

which interfere with the fixity of nomenclature. A report of these important meetings will be found in the *Entomologist*; we commend them to the careful perusal of our readers. Our own Society was well represented in this gathering by the presence of the Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, M.A., E. Baynes Reed, and your President.

I shall not attempt, gentlemen, to trespass longer on your time and patience. Thanking you for your kind partiality in electing me to fill so important an office among you,

I have the honour to be, very sincerely yours,

WM. SAUNDERS.

London, September, 1876.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

Your committee take much pleasure in reporting the great success which has attended the enterprise of which they have had charge, a success indeed greater than the most sanguine had anticipated. On entering upon our labours the magnitude of the undertaking was such, that we felt some misgivings. To get together such a collection as would do credit to our Society and to the Province we have the honour to represent, in so short a time as that allotted to us was felt to be no mean task, but having resolved to do our best, work was begun without delay.

On mature deliberation it was thought best to bring together in London, all the insects that could be procured from the collections of all our members in Canada, and there making the Society's rooms our head-quarters, to assort and arrange them as experience might suggest. Our first attention was given to the preparation of suitable cases in which to place our specimens, which should be as near as possible dust-proof and pest-proof. It was finally determined to adopt the form of case used in the Zoological Museum, at Cambridge, Mass., with some slight modifications; and having been furnished through the kindness of Professor Hagen, with a sample case as a pattern, we had but little further difficulty in this matter. To secure the specimens against injury during the transportation to so great a distance, we thought it necessary that the bottoms of the cases should be lined with cork of extra thickness, so that when the pins on which the specimens were mounted were thrust into it they should be held firmly in place. We accordingly ordered from a cork factory in Manchester, England, a sufficient supply for this purpose, of double the ordinary thickness, and when the drawers were lined with this cork, and the pins firmly inserted, it was almost impossible with any ordinary amount of jarring or shaking to displace them.

The work to be done on the Coleoptera was very laborious. This was kindly undertaken by Mr. Johnson Pettit, of Grimsby, and to his labours and kind contributions of material, we are indebted for much of the success of our enterprise. The writer undertook the work needed on the Lepidoptera; Mr. E. B. Reed devoted his attention to the Hemiptera and Diptera; Mr. Geddes, to the Hymenoptera; and Mr. J. M. Denton, to Orthoptera. By this division the labour was lightened, and the work progressed rapidly. The following collections in London were placed entirely at our disposal, viz:—Those of Messrs. W. Saunders, E. B. Reed, J. M. Denton, G. Geddes, H. B. Bock, W. E. Saunders, and J. Williams. Large stores of valuable specimens were forwarded by Mr. Pettit. Messrs. William Murray, and J. Moffatt, of Hamilton, sent some very handsome Lepidoptera, and Mr. H. Cowdry, of Toronto, contributed to the Coleoptera. Our members in Montreal were also very prompt and liberal in responding to our appeal. Mr. Wm. Couper donated a large number of specimens, while a great many additional were loaned by Messrs. F. B. Caulfield, C. W. and G. B. Pearson, H. H. Lyman, P. Keutzing, G. J. Bowles, W. Hibbins, J. T. Whiteaves, indeed without their help we should have been entirely without representatives of many species restricted to the eastern portions of our Dominion. Added to all these were the specimens already contained in our Society's cabinets in London.

In due time the collection was completed and ready for shipment. It consisted of eighty-six cases, twenty-seven of which were filled with Coleoptera, forty-five with Lepi-

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