sit—the boat being so light that he can carry it on his shoulders anywhere.

Their sledges are fastened together in the same manner as the frame of the boat, and strips of sealskin put on the runners to keep them from wearing out.