

The west hall was occupied by the tentative exhibit of minerals. This exhibit was packed and removed in six hours, or by 4 p.m., Friday, which was less than twenty hours after the fire began. The costly cases in which these minerals were exhibited had meanwhile been taken apart and placed in storage. Rooms for the members of the Senate were made here.

The west wing, which was being prepared for geological and mineralogical exhibits, was cleared before Monday noon. The Senate met at 8 p.m. on Tuesday in this new chamber, which had been vacated by the museum within seventy-five hours after it became known that the Senate would meet in the museum.

The east hall, with invertebrate palaeontological exhibits, similar in size to the other exhibition halls, contained thousands of small and delicate specimens. These were all carefully wrapped, packed and taken away. Forty hours after the beginning of the fire, all the museum specimens and cases had been moved from this part of the building, which was made into offices for the members of the House of Commons.

Of the east wing, containing tentative vertebrate palaeontological exhibits, three-quarters were cleared, and these exhibits were stored, with those of the other quarters, along the walls of the southern half of the hall. This clearing involved not only the moving of small exhibits in cases, but also of such heavy fragile specimens as the titanotherium and the skulls of dinosaurs and mammoths, yet it was all done within two hours after this notification, that is by noon, or in less than twenty hours from the time that the fire broke out.

The ethnological specimens were taken out of the tower hall, which was then fitted up and used before Friday noon as a newspaper library corresponding to the one where the fire originated.

Before noon, that is within less than two hours after notice, the tentative exhibit of Canadian archaeology, in seventeen cases, covering three-quarters of the west hall, was cleared of specimens and cases, while the tables upon which the cases stood were left for the use of the members of parliament. The specimens were transferred to sixty-eight trays and stored in the archaeological laboratory in the basement. Meanwhile the remaining quarter of the hall had been cleared of a tentative exhibit of entomology in four cases. In this hall a place for the press gallery staff to work, various offices for members of the Senate, and offices for the Hansard staff, which records the deliberations of the House, were made ready before Monday noon.