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## *The Auditor General.*

IN the editorial columns of the Summerside Journal of July the 27th there is an article stating that the Conservative party to a man, is at the back of the Auditor General "in his attempt to protect the treasury against the hordes of grafters, who throng the corridors of Parliament buildings." We have seen this article in a number of newspapers, chiefly weeklies, published in various parts of the Dominion. The article was written at Ottawa as campaign literature for the Opposition, and sent out to various publications throughout the Dominion. The Summerside Journal is ignorant of the fact that the Auditor General is possessed of all the powers he ever had, that he is clothed with all the authority that a long statute could give him, that he has not been deprived of a single right or a particle of authority since he was appointed to office.

The Summerside Journal is probably ignorant of the fact that what the Auditor General wants is larger powers, and that his powers are not so large that if they are exercised in an arbitrary way or exercised

in a spirit of forgetfulness of the system of responsible government under which we live, they might be, and indeed would be, too wide and too large. Public attention has been attracted to the Auditor General by the Auditor General himself, when he allowed a year to go by before bringing up the Davis case, and only brought it up then after friction had arisen between himself and the minister with whom he usually deals. The Summerside Journal is probably not aware that the case made out by the Auditor General upon the Davis contract was completely shattered by the minister of justice, whose views were sustained from the Opposition benches by Hon. John Haggart, ex-minister of railways and canals. What object the Conservative party can have in trying to exalt the position of the Auditor General into what Sir Wilfrid Laurier termed "the position of a czar," is hard to imagine, especially in view of the expectation the Conservative party have of some day coming into power. It is true that the Auditor General criticizes the expenditure