

Col. Abram Edwards writes that in 1818 he, with seven expert canoemen, paddled along Lake Michigan from Green Bay to Chicago. "Near Manitowoc," states Col. Edwards, "many Indians were out in canoes spearing whitefish."

Other authority also has it that the wide expanse of water at the mouth of the Little Manitowoc river was once a favorite Indian fishing place. The natives came for considerable distances to participate in the fish spearing at this place.

The Chippewa of Wisconsin were noted fishermen. They used the spear and harpoon with skill. It was thus that whitefish were taken at Sault Ste. Marie. The Chippewa were exceedingly expert in spearing fish from their canoes in the swift-flowing waters at the rapids or Sault.

From the "Letters of Father Charlevoix", (1763) we have gleaned the following interesting data: "The savages take the sturgeon in the Lakes in this manner:—a man is at each of the two ends of a canoe, he behind steers and the other stands, upholding a dart in one hand, to which a long cord is fastened; the other end is tied to one of the bars of the canoe.

"As soon as he sees the sturgeon in his reach, he throws his dart and endeavors to strike where there are no scales. If the fish is wounded it flies, and draws the canoe along, but after having swam about 150 paces it dies, then they draw up the cord and take it. A savage with his spear will sometimes strike 50 in three hours' time."

"Sturgeon were usually captured by spearing," says Alanson Skinner of the Menomoni. (Material Culture of the Menomoni). "The spears used for this purpose were bone or copper-headed harpoons.

"Another form, probably used for catching smaller fish, was a variety of trident. In this case a cedar pole, at least 10 to 12 feet long, was made to receive two outward slanting cedar prongs, serrated inwardly, with a central spike between them. This armament was held in place by a firm binding of cedar-bark twine. The fish was impaled by the thrust of the central spike and prevented from escaping by the barbed or toothed side-prongs."