

of a saddler's knife, or was perhaps more suited for scraping the hides and skins of animals being prepared for use.

Some twenty miles above the mound on the Rainy River, at Fort Frances, a copper chisel, buried in the earth, was found by Mr. Pither, then H.B. Company agent, and was given by him to the late Governor McTavish. The chisel was ten inches long, was well tempered, and was a good cutting instrument. Another copper implement is in the possession of our Society, which was found buried in the earth 100 miles west of Red River.

All these, I take it, were made from copper obtained from Isle Royale, on Lake Superior.

*Shell Ornaments.* Traces are found in the mound, of the fact that the decorative taste, no doubt developed in all ages and in all climes, was possessed by the Takawgamis.

*Sea Shells.* Important as pointing to the home and trading centres of the mound builders, is the presence among the debris of the mound, of sea shells. We have three specimens found in the Grand mound. Two of them seem to belong to the genus *Natica*, the other to *Marginella*. They have all been cut or ground down on the side of the opening of the shell, so that two holes permit the passage of a string, by which the beads thus made are strung together. The fact that the genera to which the shells belong are found in the sea, as well as their highly-polished surface, show these to be marine; and not only so, but from the tropical seas, either, we suppose, from the Gulf of Mexico, or from the Californian coast.

*Fresh Water Shells.* In all the mounds yet opened, examples of the Unio, or River Mussel, commonly known as the clam, have been found. They are usually polished, cut into symmetrical shapes, and have holes bored in them. We have one which was no doubt used as a breast ornament, and was hung by a string around the neck. In the bottom of a nearly complete pottery cup, found in the Grand mound, which went to pieces as we took it out, there was lying a polished clam shell. The clam still abounds on Rainy River. Six miles above the mound, we saw, gathered together by an industrious house-wife, hundreds of the same species of clam, whose shells she was in the habit of pulverizing for the benefit of her poultry.

*Pottery.* Broken. It seems to be a feature of every mound that has been opened, that fragments of pottery have been unearthed. The Society has in its possession remains of twenty or thirty pottery vessels. They are shown to be portions of different pots, by their variety of marking. The pottery is of a coarse sort, seemingly made by hand, and not upon a wheel, and then baked. The markings were made upon the soft clay, evidently with a sharp instrument, or sometimes with the finger-nail.