

have some positive statement to the contrary from authorities whose opinions we can respect I shall continue to advocate this scheme.

HON. MR. PROWSE—When addressing the House, I took occasion to read the address sent to Her Majesty from Prince Edward Island Legislature, and the hon. gentleman from Victoria took exception to the statement of the population in British Columbia, and said that it was not true and that the population of that Province was 60,000 at the date of the Union. I was satisfied, however, in my own mind, that the hon. gentleman was mistaken, and I was more than surprised to hear the leader of the House charging me with understating the population of British Columbia in my remarks. I have since then sent for the Census of British Columbia, and I find that in 1870, the year before that Province entered the Union, the whole population, including Chinese, amounted to 10,586—that is, according to the Census of the Dominion.

HON. MR. MACDONALD—Does it mention Indians?

HON. MR. McINNES—What is the hon. gentleman reading from?

HON. MR. PROWSE—From the Dominion Census returns of 1870 for British Columbia.

HON. MR. McINNES—I can assure the hon. gentlemen that the census of British Columbia was never taken up to 1881, and speaking from memory, the white population then was given at 49,891.

HON. MR. ALMON—The hon. gentleman is out of order; this has nothing to do with the question before the House.

HON. MR. PROWSE—The declaration made by my hon. friend from New Westminster confirms my statement. I thought the hon. gentleman from Victoria was wrong when he said that the population of British Columbia in 1881 was 60,000. My hon. friend from New Westminster tells me that it was 49,000 in 1881. I think I was perfectly justified in the statement that I made, and which I read from the memorial. I find in the Census returns that the population of British Columbia in 1870 was as follows:—

White—			
Male.....	5,782		
Female.....	2,794		
		8,576	
Colored Race—			
Male.....	297		
Female.....	165		
		462	
Chinese—			
Male.....	1,495		
Female.....	53		
		1,548	
Entire population.....			10,586

HON. MR. MACDONALD—The hon. gentleman has no authority for saying that the population was at any time, after the Union, only 15,000. The hon. member tried to distort the figures relating to the Province from which I come when he was distorting the case for his own Province.

HON. MR. VIDAL—I think the hon. gentleman from Prince Edward Island is right in bringing this matter before us. I sympathise with his desire to have the feasibility of this work ascertained: but he takes a wrong way to obtain what he desires. We have in Canada authorities upon that question as competent as any that can be found in Great Britain, and moreover we possess the advantage of having at Sarina a work very similar to that which the hon. gentleman wishes to have undertaken in Prince Edward Island—a circular iron tunnel. Now that tunnel is to be about a mile in length. Half of it is almost made now. The cost of it is estimated at \$2,500,000. It is going to cost over that, rather than under it. I presume that may be regarded as a sort of test of the cost of constructing such a work.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—It is to be more than a mile long.

HON. MR. VIDAL—Not the covered part; I speak of the tunnel.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—It is all tunnel.

HON. MR. VIDAL—The approaches are huge ditches. The circular iron part of the tunnel is only a mile long.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I have here a description of the International tunnel under the St. Clair River at Port Huron. It is as follows:—

“Six hundred men are now digging the railroad tunnel under the St. Clair River at Port Huron, Ont., at the rate of 15 feet each day. This means that before the year is out one of the most important pieces