

it is reduced to the fine powder commonly known as Plaster of Paris. By grinding the crude gypsum as it comes from the quarries between ordinary burr-stones, land-plaster is obtained, a substance of which it is difficult to over-estimate the value in a country whose resources are almost entirely agricultural. The soil of Manitoba and the North-West Territories is very fertile now, but a time will come when having raised crop after crop it will need replenishing. The value of this extensive gypsum deposit will then be thoroughly realised. Lying as it does within twelve miles of Lake Manitoba, a navigable stretch of open water extending southward almost to the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, it can readily be brought to all parts of the province. It is also on the line of the projected railway from Winnipeg, between Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba, to Hudson's Bay, and by this railway would be within one hundred and fifty miles from Winnipeg, and as the intervening country is very level, the cost of carrying it there would not be great.

NOTES ON SHEPHERDIA CANADENSIS.

By D. P. PENHALLOW.

During the past summer I received from a correspondent—Dr. M. S. Wade, of British Columbia—some specimens of plants for identification. Among the number was *Shepherdia Canadensis*, the berries of which are used somewhat extensively as an article of food, and as they possess properties which do not appear to be generally recognized in published accounts of the plant, it seems desirable to make some statements of the facts brought to my notice. Dr. Wade writes as follows:—

“The *Shepherdia Canadensis* is called *Le Bron* and also *Sopolallie*. The latter name is the Chinook word for it, *sop* meaning *soap*, and *olallie berry*. Thus it is termed the Soap-berry, from its property, when triturated, to form a