

tice under similar circumstances in connection with their frailer em-barcations.¹

For winter travelling the Western Dénés have, as an adjunct to the snowshoe, which is, of course, of universal use in Asia as well as in America, a peculiar stick with a discoid attachment which prevents it from sinking into the snow.² The Gilacks of Eastern Siberia use an identical implement which, according to Bush, "near the bottom has a small hoop fastened around it by a network of deerskin thongs [ex-actly like its Déné equivalent] which prevents it from sinking into the snow in winter".³

The Western Eskimos have also adopted this peculiar staff; but, in his work on "Primitive Travel and Transportation", the late Prof. O. T. Mason deems it of recent introduction in America, as is also the case with the Eskimo and Loucheux wooden snow goggles, which are likewise found in Asia.⁴

Among the Carriers of British Columbia, the snow-stick has a second object which I have thus described: "The hand of the hunter, warm and trembling from the excitement of the chase, if passed through the leather hoop which often accompanies the upper part of the staff, can thereby be steadied and find a reliable support for the barrel of his gun while in the act of firing".⁵

Now here is what I read in a rather little known work: "There is an element of picturesqueness which the Samoyed has introduced into his use of fire-arms: he fires with a gun-rest not unlike that of the old matchlock days. It is made of wood, is about two inches in diameter and four feet long, and reminds you more particularly of a dwarfed billiard-rest".⁶

I am well aware that, from an ethnological standpoint, this little particularity is of no importance. I simply give it as an excellent illustration of the axiom that the same needs create the same means. There still remains the truly aboriginal snow-stick, which is believed to have originated in Asia.

As to fishing on a large scale, that is by means of traps, the same systems and identical contrivances prevail among the Kamtchadales

¹ "A Journey from Prince of Wales's Fort in Hudson's Bay to the Northern Ocean", p. 119; London, 1795.

² P. 154 of my "Notes . . . on the Western Dénés" I give a description, with two figures, of this implement such as we find it to-day among the Carrier Indians of British Columbia.

³ *Op. cit.*, pp. 134-35.

⁴ *Op. cit.*, p. 272; Washington, D.C.

⁵ "Notes", p. 155.

⁶ "The great Frozen Land", p. 80.