

LIV. SOME NOTES ON THE BOIS FORT CHIPPEWA
OF MINNESOTA

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The Bois Fort Chippewas live in northern Minnesota around Lake Nett in a region partly swamp and partly timbered. The country is practically in the virgin state and is "a paradise for wild fowl and fur-bearing animals." The Indians do much hunting and trapping; they gather wild rice and make maple sugar "when the first crow appears."

They live in wigwams covered with birch bark or mats of cat-tail flag, or in bark camps, birch bark houses, or, sometimes in summer, in "wickeups" which are posts covered with flat roofs of brush. They make mats from rushes, cedar bark and cat-tail flags, and thread, twine and rope from basswood fiber. Many utensils are made of birch bark—rice baskets, sap baskets, trays and winnowing dishes; in some cases these are made water-tight by sealing the seams with pitch. Bead work is used on moccasins, other clothing and "fire bags." The Ojibwa canoe "is undoubtedly the most beautiful and light model of all water crafts ever invented. The frame work is made of white cedar or some other light, durable wood," while the birch bark is "put on it so ingeniously and so well sewed together and the seams so well closed with pitch that the finished canoe is water tight and rides on the water like a cork."

The writer describes in great detail nine different games of these Indians comparing some of them with similar games of the

Apaches, Quillayutes and Go-Ship-Shoshones. Two are gambling games: the Pay-Gay-Say or Bowl game and the Moccasin or Bullet game on which so much money was squandered that it was stopped by the government. Three games are played with sticks in the snow, one by men, called the Snow Snake Game and the others by children. Lacrosse was played in the old times on the ice and Shinny was formerly played by young boys and women. Push-Kah-Wan or Double Ball is entirely a woman's game; "in 1909 they played it almost every day at Nett Lake throughout the entire summer" with as many as forty women on a side. Sha-Mah-Ke-Way-Be-Ne-Koh-Nung is a children's dice game played with painted sticks.

The "Squaw Dance" is mainly "a social affair, though at times it is used to get the Indians to assemble so the chief can harrangue them on the problems of the day. At other times it is held to cure the sick or as a part of the death ceremonies. In all its sessions both sexes take part. Each person chooses partners as she or he wishes, giving the one chosen a present each time." When this dance is given in honor of some one who has died, the accompanying feast is provided by the deceased person's relatives, who give away all of their possessions to the guests.