
REPORT

OF THE

Curator of the Provincial Museum.

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VICTORIA, March 16th, 1897.

*To the Hon. J. H. Turner,
Premier.*

SIR,—I have the honour of submitting herewith a summary of the contents of the Provincial Museum, together with such other information respecting the management, etc., of said institution as in my opinion may prove of public interest.

The Museum was opened on the 2nd of December, 1886, but, owing to the limited space then allotted it, very little progress was made towards increasing the collection until after its removal to its present quarters in May, 1889, when the work of building up a Provincial Museum was commenced in real earnest.

It will be gratifying for you to know that, from the very start, a host of friends sprang up to lend it a helping hand, and valuable contributions have been received from every portion of the Province, and I am pleased to inform you that this interest has not in the least abated; indeed, a greater number of valuable contributions have been received the last year than during any previous year.

Owing to the crowded state of the present quarters preventing a proper arrangement of specimens, no attempt has been made in the way of a classified catalogue, but such a catalogue, together with a Visitors' Guide Book, will be proceeded with as soon as the collection is arranged in the new quarters.

You will, I think, admit that the removal of the collection to a building where the chances of fire will be so much reduced cannot take place too soon.

So far, I have not, to any great extent, taken advantage of the opportunities offered me for exchanges with foreign museums, as I think much of the usefulness of our collection will be in keeping it as near as possible a local one; at least, this should be done until our own resources are fully represented.

I would advise that the minerals be taken from the Museum and placed in the Department of Mineralogy, under the care of the Provincial Mineralogist, which would seem to be the proper place for them.

The staff of the Museum at present consists of three persons, viz., a Curator, Taxidermist, and a caretaker and general assistant. All the work is done on the premises, the work-room being pretty well equipped with the appliances for modern work.

The hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Saturdays, on which days the place is closed at 3 p.m.

You will see that the total number of specimens contained in the collection is 16,577. During my visit East last summer, I made special inquiries respecting the cost of collecting and maintaining similar institutions in England and the United States, and I must say that I found none equal to this that had been got together in the same time and for the same amount of money.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN FANNIN.

Classified List.

	Specimens.	Total.
ANTHROPOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY.....		1,663
MAMMALIA—Mammals.		
Mounted, in cases.....	41	
" outside.....	91	
" heads.....	17	
Skins suitable for mounting or study.....	311	
Fully identified.....		460
AVES—Birds.		
Mounted, in cases.....	416	
" outside.....	236	
Skins suitable for mounting or study.....	1,380	
Fully identified and classified.....		2,032
OLOGY—Birds' Eggs.		
Sets.....		140
Partially identified.....		
REPTILIA—Snakes, Lizards, and Turtles.....		33
Partially identified.....		
ICHTHYOLOGY—Fishes.		
Gelatine casts.....	47	
Paper ".....	2	
Plaster ".....	1	
Alcoholic specimens.....	182	
Fully identified.....		232
MOLLUSCA—Shells.		
Marine.....	1,271	
Land and Fresh Water.....	270	
Foreign.....	520	
Alcoholic specimens.....	157	
Partially identified and classified.....		2,218
INSECTA—Moths, Butterflies, &c.....	1,700	
Beetles.....	618	
Mostly identified.....		2,318
CRUSTACEA—Crabs, Shrimps, and Crayfish.....		206
Mostly identified and classified.....		
ASTEROIDEA—Star Fishes.....		230
Mostly identified.....		
ECHMOIDEA—Sea Urchins.....		51
Mostly identified.....		
HYDROCORALLIÆ—Polyps, &c.....		60
Mostly identified.....		
PORIFERA—Sponges.....		22
OSTEOLOGY—Skeletons, &c.....	309	
In course of preparation.....	64	
Fully identified.....		373
PALÆONTOLOGY—Fossils.....	3,076	
Foreign Fossils.....	43	
Mostly identified and classified.....		3,119
GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY.....		1,915
Carried forward.....		15,072

Classified List.—Concluded.

	Specimens.	Total.
Brought forward.....		15,072
ALGÆ—Seaweeds, &c.....		93
Specimens in alcohol.....		51
Botanical specimens B. C. Flora.....		564
Fully identified and classified.....		
Casts.....		64
Miscellaneous.....		121
Native Woods.....		19
Foreign specimens received in exchange.		
Bird skins.....	40	
Barks (New South Wales).....	16	
Gums and Resins.....	13	
Woods, Seeds, and Nutgalls.....	55	
Minerals.....	27	
Wool.....	104	
California.....	150	
Library.		405
Bound volumes.....	138	
Unbound volumes.....	50	
		188
		16,577

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