

was brought back by the men, the women took a large kettle and poured boiling water on it to soften it. It was then rolled up in large packages to be stored in the shade until needed. Possibly my in-/(218) formant, the late Indian Court Judge John Perrote, who had not assisted in canoe making since he lived at Fond du Lac on Lake Winnebago before the Menomini went on their present reservation, may have erred in this last detail, Birch-bark is more easily rendered pliable by heating before the fire than by wetting.

During the first day, while the men were gathering bark, the women employed themselves in collecting stringy pine-roots (wata'p), which they split, made into coils, and placed in water to soak. The next morning the men again repaired to the woods, this time to search for cedar from which to make the framework of the canoe. A tree having been selected and felled, it was split and examined to see if the grain was straight; if not, another had to be found. From this wood the thin lath-like inner sheathing for the canoe (pl. XLVI, b) was made. These strips, called ana'kianûk ("mats"), but with the animate plural suffix, were cut very thin, almost like paper, and were made in ten-foot lengths, and from three to four /(219) fingers broad. Cross-ribs, called pekä'kûnûk ("ribs"), were also made.

While the men cut out the sheathing and the framework, a task which lasted a day or more, the women, beginning in the afternoon, sewed the sections of bark together. Two women sat on the ground facing each other, with two sections of bark between them. Lapping the ends of the pieces over, one woman made holes through the bark with an awl of bone or of metal, at short regular intervals, while the other pushed the flexible wata'p thread through the perforations. When the sections were sewed across, both pulled vigorously to straighten them.

The day after the men returned with the cedar, they took an old canoe, and, using it as a pattern, drove stakes in the ground around it, to make a structure of the same shape as the boat. These falsework stakes are called