

REPORT ON ALLEGED EXODUS TO WESTERN UNITED STATES
AT PORT HURON.

SIR,—I have again the honour, acting under instructions from you, to make a further report on the alleged exodus from Canada, at Port Huron, as stated in returns made by the Collector of Customs at that Port, and published officially by the Treasury Department of the United States, over the signature of Mr. Joseph Nimmo, jun., the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics. According to that Report, the total number of immigrants from the Dominion of Canada, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1883, reached the number of 70,241. (For accuracy, however, I should say that these figures include 382 from the Province of Newfoundland.) And of this total number, 45,393 are alleged to have entered at the point of Port Huron, making a remainder of only 24,848 for all other ports of the United States, from the extreme east to the extreme west of the Canadian frontier. It is further stated that 53,440 of these alleged emigrants from Canada were from the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, which two Provinces are treated as a whole in these returns.

If we compare these figures with those of previous years since 1880, we find the fact of a marked decline:—

Years.	All Ports.	Port Huron.
1880.....	99,706	94,375
1881.....	125,391	111,170
1882.....	98,308	71,422
1883.....	70,241	45,393

The special object of my inquiry is not into the accuracy of the comparatively small remainder of the alleged emigration from Canada to the United States at all other points, after deducting the large figures for Port Huron, but simply into that of the figures at this point; and, fortunately for the facility of my task, the facts are positive and clearly defined.

At Port Huron, as I have before stated, there are two railways which cross from Canada to the United States,—one, the main Grand Trunk, which is the arterial line; the other, the Sarnia branch of the Great Western system of the Grand Trunk. All emigrants from Canada to the United States at Port Huron of whom it is at all worth while to make mention, must cross by one or other of these lines. There are two or three little ferry boats plying between the town of Sarnia and the opposite bank of the river, but it is not even pretended that there is any emigration by them at all worth consideration. The *ins* and the *outs* by the railways, therefore, govern the question, the net difference between them representing either the gain or loss by immigration or emigration.