

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Thursday, 24th March, 1859.

COMMITTEE MET.

Ordered,—That Professor Hincks, Toronto ; Mr. Couper, Naturalist, Toronto ; and Mr. Routh, of Drummondville, be summoned to give evidence before the Committee.

Adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Tuesday, 29th March, 1859.

COMMITTEE MET.

The Petitioner was present, and produced a statement of the different specimens that make up the collection in his Museum. Mr. Professor Hincks, Toronto ; Mr. Couper, Naturalist, Toronto ; and Mr. E. A. Routh, Drummondville, also appeared to give evidence before the Committee.

Professor Hincks called.—As he had not visited Mr. Barnett's Museum lately, he preferred reading his schedule of specimens before making any remarks.

Mr. William Couper called and examined :

(By Mr. McMicken.)

1. Have you visited Mr. Barnett's Museum? If so, please state to the Committee what you know of it?—I visited Mr. Barnett's Museum last week, have seen all the Provincial Museums, amongst which the Museum of Natural History, Montreal, and the Museum of the University of Toronto ; have made this branch of knowledge my particular study for several years, practically as well as theoretically. I examined Mr. Barnett's collection, on my recent visit, very minutely ; it is principally a Canadian collection, and the more valuable as such. It contains excellent specimens, from foreign countries, of mammalia, and particularly of birds, of which there are some very rich and rare specimens. There are a large number of skeletons of various animals, shewing the gradation of classes ; there is also a good collection of reptiles, a very important branch in zoology, especially in Canada, where so little is known of them. I consider a fair commencement has been made in forming a collection of the fishes of this country, there being now from thirty to forty specimens. The remains of the two specimens of mastodon are particularly interesting, and, in my opinion, it is well worth a person's time and trouble to go to Niagara to see them, believing them to be the only remains of this extinct animal in this Province.

2. What do you think of the Entomological collection?—It is very fair ; the Egyptian antiquities, amongst which are too mummies, and the remains of others, combined with Indian relics, are very numerous and very interesting, and of great use to schools and students generally. There is also a very large collection of Conchological specimens, at present packed in boxes awaiting room to place them in the new building, and only partially visible, but, as far as I could judge, the collection is extensive and a very valuable one.