

districts alluded to, so near the extreme northern limit, were found to be more prolific than those grown anywhere else. Ordinarily on an ear of wheat grown in Ontario each fascicle contained but two grains. In Winnipeg they averaged two and a half, at Prince Albert four, and at Edmonton the wheat ears were found to average nearly five fascicles across the ear, extending the whole length of the head. When it was taken into account that the heads also increased in length it was not difficult to understand that the same number of stalks that would produce 15 bushels to the acre in Ontario would produce 25 bushels at Winnipeg, and from 30 to 40 bushels farther north. Speaking of the grasses found in the various parts of the country the Professor stated that there was no difference between the grasses grown under the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains and those found further east, commonly supposed to be inferior in quality. The only difference was that on the dry plains of the south hardly any grasses produce a large crop of seed, and from that cause the fodder afforded by the natural grasses was richer in nutriment equalling first class hay. He referred to the popular belief that cattle fatten on the grazing lands of Texas and warm districts in the south, which he characterized as a fallacy as shown by the custom amongst grazers of driving their herds northward to fatten. This was also in obedience to a well-known botanical and geological law, which provided that the farther north animals are found the greater their capacity for putting on fat. On this ground he was convinced of the great advantages possessed by the North West as a cattle raising country. The lecturer referred incidentally to the fuel supply of the North West, and ventured to say that there was untold wealth in the form of great peat bogs within forty miles of Winnipeg, the manufacture of which could be prosecuted with great convenience in that dry climate."

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW.

Osteology of *Speotyto cunicularia* var. *hypogaea*, and of *Eremophila alpestris*, by LIEUT. R. W. SHUFELDT, U. S. Army.

The two birds above named, one the Burrowing Owl, which "occurs on the prairies west of the Mississippi, notably in the villages of species of Marmot Squirrels, the deserted burrows of which it occupies for the purpose of nidification. Perhaps no species in the great Order to which it belongs, have less limited

power of flight, none so habitually congregate together in certain localities and choose the open treeless country as their resort, and make their nests underground." Mr. Shufeldt exhibits expertness in being a correct comparative anatomist, as every portion of the skeleton of the bird is illustrated with great care; all portions of which are fully explained in the text. There are three plates on the structure of the Burrowing Owl. Also, the osteology of the Shore Lark (*E. alpestris*), a bird said to nest on the Island of Montreal, is illustrated. Mr. S. was fortunate in obtaining several hundred specimens in March, 1880. He says—"As they afterwards lay on the table of my study, one would almost have said before submitting them to careful scrutiny and examination, that not only was true *alpestris* represented, but *leucoloma* and *chrysoloma*, described by modern writers. I have never seen the black pectoral crescent of this bird in the low position in which Audubon represents it in his work." Mr. S. has evidently identified but one species, *i. e.*, *alpestris*, and his description of the skeleton, simply reminds the student that of the several genera that go to make up the family *Alaudidae*, or Larks, but one genus has fallen to the lot of the North American fauna, and that the genus contains but one species, *i. e.* *alpestris*.

Correspondence.

SPORTING AND NATURAL HISTORY CAPABILITIES OF BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO.

SIR, —As I understand from your prospectus that the indication of favourable sporting and collecting localities is to form a prominent, as it will certainly be a valuable, feature in your serial, I believe I will be doing a kindness to many of my fellow sportsmen and naturalists by making them aware of the advantages offered to them by this locality. The city of Belleville is situated on the north shore of the Bay of Quinte, at the mouth of the River Moira. Hotel and private accommodations are to be had of excellent quality, and at most reasonable fares. The Bay swarms with fish,—pike, pickerel, (doré), maskilonge, black and Oswego bass, perch, lake trout, rock bass, sturgeon, suckers, cat-fish, sun-fish, herring, whitefish, and eels are taken from its waters. The bass are especially fine; I have taken them myself up to 3½ lbs. weight, and I saw one some years ago