

matron in charge of the depôt were even an ordinarily intelligent person, even though they escaped the medical inspection. Knowing, as I do, the great interest which you take in the future welfare of the colony, I feel assured that it is only necessary to point out these cases to you in order to insure their receiving your gravest consideration and attention. A case of a single woman being confined occurred also in the "Rakaia," as well as in the "City of Auckland."

You will be pleased to learn that the Natives and Europeans behaved in the most liberal manner towards the shipwrecked immigrants, rendering them such comfort and relief as it was in their power to afford. And the Immigration Officer at Napier informs me that in a few hours the sum of £150 was subscribed in that town, for the purpose of providing necessary articles of clothing until the immigrants' luggage, which it is anticipated will all be saved, reaches there.

This appears to me to be a fitting opportunity for bringing the conduct of the Natives prominently under the notice of the British public, as it will tend to set right the misconception existing amongst the working classes at Home with reference to the Native character, and which must have been greatly increased lately by the absurd report as to missionaries being killed and eaten by Natives in New Zealand.

You will observe that the Surgeon-superintendent is not again recommended for re-employment should he apply for a ship, and that special inquiry as to the appointment of the matron is suggested.

I have, &c.,

J. MACANDREW,

(for the Minister for Immigration.)

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

Enclosure 1 in No. 10.

The UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION to the Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION.

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 28th October, 1878.

I have the honor to report my arrival from the scene of the wreck of the "City of Auckland," at Otaki.

I left Wellington by the "Hinemoa" on Wednesday last, and arrived at Otaki that evening. Finding it impossible to communicate with the shore, the steamer proceeded to Kapiti, and there anchored for the night; before daylight next morning the steamer again proceeded to the wreck, and as it was still too rough to effect a landing she ran down to the southward of Waikanae, about fourteen miles from the wreck. Captain Fairchild then landed the party who wished to proceed to the wreck, and after a walk of some four or five miles we reached a Native village, where Wi Parata's son kindly placed a buggy and horses at our disposal.

I arrived at Otaki about twelve o'clock, and soon after two o'clock all the immigrants had left the village. My first difficulty was experienced at the Otaki River, which was flooded, and which delayed the departure of the immigrants for upwards of two hours, and completely frustrated all the arrangements I had made, as, by the time the drays arrived at the Waikanae River, the tide was near its full, and instead of the people crossing in the drays and other conveyances they had to be ferried over in a boat, which caused another long delay. It was thus after twelve o'clock at night before the last of the immigrants arrived at the spot selected for their embarkation. Fortunately the few sick persons that were on board the "City of Auckland," and a dangerous lunatic, reached the steamer before dark, but the majority of the immigrants had to remain on the beach until daylight, as about 9 p.m. it became too rough, owing to the change of the tide, to go on with the boating. Work was resumed before daylight next morning, and by eight o'clock all had safely reached the steamer, excepting thirty-three men and eleven women. These numbers would have been much less had it not been for the insubordinate conduct of a number of the single men, who completely rushed one of the boats, which was nearly swamped, and had to be beached, at no little risk to their lives. When Captain Fairchild found that the boating had ceased he steamed away, after blowing the whistle two or three times. This is to be regretted, as, had he remained until the tide turned—namely, about four hours, all the people could have reached the steamer.

From the moment the steamer left I was beset with difficulties on all sides. There were nearly sixty people left upon an open beach, all of whom were more or less wet—all having been exposed in the open air the whole night without anything to eat. Fortunately, Mr. Thomas Gilbert, a settler who lives about two miles down the coast, came to me while the immigrants were embarking, and expressed his regret that he was not aware we were on the beach during the night, otherwise he would have endeavoured to accommodate the people in his woolshed and stable; and it was to this kindly-disposed person I had to go in my difficulty. He at once expressed his willingness to take all the people to his house and do what he could for them, but, unfortunately, his cooking accommodation was limited and his stock of provisions small. However, he set to work with a will, and at six in the evening, when I visited the immigrants, they were all partaking of a hearty meal. I here desire to bring before the Government the very great kindness displayed by Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, for had they not acted as they did, I fear the result would have proved fatal to some of the immigrants, who were completely exhausted.

The immigrants left Mr. Gilbert's on Saturday morning to meet the conveyances, which had been sent from Wellington, which, instead of proceeding to where the people were, remained at Paikakariki, some nine miles distant. It is to be regretted that means of conveyance were not provided for a larger number of people, and that more suitable vehicles were not provided, as those which were sent cut so deeply into the sand that it was impossible to carry any of the people. At Paikakariki I had a great deal of trouble with a number of the single men, who refused to walk any further, and demanded that I should find accommodation for them at the wayside publichouse. Not only did the men refuse to proceed themselves, but they declined to let those who were willing to walk do so, and a band of ten or twelve of them completely took possession of the road; their conduct was so riotous that I found it necessary to take proceedings against two of the ringleaders, who were this morning brought before the Resident Magistrate and sentenced to seven days imprisonment with hard labour.