

II. MANUFACTURES.

Most of the implements and utensils of the Thompson Indians were made of stone, bone, wood, bark, skins, matting, or basketry. Work in stone, bone, and wood was done by the men, while the preparation of skins, matting, and basketry-work fell to the share of the women. There was a certain amount of division of labor, inasmuch as workmen skilful in any particular line of work exchanged their manufactures for other commodities.

WORK IN STONE.—Their work in stone was of the same character as that done by the prehistoric people of Lytton, which is described in Part III of this volume. Stones were battered into shape, cut, and flaked. Jade and serpentine boulders were cut by means of gritstones or beaver-teeth. But few polished implements are found. Steatite pipes were polished with stems of *Equisetum* and a mixture of grease and pitch of the black pine. Stone skin-scrapers and hand-hammers are used up to this day. The Indians are still familiar with the art of making arrow-heads. When these were to be made from a boulder, the following method was employed. The boulder was split by being laid on a stone and struck with a hand-hammer, generally a pebble of handy size. When a suitable piece had been obtained, its edges were trimmed off with a hard stone. Then it was wrapped in grass or hay, placed on edge on a stone, and large flakes were

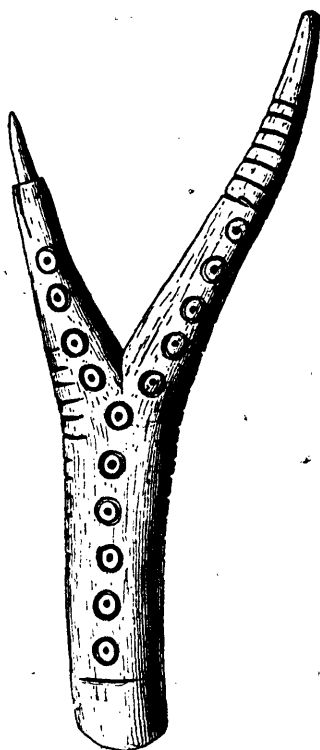


Fig. 118 (4437). Arrow-Flaker. $\frac{1}{2}$ nat. size.

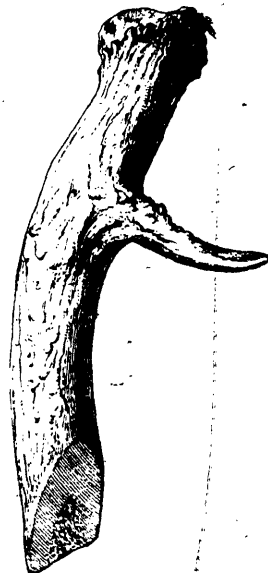


Fig. 119 (1431). Wedge made of Antler. $\frac{1}{2}$ nat. size.

split off with a hand-hammer. After a suitable piece had been obtained, it was placed on a pad in the left hand and held in position with the fingers. It was given its final shape by means of a flaker made of antler (Fig. 118), which was used with a forward and downward pressure. The blunt point served for flaking off larger chips, while the smaller one was used for the final stages of the work. In later times iron flakers were often used. The method of holding the flake was the same as that of the Carriers of northern British Columbia.¹

¹ See Notes on the Western Dénés, by Rev. Father Morice (Transactions of the Canadian Institute, Vol. IV, Toronto, 1895, p. 65); also Stone Implements of the Potomac-Chesapeake Tidewater Province, by W. H. Holmes (Fifteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, 1897, p. 81).