REPORT

OF THE

Curator of the Provincial Museum.

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 frients 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 Depart- 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
OOLOGY—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 Fully identified and classified.		564
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	
		405
Library.		
Bound volumes	138	
Unbound volumes	50	
		188
		16,577

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