

I was then appointed Deputy Collector of Customs at Fort Gratiot, which position I held for eight years, and during the whole of that period I made up all and every report of emigrants arriving by the Grand Trunk Railway.

You ask what method I used and what data I had to go upon, in making up the emigrant Report.

I answer, none; it was simply arrived at by taking the four quarters of the year and allowing more for the summer, spring and fall quarters, than for the winter, as the ocean steamers could not land at Quebec or Montreal during the winter.

In reply to your query as to whether any attempt or pretence was made of counting the number of emigrants or passengers, I would say that I never, during my term of office, saw or heard of anything of the kind being done.

C. H. IRWIN.

G. N. MATHESON, Esq.,
Collector.

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I was told to estimate what I thought was the number of emigrants that arrived from all trains, &c., for the quarters ending 31st March, 30th June, 30th October, and 31st December, as each ensuing quarter came round, and was given to understand that an increase in each quarter corresponding with the quarter of the preceding year was required to be shown.

On one occasion, my Report was sent back to me with instructions to put in more females and children. I asked jokingly where I was to get them, and I was told to manufacture them. In fact, the whole matter was treated as a joke. Some one would say to me: "Where do you get your facts in the case," and I would reply that. "Figures were facts and couldn't lie."

I attach a copy of the report, such as I used to send to the Custom House at Port Huron, where it was compiled with the reports from the other ports in the District. Of course, you will understand that the figures in the copy are fictitious as an example.

The foregoing is a perfectly true statement, and comprises the whole and the only method by which the emigrant statistics were collected at this port.

If I have omitted any information you may require, let me know, and I will be glad to oblige you by giving it, if it lays in my power.

Yours truly,

C. H. IRWIN.

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