

CANADA
(EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES).

COPY of the REPORT (dated 29 December 1881)
by the SECRETARY of the DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE to the MINISTER of AGRICULTURE
in *Canada*, with reference to the alleged ENIGRA-
TION from *Canada* to the *United States*.

(*Mr. Torrens.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
24 October 1882.

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CANADA
(EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 15 August 1882 ;—for,

“COPY of the REPORT (dated the 29th day of December 1881) by the
SECRETARY of the DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE to the MINISTER of
AGRICULTURE in *Canada*, with reference to the alleged EMIGRATION from
Canada to the *United States*.”

Colonial Office, }
August 1882. }

EVELYN ASHLEY.

(*Mr. Torrens.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
24 October 1882.

COPY of the REPORT (dated the 29th day of December 1881) by the SECRETARY of the DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE to the MINISTER of AGRICULTURE in *Canada*, with reference to the alleged EMIGRATION from *Canada* to the *United States*.

REPORT on alleged Exodus from *Canada* to the *United States*.

Sir,

Ottawa, 29 December 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to you the following results of a further examination, undertaken at your request, into the alleged extent of the emigration of Canadians to the United States, and particularly on our western frontier, at Port Huron.

I obtained a copy of a printed statement, issued by the United States Collector of Customs, at Port Huron, for the year ending 30th June 1881, in which the number of immigrants said to have entered the United States from Canada at that point during the fiscal year, was 111,170.

This statement of numbers I subsequently found was not alone issued by the Collector of Customs, at Port Huron, but published officially by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, at Washington, over the signature of Mr. Joseph Nimmo, junr., Chief of the Bureau.

Before entering upon a particular examination of the figures of the Port Huron Collector, it is better to give a statement of the alleged total emigration from Canada into the United States, as published in the Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the United States, for the four quarters of the fiscal year ending 30th June 1881. It is as follows:—

STATEMENT showing the Number of IMMIGRANTS, by Nationality, arrived in the *United States*, during the Year ending 30th June 1881.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Quebec and Ontario - - - -	62,033	40,889	102,922
Manitoba - - - - -	674	405	1,079
Nova Scotia - - - - -	7,977	6,460	14,437
New Brunswick - - - -	2,837	1,497	4,334
Prince Edward Island - - -	617	916	1,533
British Columbia - - - -	640	138	778
Newfoundland - - - - -	124	184	308
TOTALS - - - - -	74,902	50,489	125,391

It thus appears that the figures furnished by the Port Huron Customs Collector form the great bulk of the alleged emigration from Canada, for if we subtract 111,170 from the above total, we have only a remainder of 14,221 for all the other ports along the whole of the United States frontier, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

I find it important for the purpose of this inquiry further to take from the quarterly Reports of the Chief of the United States Bureau of Statistics, some of the details with which this alleged immigration from Canada into the United States at Port Huron, is stated. These purport to give, in addition to the gross numbers, the age and sex of the immigrants, and, further, the numbers of both males and females, within three periods of life:—

NUMBER, AGE and SEX of IMMIGRANTS arrived in the *United States at Huron, Michigan*, during the Three Months ended 30th September 1880 :

Total Males	- - - - -	27,204
Total Females	- - - - -	16,775
TOTAL Immigrants of both Sexes		43,979

These are again sub-divided:—

Under 15 years—

Males	- - - - -	4,274
Females	- - - - -	4,183
Total		8,457

15 years and under 40—

Males	- - - - -	21,661
Females	- - - - -	11,798
Total		33,459

40 years and upwards—

Males	- - - - -	1,269
Females	- - - - -	794
Total		2,063

TOTAL for Quarter

43,979

For the three months ended 31st December 1880, the following figures are given:—

Total Males	- - - - -	18,341
Total Females	- - - - -	10,760
Total		29,101

Under 15 years of age—

Males	- - - - -	2,377
Females	- - - - -	2,256
Total		4,633

15 years and under 40—

Males	- - - - -	14,954
Females	- - - - -	7,830
Total		22,784

40 years and upwards—

Males	- - - - -	1,010
Females	- - - - -	674
Total		1,684

TOTAL for Quarter

29,101

REPORT ON ALLEGED EXODUS FROM

During the three months ended 31st March 1881—

Total Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,310
Total Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,641
								Total	8,951
Under 15 years—									
Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	867
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	847
								Total	1,714
15 and under 40 —									
Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,108
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,568
								Total	6,676
40 years and upwards—									
Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	335
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	226
								Total	561
								TOTAL for Quarter	8,951

During the three months ended 30th June 1881—

Total Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,265
Total Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,874
								Total	29,139
Under 15 years—									
Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,045
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,998
								Total	6,043
15 years and under 40—									
Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,387
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,350
								Total	21,737
40 years and upwards—									
Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	833
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	526
								Total	1,359
								TOTAL for Quarter	29,139

Recapitulating for the four quarters we have:—

September quarter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,979
December	„	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,101
March	„	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,951
June	„	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,139
								TOTAL for Fiscal Year at Port Huron	111,170

This total of immigration, as taken from the four quarters of the fiscal year in the Report of the Chief of the Bureau, exactly coincides with the figures for the year furnished by the Port Huron Customs Collector.

