

A PIPE BLANK.

The making of stone pipes is still carried on to a limited extent by a number, especially of the older men of the Chippewa and other Wisconsin tribes. These pipes are most frequently made of catlinite, or pipestone, but also of chlorite, steatite and of other kinds of stone. The Wisconsin catlinite for pipe making is obtained in several localities in Barron, Sawyer and other counties in northwest Wisconsin. It is also obtained from Minnesota. Descriptions of some of the catlinite quarries in Barron county have been published. Some of these are still resorted to by the Indians.

The interesting illustration which appears as the frontispiece of the present publication was obtained through the kindness of Mr. Charles G. Schoewe, the former owner of the specimen, which is now in the Milwaukee Public Museum. The following notes concerning it are furnished by Mr. Schoewe. It is $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, its greatest width being $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches and its thickness $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch. It will be noted that its maker was attempting to cut two pipes from the same block of pipestone. It was found in plowing on a farm near the St. Croix River at Stillwater, Minnesota. The reverse side of this stone shows that a portion of it has been split off. This accident probably caused the rejection of the blank by the Indian pipe maker.

In the Wisconsin archeologist (v. 10, No. 1) Dr. S. A. Barrett has furnished information concerning the stone pipes in use among the Wisconsin Chippewa and Menominee. After being cut into the desired form with a knife the pipes are drilled, the form of drill being a bow drill with a metal point.