

are necessarily rude and have remained so, and they have no bearing upon the development of the snowshoe which has taken place in Canada, for the finished article is only to be found where there is a definite winter of deep snow, and where they are in common use as the only means of moving about during that season. It is therefore fair to consider that there was an absolute and independent origin of the snowshoe here and at a very early date.

In Europe and Asia appliances for travelling over the snow have taken the form of the ski, and the development has been along that line, but in Canada and in the bordering lands for various reasons the development has been altogether along the lines of the webbed snowshoe.

Canada is a vast territory consisting of woodland, park and open country, and it includes the Laurentians, the Rocky mountains and the barrens of the far north. In such a vast country widely varying snow conditions are to be found.

The North American Continent was peopled by numerous and distinct groups of Indians divided into different linguistic stocks, who from central points spread themselves over the whole country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and as far north as the Arctic. Nothing definite can be said as to their origin but it can safely be said that they are known to be a race of very great antiquity.

These different groups or stocks had snowshoes peculiar to themselves, in size, form, turn-up and method of weaving the netting. It is proposed to treat the subject from this point of view by giving descriptions and examples of most of the principal types. Other branches of the subject will be taken up later on in the article.

The principal Indian stocks from a snowshoe point of view are as follows:—

*ALGONKIAN.* Certain Virginian tribes and other American tribes near the International Boundary and in the Western States, Canada from the Atlantic Ocean to The Rocky Mountains and from the International Boundary northward to the latitude of Hudsons Bay.

*ATHABASKAN.* Interior of Alaska and Canada north of the Algonkians and west of Hudsons Bay.

*ESKIMOAN.* Arctic coast of North America and islands, also Greenland and part of the Arctic Coast of Asia.

*IROQUOIAN.* Region of great lakes, both sides of the St. Lawrence to the Saguenay and Gaspé coasts. New York State, Quebec, Ontario and part of the Western States.

*SALISHAN.* Most of the British Columbian Indians and various tribes to the south of the International Boundary.