

the official reports really modify the apparent meaning of the published figures, it would render a valuable service.

11. A committee like the present can hardly make such an estimate or go further than to point out that for the reasons indicated the official statistics of immigration are likely to be seriously misinterpreted and are constantly misinterpreted by the public.

The official statistics of immigration being subject to all the qualifications indicated and reflecting so imperfectly the amount of immigration as ordinarily or popularly conceived the question at once arises, Can any substitute or any alternative be proposed? What the public is mainly interested in, I think, and what it commonly but erroneously believes is indicated by the official figures of immigration, is the net addition to the population year by year as a result of the currents of travel between the United States and other countries.

Alternative figures for the last eight years, a period which closely coincides with the last great wave of immigration now at or near its crest, may be had by comparing the total arrivals and departures in the effort to get the net gain. The results appear in the following table:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Total Passen- gers Arrivals</i>	<i>Total Passen- gers Departed</i>	<i>Total Immi- gration</i>	<i>Arrivals Minus De- parture</i>	<i>Per Cent. That Net Increase Makes of Immi- gration</i>
1898 . . .	343,963	225,411	229,299	118,552	51.8
1899 . . .	420,796	256,008	311,715	173,788	55.8
1900 . . .	594,478	293,401	448,572	301,074	67.0
1901 . . .	675,025	306,724	487,918	368,304	75.5
1902 . . .	820,893	326,760	648,743	494,133	76.3
1903 . . .	1,025,834	375,261	857,046	650,573	75.9
1904 . . .	988,688	508,204	812,870	480,484	59.3
1905 . . .	1,234,615	536,151	1,026,499	698,464	68.1
1898-1905			4,822,662	3,285,372	68.1