

*The amount of tonnage owned by Canadians in the Census does not agree with the tonnage registered in accordance with the "Merchant Shipping Acts."*

It would be a matter for more than ordinary astonishment if they did, for the two things are of different nature, and form no possible criterion of separate or comparative accuracy.

One might just as well make the addition of all the births registered in a country for the last thirty years, and say:—that is the present population of that country.

It is with shipping as it is with other kinds of property: the total of acres on the maps, of houses on the valuation lists, of tons of shipping on the register books, are no correct indication of the number of acres, of houses and of tonnage owned by the inhabitants of Canada, to the exclusion of non-residents at any given moment.

In regard to shipping, the mere transfer of registration from a Canadian port to another British port, outside of Canada, and the keeping, on the registers, of hundreds of vessels which have ceased to exist, but the disappearance of which has not been reported, alters the totals of tonnage to a comparatively very large ratio, at the same time that the first may not alter a unit in the tonnage owned in Canada and that the second diminishes it to the extent of its disappearance. Extensive sales to non-Canadians also necessarily alter the figure of *tonnage owned in Canada*, but not necessarily the *tonnage registered*.

A broad fact is that the amount of tonnage owned by inhabitants of Canada is, *every year*, increased by many thousands of tons, and the Census shows an increase of 253,583 tons during the decenniad comprised between the years 1871 and 1881, in the four older provinces. There is no such rule applicable to the register books, on account of transfers of registration and the erasing on the ascertaining of disappearance. It is in this way that between the years 1878 and 1880, when the *Canadian ownership* was experiencing a large increase, the *registration* shows a considerable decrease in tonnage: the registered figures are, 1,333,015 for the year 1878, 1,332,094 for the year 1879, and 1,311,218 for the year 1880.

But whether or not the registration contains the records of those facts and those fluctuations to which ships are submitted as regards ownership, and in particular *Canadian ownership*, such portion of the registers which concerns them is not compiled and is not tabulated in the Reports of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, which purely and simply gives the addition of tonnage registered in Canada, no matter if they are in a greater or lesser proportion owned by inhabitants of Canada.

All this looks so plain, that the wonder to me is that it could escape the understanding of any one. The Marine returns convey one sort of information, and the Census returns another sort of information; they cannot take the place of each other, cannot be tested one by the other, and they cannot agree, unless it be a mere and not to be expected coincidence. The only relation they bear, one towards the other, is that they belong to cognate subjects.