It is further indicated in Mr. Nimmo's reports that all the immigrants were aliens, not one of them coming under the head of Returned Citizens of the United States.

In Mr. Nimmo's Bulletin of "Immigration during the Month of June 1881, and during the Year ended 30th June 1881," I find the following item in small type:—"Note. A part of the immigration into the United States from "the

“ the Dominion of Canada consisted of immigrants from Europe who came by steamer to Montreal and thence reached the Lake ports of the United States by railroad.” But Mr. Nimmo does not say what “ part,” nor does he give any figures. And it is to be observed there is no reference whatever to anything of this kind in the published volumes of his final reports. In the text of this Bulletin, too, he gives the total immigration from the Dominion of Canada for the 12 months ended 30th June 1881, as 118,664. But in his published final reports he gives this, as I have above stated, at 125,391, for the same 12 months; and both are precise figures, it will be noticed, down to units. Without, however, at all dwelling on this little eccentricity, I will say I have thought it proper to assume that the final reports contain the figures Mr. Nimmo desires to give to the world.

The first remark to be made with respect to these detailed statements of statistics is, that it is indubitable they could not be obtained with accuracy, nor at all obtained in the absence of some regular registration and forms of questions asked. And with respect to these points I have to state that I visited Port Huron twice, once in August last, and once in November last, in pursuance of this inquiry. I crossed the river as an ordinary passenger with the usual Grand Trunk express trains, on which there were migrants from Canada to Manitoba; and I watched with carefulness the proceedings. No questions of any kind were asked of me, either with respect to my age, or my intention to enter the United States as an emigrant or a traveller simply; and none were asked of any of the migrants to Manitoba or any other persons on these trains. In fact, neither I nor any of the passengers that my careful watching enabled me to discover, were subjected to any of the proceedings necessary to obtain the information published by Mr. Nimmo, and both the trains were ordinarily well filled with passengers. There might have been emigrants from Canada for the United States on the cars, but I could not ascertain the fact except by questioning the passengers, which I did not consider expedient, nor did I feel, being simply a passenger, I was authorised to do. Our luggage was simply opened and examined, under a shed on the United States side of the river, in the same way as is common at other custom houses, and nothing further was done. I took pains to inquire of the railway officials if the proceedings I witnessed were usual, and I was informed that nothing more was ever done.

For further and more detailed reports of the proceedings at this point between the months of January and April 1881, I refer you to those of Mr. G. R. Kingsmill (*see* Appendix, No. 39),* an officer who was placed at that point by you for the express purpose of watching and reporting such proceedings. His evidence is quite positive, and to the effect that during the four months he was on the spot there was not even a pretence made of any asking of questions, nor any counting or taking down of figures visible to him.

I did not think it advisable to ask any questions of the United States officials in the face of the kind of feeling that prevails after the exposure of last year, for the reason that I had no authority to do so. It is known there was an investigation ordered by an officer from Washington, and that it took place; but his report has not been published.

There remains the unquestioned fact published in my report of last year, as respects the proceedings on the trains, of the statement made to me at an interview by the United States Customs officer, who had the duty confided to him of making up these so-called statistics, that “ questions were not asked, because it would be an impossibility to ask them and record the answers within the time afforded; that 20 men could not do this on some days.” “ That when he looked in the door of a car he saw at a glance what it contained and the numbers it contained, and that he could tell whether the passengers were immigrants or not; that he made up the figures after he had done examining the train. That he could not ask the questions required by the Government, but had to arrive at the information as best he could.” I notice that the details of the “ occupations ” of the immigrants are not this year given by the Chief of the Bureau.

* Not printed.

Bureau. But why strain a point of this kind? When all those details of age and sex are given, when it is determined that all the immigrants are aliens, that none of them are United States citizens returning from abroad, and when all the provinces from which it is alleged they came are stated; and all this without a single question being asked. It is even doubtful if every car door is opened by the officer who makes up the figures, or, in his own words "arrives at the information" in the best way he can.

There is, however, an easy and positive means of applying a test of criticism to the figures to which the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics has lent his official sanction. The great bulk of all the travel both east and west at the point of Port Huron is by the Grand Trunk Railway. There is a branch of the Great Western Railway at Sarnia, but this is not much used for the conveyance of through passengers, as these, for the most part, take the main line: and there is a ferry between the points of Sarnia and Port Huron, by which, as stated in my report last year, a few immigrants may pass with teams; but the only considerable movement possible is by the railways. And, fortunately for the purposes of this inquiry, the total numbers of passengers going east and west at this point are facts of exact official record.

