

The enquiry for all purposes of practical statistics might stop here; but as I have a charge from you further to report on the manner of taking these statistics, in view of the plain and gross exaggeration which appears upon the surface, I have to state that I went to Port Huron at the end of September last, taking my seat at the crossing in one of the second class or emigrant cars, for the purpose of observing the proceedings and taking note of any questions which might be asked. The United States Customs officers, as on previous occasions, examined the hand baggage on the train in passing, mine among others; but I was asked no questions; nor were any asked of any other passengers, in so far as my careful attention enabled me to hear or perceive, touching the particulars respecting which information is furnished in the published immigration tables of the United States Government.

After crossing the river my checked baggage, in common with that of the other passengers, was taken out of the train and placed in a large shed for the purpose of being opened and examined. The proceedings here were quite ordinary for this service. There was a fair but by no means over-inquisitive or vexatious examination, everything being conducted with apparent efficiency and despatch. But here, again, there were no questions asked touching upon the information required by the United States returns. Some five or six of the passengers had luggage for which entries were made, the forms for which were filled up with sufficient promptness, but here again I could not discover that any questions were asked such as were required by the immigration tables. At the end of October I again made another personal examination of the proceedings. I took the same careful note, and found precisely the same practice in every particular. There were no questions asked, and the detailed published information, to which I shall again refer, could not, by any possibility, have been obtained without. In fact, to obtain such information the necessary proceedings must have been plain to every passenger, especially in an emigrant car, not only because he must necessarily himself have been subjected to them; but he must also have been aware of the questions put to the passengers around him.

In order to make myself still more sure as to what takes place when entries are passed in the Customs examining shed, I procured, with permission, the services of one of the Canadian Customs officers at Point Edward to watch the proceedings for a number of consecutive nights, and I append his report to mine, marked F, which entirely coincides with the observations I personally made. The passenger's or immigrant's name is taken and the value of his effects, but he is asked nothing with regard to his age, or calling, or number of his family, or his destination, and there is nothing on the printed form of entry, a copy of which I have in my possession, which calls for any further information.

I have to acknowledge that when at Sarnia, I obtained from Mr. G. N. Matheson, the Canadian Collector of Customs at that point, much intelligent and experienced