

THE VILLAGE PROPERTIES



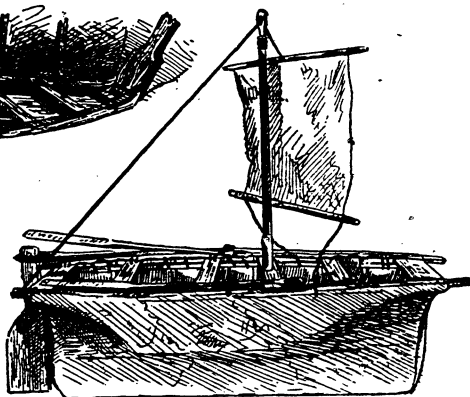
1. Chan

The **Kayaks**, in the management of which the Esquimaux are very expert, are the sealskin canoes employed for summer seal hunting. Their framework is composed of small pieces of wood and bone skillfully joined by lines of sealskin, and the whole carefully covered with sealskins so well

sewn together as to be water-tight. The equipage of a kayak consists of, first, a long, narrow, double-bladed paddle, whose narrow dimensions (due to scarcity of timber having a greater diameter) is often eked out by strips of whalebone pinned to each edge; second, a harpoon for throwing,



which, by an ingeniously constructed device, detaches its point after striking, at the first plunge of the wounded animal. This point is attached to a



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long sealskin thong, at the other extremity of which is a float made of an inflated sealskin, which prevents the wounded animal from escaping or sinking. The hunter, after striking a seal, recovers the wooden harpoon handle, and, upon the reappearance of the wounded animal, slays it

with a second harpoon, which is constructed on different principles and is used only for killing. Each kayak also usually is provided with an implement resembling a gaff, with a knife, and with a shallow dish for holding the coiled sealskin harpoon line.

When the hunter has killed a seal he tows it to the nearest ice-pan, when he skins it, quarters it, and stows it away inside his kayak.