The total number of passengers, that is of individuals, the half tickets being counted of all kinds, crossing at this point from east to west, by the Grand Trunk Railway, for the 12 months ended 30th June, were as follow:—

Passengers having purchased tickets in Canada to points in Canada, <i>via</i> United States.	5,658
Passengers from Canada to United States - - -	53,641
Ditto - - United States to Canada, N.W. - -	173
Ditto - - United States to United States - -	25,046
TOTAL going West - - -	84,518

This total includes all travellers for business and for pleasure, immigrants from Europe using Canadian steamships and railways to go to the Western States, migrants from the older Provinces of Canada to the Canadian North-West, and all passengers and migrants between the Eastern United States and the Western.

The corresponding figures for the same period by the Sarnia Branch of the Great Western Railway were as follow:—

From Canada to Western points in the United States -	1,345
From Eastern United States points to Western United States.	57
TOTAL - - -	1,402

Making a GRAND TOTAL of all Passengers } going West by all Railways at this Point - }	85,920
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This claim of immigration, at Port Huron, as stated by the United States Customs' Collector, and officially published to the world on the authority of the Treasury Department at Washington, by the Chief of the United States Bureau of Statistics, is therefore 29.38 per cent. more than the total travel at that point. It is equivalent to the feat of exaggerating, by nearly 30 per cent., all the passengers who enter France at the ports of Calais and Boulogne, and then claiming the result as immigration into that country from England.

It is thus established that such a claim is both impossible and absurd. But this view will become more striking when we more closely examine the figures.

The item of 53,641 of passengers who obtained tickets in Canada for points in the Western United States, includes 14,624 immigrants from Europe who obtained tickets at Quebec, and 491 immigrants from Europe who obtained tickets at Halifax for points west of Port Huron, in the Western United States, and were therefore simply passengers from Europe (largely from Scandinavia) using Canadian routes. These must be deducted.

The deductions therefore are :

Passengers from Europe <i>viâ</i> Quebec - - - -	14,624
Immigrants at Halifax obtaining tickets for points West of Port Huron.	491
Passengers and migrants from Eastern Canada to North-West Canada.	5,658
From Eastern United States to North-West Canada -	173
From Eastern United States to Western United States -	25,046
TOTAL - - -	45,992

Taking these deductions from the Grand Total of all passengers going West, *viâ* Port Huron, namely, 85,920, we have a total of all passengers, of all sorts, from points in Canada to points in the Western United States, of 39,928, or in other words a little more than one-third of the number of the immigrants claimed to have entered the United States at Port Huron.

These facts relate simply to the West-bound passengers. But the grotesqueness of the pretension will become still more apparent when the East-bound are taken into consideration.

Taking first the Grand Trunk Railway, there passed :—

From North-West Canada to Eastern Canada <i>viâ</i> United States.	947
From North-West Canada to United States - - -	258
From Western United States to Canada - - -	34,267
From Western United States to Eastern United States -	20,835
TOTAL, Grand Trunk Passengers going East - -	56,307

By the Sarnia Branch, Great Western Railway :—

From Western United States to Canada - - -	681
From Western United States to Eastern United States -	18
TOTAL by both Railways going East - - -	57,006

The true emigration is, of course, the difference between the East-bound and West-bound passengers. It therefore follows from the preceding figures that the Western United States made a gain by the Grand Trunk Railway of 4,211 from the Eastern United States, the West-bound passengers having been 25,046, while the East-bound were 20,835 ; and the Western United States a gain of 39 by the Sarnia Branch of the Great Western Railway, the West-bound passengers having been 57 and the East-bound 18.

The difference of numbers between passengers going from Canada to the Western United States and those coming from the Western States to Canada is 19,374, the total West-bound passengers of this class being 53,641, and the East-bound 34,267. But from this difference there must be taken the 14,624 European immigrants who obtained tickets at Quebec after landing from the steamships ; and the immigrants at Halifax who obtained tickets to points west of Port Huron, 491 ; making a net total difference of 4,259, against the Port Huron claim of 111,170.

And even this difference of 4,259, must be held to include all those immigrants who are alleged to have taken advantage of the special assisted rates of passage between the United Kingdom and Canada, and after remaining for a while went on to the Western States. Also all those immigrants from beyond the sea who have landed at Portland and Boston and entered Canada *viâ* Montreal and Ogdensburg, proceeding afterwards to the Western States ; the numbers of which, I believe, are considerable. There is not, in fact, any evidence of any Canadian emigration of any significance at the point of Port Huron to the United States.

