

NEBRASKA FLINTS.

Some time ago we promised the readers of *The Conservative* a description of some of the curious flints found in Nebraska.

After many disappointments and delays we herewith present illustrations of some of the prominent types.

Plate I: Numbers 1 to 5 inclusive show the finer chipped flints found in all parts of the state. This is the type which I have referred to as the "Harahey Type" in my articles.

Numbers 6 and 7 are likewise smoothly chipped specimens and may be classified as "Harahey" also. We can only show a few of the many flints found, and in my selection I have endeavored to present all varieties of form and material. The "Harahey Type" is more evenly distributed over the state than is the coarser "Quivera Type." They are not so large and show more skill in their execution. Some of them are made from the blue flint found at Nehawka, but far the greater number are of red, white, yellow or black flint not found in this state. The name "Harahey" is only used to distinguish these finer specimens from the paleolithic, coarse-chipped or Quivera specimens shown in Nos. 14, 15, 16 and 17. No. 25 may properly belong to this class; it is of a dark-blue or almost black flint; it was found in Otoe county, but the material came from Kansas.

No. 8 of plate I is interesting; in all the works published on archaeology which I have been permitted to see, there is not a description of a like implement.

It is one and three-eighths inches in diameter, is flat on the under side and about half an inch thick in the center. It is nearly circular and was evidently chipped to its present form for a purpose. I have a number of specimens, varying in size from half an inch to two inches in diameter, and found in various parts of the state. Larger flints, chipped circular and convex on both sides, have been described as an article of merchandise—flints blocked roughly for traffic—but these are not the same. I can offer no explanation at this time.

Numbers 9 and 10 are specimens of the knife. They are very thin and sharp and were intended to have handles, as may be plainly noted.

11, 12 and 13 are a mystery at this writing; they are a type of implement not illustrated elsewhere. I have many specimens, found only at the flint mines at Nehawka, and made from the blue flint. This implement is flat or concave on the under side, usually showing no chipping except on the upper side, and the peculiar chipping at the point is the only interesting feature. I have called them a "chisel" and think they may have been used in digging out canoes or in working wood—

they are invariably sharp on the point edge only.

Number 21 is a drill made of brown flint which I have not found in this state. It was picked up by Prof. Nickerson on the banks of Cedar creek, about ten rods from "The Leap," near Fullerton, Nance county, Neb. This diminutive specimen is very neat—one of the best ever found in the state. Its shape is unique. I have never seen its counterpart illustrated. Mr. Parker of Florence, Neb., has the frame in which

the rod; then after placing the drill in place with its rod vertical, a constant circular motion is imparted to the drill by moving the block up and down on the rod. The device is very ingenious as well as effective, but every one can not work it as Mr. Parker can.

I wish to mention No. 19 especially; this implement is flat or concave on the under side, that is, it shows that it is made from a chip broken off the flint block with a curved fracture, and is evenly chipped on the other side. No.

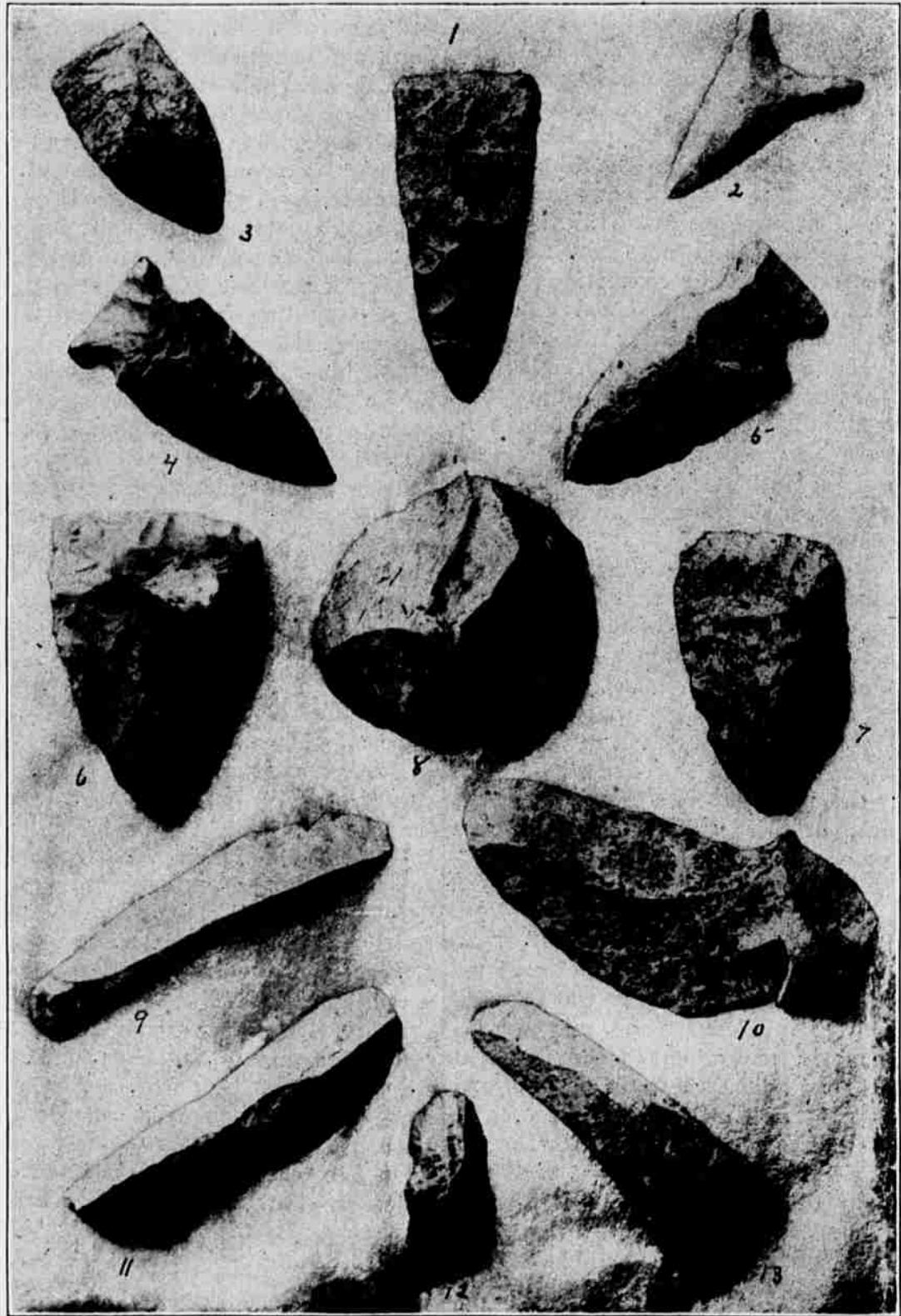


PLATE I.

these flint drills were used. This frame consists of a wooden rod about a foot long which passes through a block of wood loosely; to the upper end of this rod are attached two strips of raw hide, the other ends of which are attached to the block. The flint drill is inserted in the other end of the wooden rod and secured by sinew. To operate the drill, take the block in the hand and with a gentle motion wind the rawhide around

19 would fit a common baseball nicely and is two and one-half inches long. Its use is a matter of conjecture. I have a number of like specimens or it would be termed an accident.

The remaining numbers, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23 and 24, all belong to the coarsely chipped "Quivera Type." They are paleolithic in form but were found "above ground." No real paleolithics are so found and these were merely the