

# AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1879.

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The undersigned has the honor to transmit the appropriation accounts for 1878-9, and those of a statutory nature belonging to the same period which were transferred to him for audit.

The Audit Act was put in force on the 1st of August, 1878.

The financial business of the year 1878-9 was therefore begun under the old system.

It will be observed that the law under which these accounts were examined defines the functions of the Finance department and of the Auditor-General's office, and demands an entirely different mode of making payments of public money, and of examining disbursements of it, from what had previously existed. The office, as it is now necessary that it should be, could not be built up to as great an extent as might be supposed from the materials which existed in the department of the late Auditor-General.

When the same person was Auditor-General and Deputy Minister of Finance, the duties of the latter position were from the nature of the case first performed. Even of Mr. Langton's energy and intellect little could be spared to the work of his second office.

Five of those who belonged to the Audit branch of the Finance department were transferred to the Audit office, and on the experience which was gained by them during such portion of their time as could be withdrawn from the duties of the Finance Department, reliance could alone be placed at the beginning of the work of the new office. Those who composed the rest of the staff belonged formerly to the department of the Receiver-General.