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ness of salt been deposited in consequence of the natural evaporation of these brines. One such locality is to be found on the Salt River, a tributary of the Slave River north of Fort Smith. As a rule, in order to obtain salt from the brines, artificial methods of concentration have to be adopted. It is with the historical aspect of this phase of the subject that I wish to deal in this brief paper.

In Canada the process of evaporating these brines for the purpose of obtaining salt was carried on as far back as the early years of the last century and continued until at least 1876. The district which has been the most prominent in connection with the industry is that which was known as the Swar River district, embracing the country west of Lake Winnipegosis, where the springs are most numerous, and where on the whole the concentration of the brines is greatest. The point has been discussed as to whether the Indian had learned the secret of the extraction of salt by the evaporation process before the advent of the white man. Keating¹ in 1825 refers to the claims of the Potawatomie Indians in this regard, in connection with the manufacture of maple sugar, as follows:

The use of salt previous to the arrival of the European is claimed by the Indians. They trace the origin of their acquaintance with this valuable condiment to the observation of the preference given by elks to the water from salt licks: having tasted it, they liked it, and took some to boil their vegetables with and having found it palatable, they boiled down the water in the manner that they had done the sap, and then obtained salt. It is not improbable, that the sediments of white salt, which are frequently observed during dry seasons in the vicinity of salt springs, may have taught them that it was by evaporation that the substance could be separated from the water which holds it in solution: for although the Indians were totally ignorant of the nature and causes of evaporation, they had noticed

¹ *Narrative of an Expedition to the Source of the St. Peter's River*, 1828, Vol. I, p. 116.