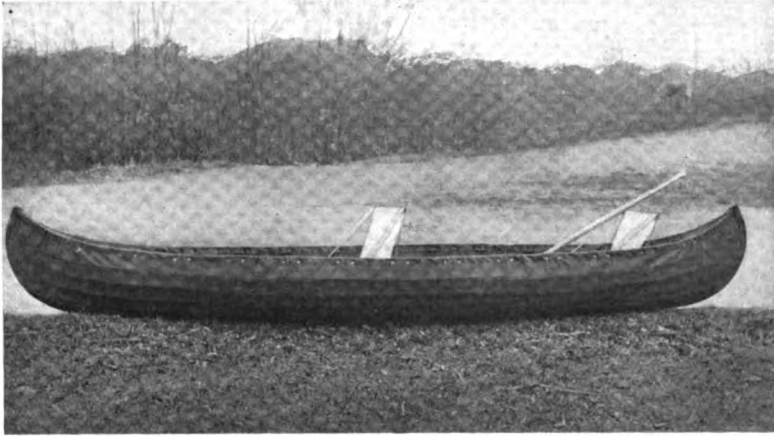


29



A fourteen-foot folding canoe ready for use



Carrying a folding canoe set up in the water

Outing With a Portable Equipment

By A. William Masters



OUTING with portable equipment is annually growing more popular. With far less than the weight of an ordinary trunk, taken to a resort on vacation, one can paddle his own folding canoe and sleep in his own folding tent, and comfortably carry both of them rolled up on his back when tramping. A soldier must take about seventy pounds of equipment on his back when marching, independent of the tent he is to sleep in when camping over night, which shelter goes with the jack train. The "outer," however, need not carry that amount of weight in tent and canoe combined, so lightly are such things constructed.

The canvas boat fills a modern necessity. It can be placed in water where no boats are available. It makes the owner practically independent of all other forms of travel, enabling him to reach the obscure places and live in them, where even the farmhouse is far distant. Food of to-day is also portable, done up in tin cans. Even coffee has recently been made portable—that is, a recent invention places it on the market in the form of a powder, a teaspoonful of which, merely stirred up in hot or cold water, makes a delicious drink, far better than can be bought at the majority of restaurants by the cup.

In past years, thousands of lakes and streams that afforded excellent outings, could not be utilized because there was no means of reaching them and no boats to enjoy them when reached. The folding canvas boat has placed all such waters within the reach of every outer. These ideal places in consequence now more and more attract those who delight in solitudes and quiet. They have no resort hotels, steamboats, camp meetings, Chautauquas, railways or noise. To-

day, at the end of the railway journey, the outer carries the folded canoe and tent under his arm or on his back. He may charter a buggy to cart his equipment to the nearest water or trough, as he pleases. The desired body of water has most always a stream leading to it from some railway station. If so, the outer has only to leave the train, set up his canoe and paddle or row to the desired lake or haven.

On the other hand, the canvas canoe or rowboat may be taken to the big and little resorts where there are abundant hotels and boarding-houses. The outer will then have his own craft with no exorbitant boat bill to pay. At night, if desirable, he can fold up his boat and take it to his bedroom. Assuming that a change in fishing is desirable, if the outer purposes to be driven ten or fifteen miles to some lake where there are no accommodations and remain over night or longer, all he has to do is to take his folding boat along, with tent tops, and sleep in it for one or two nights, or hoist his tent top if it rains.

Canvas boats are now made life-saving; that is, they cannot be tipped over by one man standing anywhere upon them; if tipped over or filled with water by any cause, the smallest of them will still hold two people without sinking. It takes only five minutes to set one up or fold it up. It can be rowed twice as fast with only one-half as much arm power as a wooden boat requires. It is less expensive than a wooden boat. It has life-saving air chambers, double paddles or jointed oars, carrying ease, combination thwart seat, spreaders, oarlocks and camp chairs. It may also

