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# REPORT

OF THE

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1880.

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To His Excellency the Right Honourable SIR JOHN DOUGLAS SUTHERLAND CAMPBELL,  
*Marquis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada, &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency the Report of the Department of the Interior, for the year ended 30th June, 1880.

It has been the custom in the past few years, although this Report is nominally confined to the operations of the statutory fiscal year, that it should include an account of the general business of the Department and its various branches down to a period four months later, and in regard to matters of importance to the close of the calendar year; and that custom has not been departed from in this instance. But so large a proportion of the transactions connected with the survey and settlement of Dominion Lands, which now form the principal administrative feature of the Department, take place between the first of July and the end of October, that there appears to be neither utility nor convenience in perpetuating the practice; and it may be found expedient that the Report should, in future, be nominally, as it is now in reality, a record of what has been done within the year beginning with the first of November and ending with the 31st of October.

In submitting to Your Excellency the Report of last year, attention was directed to the importance of late years attained by the affairs of the aboriginal population of the Dominion, and the great increase of labour and responsibility devolving upon the permanent officer administering the Department, consequent upon the acceptance by the numerous tribes west of Lake Superior of the guardianship and protection of the Government, and the almost complete disappearance of their natural sources of food supply. The impossibility was also pointed out of one deputy head exercising over the Department of the Interior as then constituted the necessary supervision and control. The measure by which it was proposed to overcome this difficulty, and which was then under the consideration of the House of Commons, received in due time