

*Ordered*, That Dr. Ryerson be summoned to attend before the Committee on Saturday next.

Adjourned until Saturday at 10.30 A.M.

*Saturday, 2nd April, 1859.*

COMMITTEE MET.

The Petitioner, Dr. Ryerson, Professor Hincks, and Mr. Couper, Naturalist, were in attendance.

Professor Hincks handed in a statement to the effect that he had visited the Museum, with his views respecting the same, and is, as follows:

I have now visited the Niagara Museum, and have examined with some care both the character of the collection and the plans for their proper display in the building which is in course of erection. Notwithstanding the evidence I had read, the collection exceeded my expectations. The number of valuable objects is great. They appear to be carefully preserved, and displayed in an instructive manner; and the extent of the collection is such as to excite surprise at its having been formed and thus far sustained by private enterprise; but it is manifest that they can neither be secured from injury nor displayed to any advantage in the present or any similar building, so that the new substantial and appropriate building is needed in order to secure the public benefit arising from them, and its character and the ingenious and most successful method of lighting the cases must secure the admiration of every competent judge. I cannot but consider the Niagara Falls Museum as a most useful and interesting institution, affording great public benefits, and deserving of encouragement as a source of widely diffused and valuable instruction. A large portion of the animals, birds, and other creatures of our own country are very beautifully exhibited and accompanied by many valuable specimens from other countries.

It occurs to me to add that I was particularly impressed by the size and beautiful exhibition of some of the principal species of Canadian birds, and mammalia, greatly exceeding in some instances what I have been able by great exertion and some expense to procure for the Museum under my charge, showing at once the advantage of many years prolonged exertions, and the skill and taste displayed by Mr. Barnett.

*Ordered*, That the same parties appear before the Committee on Tuesday next.

The Committee then adjourned until Tuesday next, at 10.30 A.M.

*Tuesday, 5th April, 1859.*

COMMITTEE MET.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Mr. Couper, Naturalist, Toronto, and the petitioner, were in attendance.

Dr. Ryerson was called, and gave the following testimony:

I visited some time last summer Mr. Barnett's Museum, and was surprised at the extent and variety of his collection in Natural History, especially in some of the largest species of Canadian birds, and in some fine specimens of our forest animals. It must have required a very large expenditure of time, labour and money, to make the large and interesting collection contained in this Museum.

The buildings appeared literally unfit either for safety or convenience. The