

### *Spearing Fish at Night*

Fish spearing often took place at night by torch light.

The Indians devised various means of holding the torches, from the simple one of holding a flaming pine knot on a piece of bark covered with earth to a more elaborate method where a framework was built on the end of a canoe, five feet or more above the water, upon which the burning torch was placed. Fish, attracted by the light, could be speared very rapidly.

The torches used in night fishing were usually pine knots. Sometimes dry cedar bark was stuck in an alder stem, and after hot deer and moose tallow had been poured onto it, the Indian fisherman ignited it and used it as a flambeau or torch.

Some historians hold that it was from this Indian method of night fishing that Lac du Flambeau, in Vilas county, got its name, the French traders naming it "Lake of the Torch."

Tightly rolled and tied pieces of birch bark were sometimes used by the Chippewa as torches in fishing.

Publius V. Lawson also makes mention of night fishing with torches by the lake shore bands of Potawatomi, stating that "white fish were speared off the shore of Lake Michigan by day and by torchlight at night, the torches being set up on the bows of their boats." (Wis. Archeol., vol. 19, no. 2)

### SHOOTING FISH

The writer includes fish shooting with spearing, for in shooting the Indian merely employed a spear of smaller size, projecting it from a bow instead of hurling it.

The Winnebago of Wisconsin, the "Hotcongara" or "big fish people," were unusually adept at spearing fish and often used the bow and arrow for shooting fish.

Dr. Paul Radin, in his study of "The Winnebago Tribe," states that "in shooting fish a long arrowlike stick (*man-nuxinixini*) with a pointed end, whittled and frayed at the base like the ceremonial staff of the Bear clan, was discharged from an ordinary bow. The method of taking