

well loaded. That there was some appreciation of the assistance afforded by sails is likely, even though it failed to crystallize into a definite form. Catlin, for instance, states that among the Sioux a man would sometimes stand in a canoe facing the paddlers and hold a blanket spread out as a sail. The upper corners were held by the hands, while the lower part was tied to the body or to a thwart.<sup>8</sup>

Denys, a French explorer, speaking of the Micmac in 1651, remarks: "They also went with a sail, which was formerly of bark, but oftener of a well-dressed skin of a young moose. Had they a favorable wind they went as swiftly as the throw of a stone. One canoe carried as many as eight or ten persons."<sup>9</sup>

Skinner informs us, with regard to the Eastern Cree, that the "Canoes average twelve or fifteen feet in length, but those used by the Labrador

of Athabascans living on Portland Inlet, B.C., used sails of Marmot-skin.

These items, from various regions, suggest that the idea of sailing may have existed in an incipient form here and there, though none of them is perhaps perfectly free from a suspicion of European influence.

Brinton, the well-known anthropologist, states quite positively that no sails were used by the Déné, or various Athabaskan tribes which occupy an immense region extending throughout northwestern Canada. In this he is supported by Morice, a missionary who spent many years with the Déné.<sup>11</sup>

#### PADDLES.

Paddles differ little in pattern throughout the greater part of the area in which we have followed canoe navigation, until we reach the extreme west, or the Eskimo country at the north.



SAULTEAUX CANOE-MAKING: Placing upper barks in position and trimming.

voyageurs are often twice that size and sometimes more. They are capable of bearing enormous weights, and many will hold twenty or more men. The paddles used are short and rather clumsy. They have no swelling at the end of the handle to facilitate the grip. In paddling, the Eastern Cree take shorter and more jerky strokes than their Ojibway neighbors of the south. When a fair wind is blowing, a blanket or even a bush is set up in the bow for a sail."<sup>10</sup>

According to Boas, the Tsetsaut, a small group

<sup>8</sup>Catlin, Geo., "Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs and Conditions of the North American Indians," London, 1842, p. 214, and plate 294.

<sup>9</sup>Denys, Nicholas, "Description and Natural History of the Coasts of North America," The Champlain Society, Toronto, 1908, p. 422.

<sup>10</sup>Skinner, Alanson, "Notes on the Eastern Cree and Northern Saulteaux," Anthropological Papers of the American Mus. of Nat. Hist., vol. IX, part 1, p. 43.

Those used by the Ojibwa are extremely simple and are usually made of clear cedar. The paddler sits rather low, the toes turned inward and bent backward beneath the body. On a long journey a small pad of leaves or clothing is placed beneath the legs conveniently for sitting on.

A double-bladed paddle is used throughout most of the Canadian Eskimo region, although in Alaska the single paddle is found. Among the Aleuts of southwestern Alaska the paddle is pointed, like that of the Pacific Coast.

The Labrador double paddle is about ten or twelve feet long and made of hardwood or spruce tipped with bone. Leather rings on the handles keep the water from dripping on the paddler.

The British Columbia paddle and that used by

<sup>11</sup>Morice, A. G., "The Great Déné Race," *Anthropos*, vol. 5, p. 441.