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Hiawathaland—Our Own Upper Peninsula

(Photos by C. A. Meter)

By the shores of Gitche Gumee,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
Stood the wigwam of Nokomis,
Daughter of the Moon, Nokomis.
Dark behind it rose the forest,
Rose the black and gloomy pine

Rose the firs with cones upon them;
Bright before it beat the water,
Beat the clear and sunny water,
Beat the shining Big-Sea-Water.

THE "SONG OF HIAWATHA," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, is known to every school child but not so many know its scene is upper Michigan. The "pictured rocks of sandstone," for instance, where Pau-Puk-Keewis sought refuge after ravaging Hiawatha's lodge, are near Munising, as pictured. The "dunes of Nagow Wudjoo" are on the shores of Lake Superior, west of Grand Marais, Mich. Hiawatha crossed the Escanaba, the "river of flat rocks," on his way to the Dacotahs and, according to Indian tradition, Sugar Loaf rock, Mackinac island, an "egg" of limestone standing 284 feet above the level of Lake Huron, was the Great Spirit's wigwam.



Once again a human figure,
Full in sight ran on before him,
Came unto the rocky headlands,
To the Pictured Rocks of sandstone.
And the Old Man of the Mountain,
He the Manito of Mountains,
Opened wide his rocky doorways,
Giving Pau-Puk-Keewis shelter
In his caverns dark and dreary,
Bidding Pau-Puk-Keewis welcome
To his gloomy lodge of sandstone.

Give me of your bark, O Birch Tree!

Of your yellow bark, O Birch Tree!

