

This *per capita* tax on immigrants arriving by the trains, was not long continued at Port Huron; not longer than a period of about a fortnight, as I was given to understand, owing to representations made at Washington to the effect that it was impossible to collect it. Of course it was impossible to collect it under such circumstances as those related in the telegraphic correspondence which I have quoted. But if the attempts to do so had been confined to actual immigrants, it is hard to perceive how there could have been greater difficulty in collecting 50 cents for a tax, than there is in collecting a Customs fee of 90 cents, very often wrung from poor immigrants for making an entry of a little old bedding or other household effects they may be taking with them. Had this *per capita* tax of 50 cents continued to be levied at Port Huron, it would have afforded a somewhat sharp test of the extent of the immigration, as the persons who make and publish these statistics would not have been very likely to put half-a-dollar into the Treasury for every unit of exaggeration.

I mentioned in my Report of last year that I had ascertained on the spot, there had been an enquiry by an United States official into the circumstances of the allegations contained in my Report of 1880. I have not been able to ascertain that the Report of that official has been permitted to see the light; and yet, in the face of the indubitable facts which are herein stated, these grossly exaggerated figures, which, if they were true, would imply a depopulating exodus from Canada, are persistently, year after year, given to the world on the authority of the Treasury Department of the United States, and everywhere abroad widely republished and hurtfully used, to the detriment of what may be called the immigration interests of Canada, as, if it were a country for people to flee from in such an exodus, it could not be said to be the most desirable one to emigrate to. It is in this, as I stated before, that the injustice to Canadian interests, from these exaggerations, lies.

There are other tests of criticism which may be applied to these figures, which Mr. Nimmo has at his hands, for their correction, in that they are found in United States records. For instance, the United States Census of 1870 compared with that of 1880. I subjoin as an Exhibit to this Report (marked B) an extract from those two Censuses of the enumeration in nineteen Western and South-Western States of the "nativities" of Canadians from the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, with New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The numbers are:—

By the Census of 1880.....	344,982
By do of 1870.....	218,321
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Difference or increase remaining in 1880.....	126,661

The heading in the volume of "compendium" of the United States Census of 1880, is "nativities," and if we assume that this term means "place of birth," the figures given represent all who could have entered at Port Huron, and very largely