

	Number.
1882.....	1,048
1883.....	1,218
1884.....	2,011
1885.....	1,746
1886.....	1,988
1887.....	2,298

490. All the immigrants by sea arrived in steamers, sailing vessels not having been for some years used for this purpose. Arrivals
by sea.

491. The numbers of immigrants reported by the agents and by the Custom houses may be taken to be correct as far as they go, but there not any means of ascertaining with accuracy the arrivals and departures from and to the United States. Where there is such a long line of open frontier, there must always be a considerable movement of population on both sides, of which it is impossible to obtain any record. The nearest possible approximation would be to obtain a record of the *ins* and the *outs* on the principal routes of travel, the differences between which would be the net immigration or emigration, as the case may be. Difficulty
of obtain-
ing correct
returns.

492. It is only possible to form a general idea of the numbers that yearly settle in each Province; the agents have no means at their command by which they can follow the immigrants after they once leave the agency, and the subsequent movements of many would probably considerably alter the figures given. The greatest care is taken by the Department and by the agents, that all the returns shall be as accurate as possible, but the only ones that can be thoroughly relied on, except the entries at Custom houses, which are a registration by names, are those of arrivals at the principal sea ports, as Quebec and Halifax, which are also a registration by names and callings, from the ships' passenger lists. No distinction is made in British Columbia between passengers and immigrants, and the figures for that Uncer-
tainty of
immigra-
tion re-
turns.