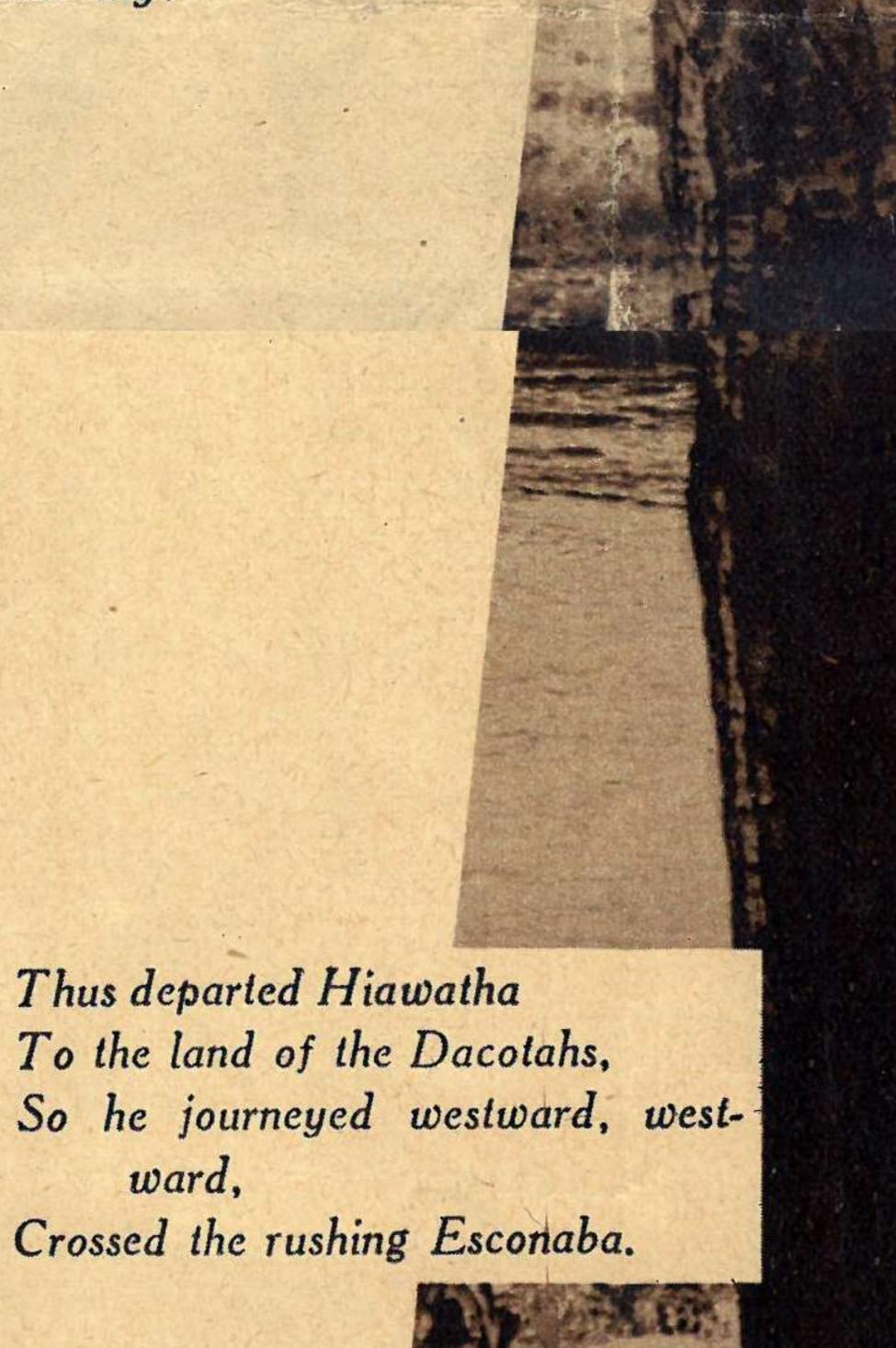
I a light canoe will build me,

Build a swift Cheemaun for sailing,

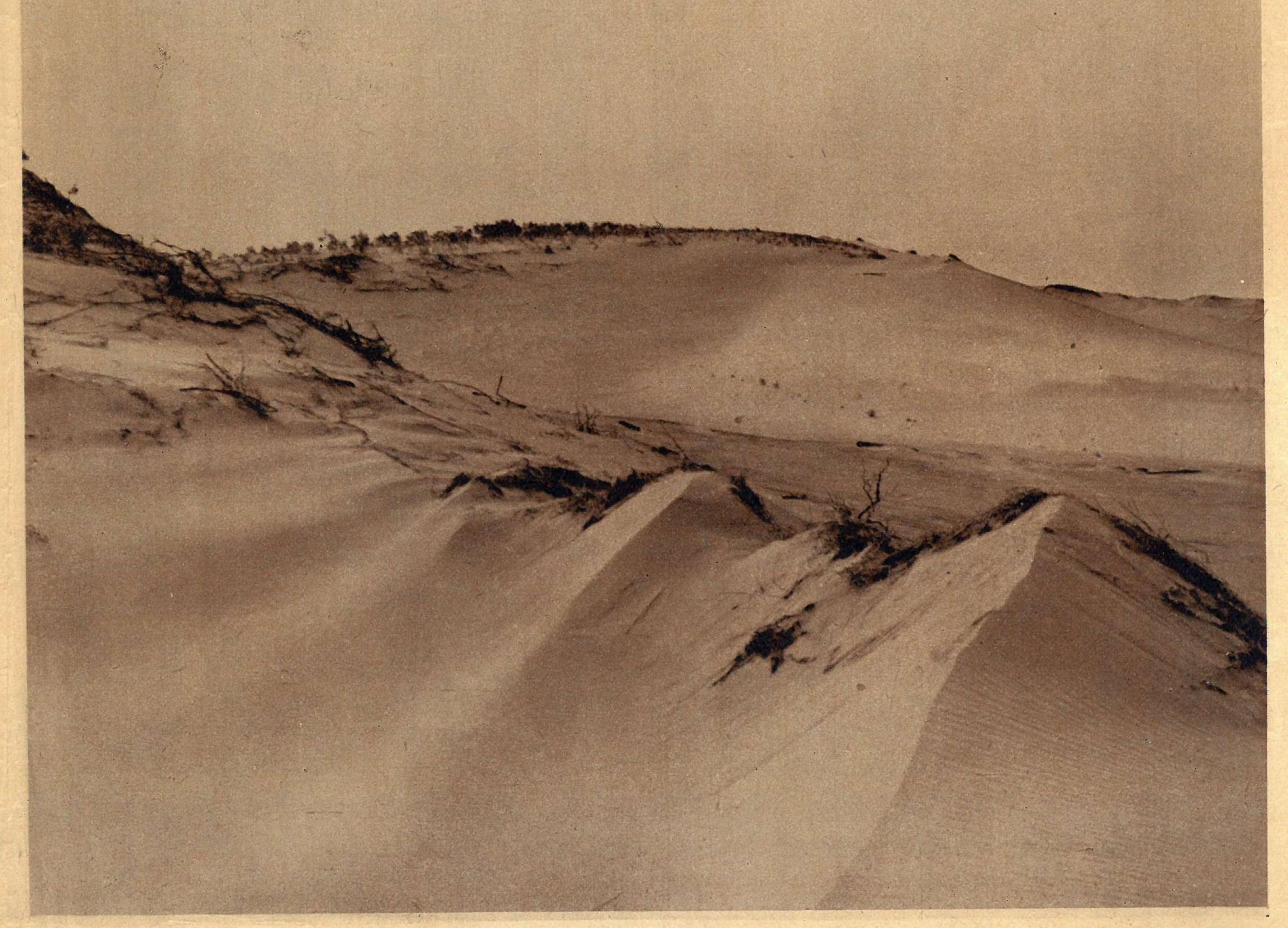
That shall float upon the river,

Like a yellow leaf in Autumn,

Like a yellow water lily!



Gitche Manito the Mighty,
He, the Master of Life, was painted
As an egg, with points projecting
To the four winds of the Heavens.
Everywhere is the Great Spirit,
Was the meaning of this symbol.



On the shores of Gitche Gumee,
On the dunes of Nagow Wudjoo,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water
Stood the lodge of Pau-Puk-Keewis.
It was he who in his frenzy
Whirled these drifting sands together,
On the dunes of Nagow Wudjoo,
When, among the guests assembled,
He so merrily and madly
Danced at Hiawatha's wedding,
Danced his Beggar's Dance to please
them