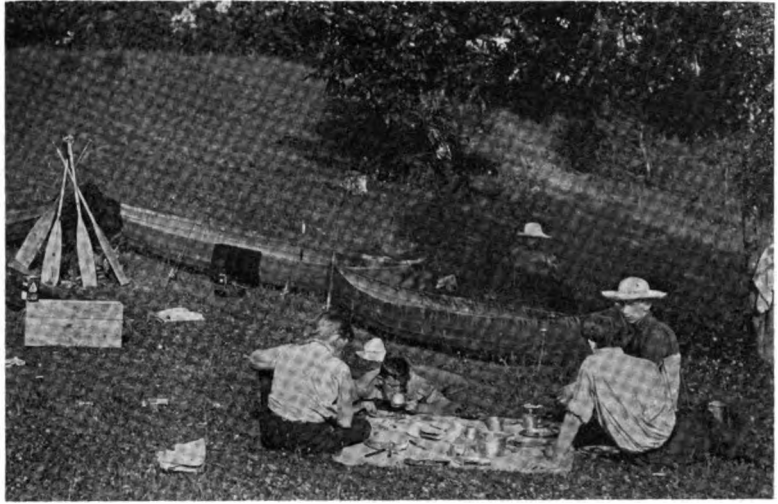


A large fishing party in camp by a mountain lake

have tent tops, cabin ends or cabins covering the whole boat. The bottoms are flat, smooth and rigid. It never leaks and will last a generation, as the canvas is water-



Making ready for a landing for the night



A camp of the folding canoers

proofed, oiled and painted, thoroughly saturating it, so that it repels water like rubber, prevents mildewing and cracking and makes it proof against changes in temperature. The framework is made of high carbon, tempered spring steel and, being galvanized, will not rust in salt or fresh water. No tools are required to set up or to take down the modern canvas boat, and no instructions are needed by the beginner, who can set it up and take it down in the dark, if necessary.

There is nothing to get lost, such as bolts, nuts or cotter pins. The cross ribs, being fastened to a strong strap, cannot get misplaced, nor do they have to be sorted out. Long before the bull crosses the pasture, your folded burden is set up, you push off in your boat and you are beyond the reach of his horns.

The cost of an outing depends on the point of view, or the point of resources. It is easy enough to lay down the cost of equipment, as prices of 1911 were shown at the recent New York Sportsman's Show, continued on a lesser scale at sporting goods houses. Folding canvas boats begin at the 9-foot size and end at the 20-foot size. A 9-foot boat has 32 inches beam and 10 inches depth, either jointed oars or double paddles, carrying case, thwart seat, spreaders and air chambers. It will carry 350 pounds of weight. As a package to tote it is 3 feet long by 8 inches wide and weighs 30 pounds. Its price \$25. Prices then increase with length until 20 feet are reached at a cost of \$65. As lengths increase, the number of people that can be carried increase, the 20-foot boat, for instance, weighing only 120 pounds, will carry 3,000 pounds. Tent tops range from \$11 to \$18, according to the length of the

boat, and cabin ends from \$3 to \$7. Cabins to cover the whole boat range from \$9 to \$21.

It will be seen that the cost of equipment cannot be charged to one outing, as it will last for many annual outings. If one desires a separate tent, all that can be said is that they cost from \$3.50 up, and one may go away up. For the open, for roughing it, many prefer a sleeping bag, the priceless boon of scientific expeditions where all is tramp, tramp, day after day. Their range of cost is from \$7 to \$60.

Assuming that you are a youth, with \$100 or less for your two or three weeks vacation, your folding canvas 9-foot boat and tent top would cost you \$36 for all the outings you are ever likely to make while young. To this add the amount of carfare. If you are to camp, there is so much to be apportioned for food, utensils for cooking and eating (which may be had at the 10-cent store), fishing tackle and perhaps a gun and shells. The gun and shells must be dispensed with unless you can afford a State license and unless you are to camp in the season when shooting is allowed by law. As a rule, two or more combine on a boating camping trip, dividing and thereby reducing the expenses and sharing the camp work. Those who have experience and can afford it may take along a man of all around ability, who will attend to all the camp drudgery. Say what you will, the proposed camper of small means can do far better with a canvas boat, by going where he can board at a farmhouse or small hotel at from \$3.50 to \$5 per week. The expense is less, and the outer has all of his time to wrestle with nature for pastime and relaxation.



Canoeing in the Adirondack lake with a folding canvas canoe



The expedition sleeps at a flying camp