found better to put the sod from each of two adjacent trenches on the same path. The trenches will soon fill with water and the seed may be sown at once. Trenches were used at the Central Experimental Farm for experimental purposes for the past two years and were found successful. The plants, which were allowed to resow themselves the first year, produced a good stand for next year. The advantages of the trenches are chiefly that they may be supervised more readily, they are less open to the attacks of wild animals and the seed may be gathered without the use of a boat. There is one obvious disadvantage, that a certain amount of the seed is no doubt lost on the paths. This may be prevented by stretching cheesecloth on poles at a slightly obtuse angle to the water level on each side of the trenches. The cheesecloth need only be used during the short period of the ripening of the seed. It might prove advisable to catch all the seed in this way every two or three years in order thoroughly to cleanse the trench and resow with fresh seed. So far this has not been necessary.

HARVESTING THE SEED.

The harvesting of wild rice has been done by the Indians, chiefly by the old men and women in birch-bark canoes or small boats. The man sits in the bow to paddle, or, sometimes, to propel the canoe along with a forked stick which is less injurious to the plants. The woman at the back, with two short sticks, bends the stalks over and knocks the seeds off into the botton of the canoe. With this method it is mostly the fully-ripened seeds which fall into the canoe. Those still adhering to the stalks are left for a later gathering. Thus the harvesting is often extended over a period of from ten to fourteen days or longer.

In some districts too much of the crop is gathered when the grain is still in the milk stage, for parching. This practice necessitates more vigorous handling of the plants to separate the seeds from the stalks, although they drop with the lightest touch when fully ripe. The result is that a greater number of green seeds fall into the water and the crop of the following year is light owing to the fact that seeds in the milk stage have not the same vitality as those more mature. In this way many large beds have gradually disappeared.

Another method of harvesting the seed is that of tying the heads in bunches. This is done while the grain is still in the milk stage. Indian women go out with large balls of twine made of strips from the inner bark of the basswood. They tie several heads together, beginning at the bottom of the lowest head and winding upwards. The top is bent over and fastened in a loop. This method secures for the family the right of gathering the rice tied in their own peculiar manner and also it protects the seed from the attacks of wild fowl.

At the present time in Manitoba, men are using a new invention for gathering in the rice from the sloughs. Mr. Wm. McLaren, of Point du Bois, has perfected a type of schooner which sails over the shallow water with "wings" raised on each side to the right height for knocking the seed off into the boat. The "wings" are raised or lowered readily and do not break the plants which remain growing for a later gathering. Mr. McLaren is also working upon a machine to take the hulls off the grain. The method adopted by the Indians for hulling the seed is as follows: After harvesting, the seed is spread out to dry off in the sun. After drying sufficiently, the seed is parched, ready for hulling. The process of parching, as practised by the Indians, is very primitive. Not more than about half a bushel of