feeling as if we could enjoy three hundred more,
we sought our respective homes, there to tell
huge fish stories, and air our knowledge about
one of the grandest sports in existence—canoe-
ing.

Out of the dusty city and its cares
Bear me my bonny boat,
Beneath the azure canopy of heaven,
Where fleecy cloudlets float.

How sweet to listen to the ocean’s voice,
Singing its ceaseless lay,
And watch the white-winged vessels speeding on
Across the sunlit bay.

And thus sing I of sweet mem’ries past,
Before the summer wind,
And also think of the time, at last,
When “Techs” must ’gin to grind.

The First Iron Works in America.

In Saugus, Mass.,—a small town not far from
Boston,—on the right-hand bank of the nar-
row and tortuous Saugus River, there is a
mound, overgrown with turf, which would prob-
ably attract no attention from the casual passer-
by. If, however, one has the curiosity to exam-
ine it, it will be noticed that beneath the turf
there is not loam or gravel, but slag and cinder;
in fact, this mound is the old slag-dump of the
first iron-works of America, and of these, this is
all that remains at the present day,

Iron ore was discovered in Saugus, which
was then a part of Lynn, at a very early date,
but no attempt to work it was made until 1643.
At that time, however, the great want in the
country of iron tools and iron ware induced sev-
eral enterprising men to attempt the establish-
ment of a furnace. One of the leaders in this
venture was Thomas Dexter, who, it will be re-
membered, purchased the peninsula of Nahant,
from the Indians, for the price of—a suit of
clothes!

In 1642, Hon. Robert Bridges, another of the
projectors of the enterprise, took some speci-
mens of the Saugus iron ore to London, where
he succeeded in forming a company, called
“The Company of Undertakers for the Iron
Works,” consisting of a number of wealthy
gentlemen. This company advanced the sum
of one thousand pounds for commencing the
work; land was purchased on the western bank
of the Saugus River and a foundry erected, where
the heap of slag before mentioned can still be
seen. John Winthrop, Jr., the son of the Gov-
ernor, also engaged in the enterprise, and this
same year a number of persons came from Eng-
land to take part in the works, either as foremen
or workmen.

The establishment of this iron-foundry was
highly approved by the General Court, who assist-
ed the undertakers by much favorable legislation,
giving them large grants of land, exemption
from taxation, and many other privileges; in
consideration of which they were to furnish in-
habitants of the colony with bar-iron, at a price
not exceeding twenty pounds per ton.

The iron-works soon began to get into a
flourishing condition. In a letter to his son,
dated August 4, 1648, Mr. Winthrop says: “The
iron-work goeth on with more hope. It yields
now about 7 tons per week.” In another letter,
two months later, he states that “the furnace
runs 8 tons per week, and their bar-iron is as
good as Spanish.”

The undertakers gave one Joseph Jenks per-
mission to erect a forge, near the furnaces, to
work the iron there produced. Jenks was an
inventive genius. He constructed a fire-engine
for the selectmen of Boston, which was the first
ever made in this country; he took out a patent
for an improved scythe for cutting grass, like
which are the scythes in use to-day; and it was
at this forge that were made the dies for coining
the pine-tree shillings.

For several years the iron-works were carried
on with much vigor, and furnished most of the