It is noticeable that the claim of 111,170 immigrants at the point of Port Huron is largely in excess of that of the previous year, viz., 94,375, notwithstanding the fact that the self-evident impossibility of those large figures had

been clearly proved, and the proofs furnished to Mr. Nimmo, the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics.

If the statistics published on the authority of Mr. Nimmo could be supposed to be well founded, an exodus from Canada of 125,391 in one year, would imply in a decenniad, on a moderate estimate of natural increase, at the ages given by Mr. Nimmo, a loss of population of about a million and-a-half. This would very nearly wipe out all the population in the great Province of Ontario, and more than wipe out the whole of that of the Province of Quebec, supposing, for the sake of measuring the alleged exodus with the known numbers of people living in these provinces, such comparison is made. It is known to everybody that no depopulation in Canada is taking place; but, on the contrary, the figures of the census prove that the increase within the last decenniad has been 18 per cent.; and this considerable increase is over and above all the emigration that has taken place from the Dominion within the period. We have thus, by another test, based upon well-established facts, a further proof of the grossly absurd exaggeration of the so-called statistics, published by the Chief of the Washington Bureau.

The United States Census Returns for 1880, of place of birth, have not yet been published in an available form; but by the United States Census, for the decenniad ended in 1870, the proportion of persons of Canadian birth were 12 per 1,000 of the population; while, on the other hand, the persons of United States birth in Canada by the census of 1871 were a fraction over 18 per 1,000 of the population. The following is a comparison of the differences in the years named in Canada, the figures being the numbers of persons of United States birth per 1,000 in the population of the Provinces named:—

	1871.	1881.
Ontario - - - - -	26·7	23·6
Quebec - - - - -	12·3	14·3
New Brunswick - - - - -	14·3	15·9
Nova Scotia - - - - -	5·8	6·6

After the preceding analysis of 111,170, of Mr. Nimmo's figures, out of the alleged emigration from Canada of 125,391, any further examination of the little remainder of 14,221 for all the other ports on the long Canadian frontier has certainly diminished interest. The clear statement, however, in Mr. George Johnson's Report (*see Appendix, No. 40*) * of an investigation made at your request, shows that the alleged exodus from Nova Scotia has been very weak, although Mr. Nimmo makes a claim of 14,437. It is beyond question that no satisfactory proof can be adduced in support of these comparatively large figures; and it is impossible to read Mr. Johnson's Report without feeling that they are of the same unsupported texture as the large Port Huron figures.

As respects the Province of New Brunswick, some figures given by Mr. S. Gardner, the Immigration Agent at St. John (*see Appendix, No. 44*) * show the nature of the movement between the Eastern States and that port. They do not exhibit any sign of exodus, nor even considerable emigration.

It is, however, to be remarked, as respects the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, that a considerable portion of the alleged emigration from those Provinces, as claimed by Mr. Nimmo, is at the point of Port Huron, and that has been proved to be utterly fallacious.

I have not the figures of emigration and immigration between the Province of Quebec and the New England States, but these are, I believe, considerable both ways; and also that there is a movement of the nature of that described by

* Not printed.

by Mr. Kingsmill in his report between the lumber woods of Michigan and other points in the west and the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

It is a fact of precise and ascertained record in connection with entries of immigrants' effects at the custom houses along the frontier, during the year 1881, that 15,404 persons immigrated to Canada from the United States. Of these, 9,821 were returned Canadians and 1,963 United States citizens. Undoubtedly, there were very large numbers of others, of mechanics and working men, who passed no free entries with their "settlers' effects," and, therefore, there is no record of them. As between two parts of a continent in the position of Canada and the United States, with a very long frontier, there must always be a considerable flux and reflux of population, in accordance with the relative activity of trade or industries in one or other country, or the attractions of newly-opened lands; but this is a movement altogether different in its nature from that of a depopulating exodus of the kind stated in the grossly erroneous figures of the return of Mr. Nimmo.

There is a particular and very great injustice done to what may be called the immigration interests of Canada by the constant publication and re-publication of these figures in the United Kingdom and the continent of Europe. Mr. Nimmo publishes monthly bulletins which are widely communicated to the press, and these give, month by month, the cumulative numbers. They are constantly telegraphed to and published in the London "Times;" and, in fact, all over America and Europe, under the authority of the Treasury Department of the United States, from figures furnished to editors and newspaper correspondents by the Washington Bureau of Statistics. The argument which is drawn from them and presented to the emigrating classes is, that if Canada is a place from which people flee in a depopulating exodus, it cannot be a good place for emigrants from the Old World to go to. The unfairness and injustice of these proceedings lie in the fact that these published statements fall to pieces under any test that may be applied to them, and yet they are persistently reiterated.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Lowe,*

Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

To the Honourable J. H. Pope,
Minister of Agriculture.