

Archdeacon Cowley's, went on to Selkirk where we slept, a toiling row next day and reached Winnipeg at dusk, Saturday, slept in the boat that night, but William Chief was taken to the hospital".

But such tedious voyages were soon after this discontinued, when the use of steamers became a necessity in the fish industry, so that in navigating the rivers and lakes now, there is very little comparison, but a great contrast.

Supplies were imported by York Boat from Winnipeg and Norway House, and the same kind of craft used for exporting the vast number of furs. The monotony of travelling along the numerous rivers and lakes would at times be broken by the appearance of a moose, soon to be shot and eaten, while ducks and geese were innumerable. Whoever has seen the hauling of a York boat up the dangerous rapids or over a portage will not soon forget the putting forth of muscle by the sturdy swampies who always seemed in good spirits. On going ashore to eat or camp for the night, they had to cook their own food, and no matter how hazardous the journey had been, so long as no one was injured, they would laugh heartily at their narrow escapes. The staple articles of food were flour and pork or bacon; and it used to amuse the writer to see the rapidity with which they would prepare the bannocks. One frying pan would do duty for several men to begin the baking, and soon a number of bannocks were placed on wooden skewers in front of the fire. Often the bread thus prepared would be insufficiently cooked, but the stomach of a hard working native seemed a marvelous receptacle for food both in quality and quantity. After the day's work and meals were over, and ere lying down on Mother earth it was usual for them to sing a hymn and to pray; sometimes also reading the Bible. It is feared there is very little of this among the Plain Indians. The Swampies both at home and away generally acknowledge God in all their ways, and on Sundays especially they may be seen gathered for public worship. The writer does not know even to have met a pronounced infidel amongst any who had received Christianity.

In the Pas district the natives used to live mainly upon fish and game; but at certain times the musk rat entered largely into their