

moment. There is a further necessity for this latter book, as the Auditor is not only required by Parliament to see that no expenditure takes place without Legislative authority, but also by the Executive, that there is authority by Council. There would be thus three records in the united department. The appropriation book of authority for warrants given as against the sub-appropriations by Council—the appropriation ledger of warrants issued as against Parliamentary appropriations—and the general ledger which enters payments made from the cash book, without reference to authority. As a statement is made out every ten days of unpaid warrants, these three books can be periodically checked against each other.

The auditing proper and the certifying that warrants may issue, occupy the Assistant Auditor and two clerks.

There is at present a statistical clerk, who besides collecting such financial statistics as are required in the department, has charge of Insurance Companies and of all financial returns which are periodically made, as Banks, Provincial Notes, Savings Banks, Law Stamps, &c., and much miscellaneous work. He has an assistant who also keeps the register of letters. The ultimate arrangements which may be made as to statistics will to some extent affect this work, but it is evident that in any case the financial returns must be kept in the Finance Department.

It has been found frequently necessary that an officer of the Audit Office should visit outside accountants, and although many of these branches, as the Educational Departments, Lunatic Asylums, Sheriffs, &c., are now no longer under the Dominion, the new business which has been brought in by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick has more than compensated for the business transferred. It is proposed to have an officer ranking with the Customs, Excise and Post Office Inspectors, who shall at all times be available to be sent away to inspect, and who, when at Ottawa, shall have special charge of the financial business of the Maritime Provinces.

As the receipts and payments in those Provinces are, for the present at least whilst the communications are so slow, conducted on a different system from what is followed in Ontario and Quebec, a Paymaster and Auditor have been appointed in Nova Scotia, and a Paymaster in New Brunswick, through whom the business is conducted, and who are outside officers of the Finance or Receiver General's Departments. We think it is desirable that they should hold a definite rank under the Civil Service Act as attached to those Departments, but we refrain from expressing any decided opinion upon the subject until we have visited the Lower Provinces and have made our report upon the outside services.

There are two other officers now attached to the Audit Office, whose positions are rather anomalous. The Accountant of contingencies was borne on the staff of the Secretary's Office with which his duties have no evident connection; and as they consist in auditing and paying the contingencies of the several Departments, he has now been attached to the Audit branch of the Finance Department. The Auditor is charged with the duty of seeing that no payment is made without due authority of Parliament and of the Executive, and the principle established in Canada is, that the audit shall as far as possible precede the payment. In this view of the case the Accountant of contingencies is naturally an officer of the Audit Office, but on the other hand there is something anomalous in an employé in that office being the disburser of money who has himself to be audited. Strictly speaking, perhaps he should audit the contingencies under instructions from the Auditor, and on his certificate the Receiver General should pay; but to save unnecessary references and delays with such a multitude of small sums, an accountable warrant is given to him, and he renders an account monthly, not to the Auditor, but to the Board of Audit. The Accountant of contingencies is in charge of the Stationary Office to be attached to the Finance Department under the new Act, in which Office he will require an assistant. He is at present also issuer of marriage licenses, and collector of patent and other small fees. Though the Stationary Office has no connection with Audit, it so naturally allies itself with contingencies that this arrangement appears to us to be judicious, especially as it saves the creation of another highly paid official; but the collection of fees appears altogether foreign to his other duties, and there seems to be no reason why they should not be paid direct to the Receiver General.

When the British American Bank Note Company was originally established, and the Provincial Notes were being printed there, it became necessary to establish a thorough system of check and supervision. Mr. Tims, the same officer whom it is now proposed to classify as an Inspector, was recalled from duties which he was carrying on elsewhere and was placed in