

Births and Birth-rates in the Four Chief Cities.

The total number of births registered as occurring in the four chief centres and suburbs in 1907 was 7,018, as against 6,512 for the previous year. The birth-rates for 1907 were:—

		Birth-rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.
Auckland City	...	29·63
"	and six suburban boroughs	27·46
Wellington City	...	27·53
"	and three suburban boroughs	27·84
Christchurch City	...	30·47
"	and one suburban borough	30·48
Dunedin City	...	25·69
"	and six suburban boroughs	25·36

By the inclusion of the suburbs the rate is raised at Christchurch, but lowered at Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin. It will be observed that Christchurch has the highest rate, Auckland next highest, Wellington and Dunedin following with intervals. The birth-rate for the Dominion last year was 27·30 per thousand. Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch are thus over the average, and Dunedin below it.

The birth-rates for three of the central boroughs last year show a fall when compared with 1906. In Auckland the rate fell from 29·96 to 29·63, in Wellington from 27·85 to 27·53, in Dunedin from 28·96 to 25·69, but rose in Christchurch from 28·19 to 30·47. The rates for five years, 1903 to 1907, are:—

	Births per 1,000 of Population.				
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Auckland (without suburbs)	31·67	31·08	30·06	29·96	29·63
Wellington	29·22	26·77	29·72	27·85	27·53
Christchurch	26·59	27·53	29·70	28·19	30·47
Dunedin	19·54	22·40	23·90	28·96	25·69

NATURALISATION.

Aliens residing in New Zealand may, on taking the oath of allegiance to His Majesty, obtain letters of naturalisation entitling them to enjoy all the rights and privileges that a natural-born subject of the United Kingdom can enjoy or transmit within this Dominion. Two hundred and eighty-two (275 men and 7 women) were naturalised in 1907.

The number belonging to each nationality was as under:—

<i>Number of Aliens naturalised in 1907.</i>					
Natives of—			Natives of—		
	M.	F.		M.	F.
German Empire ..	27	2	Spain ..	1	0
Norway ..	21	1	Portugal and possessions ..	1	0
Sweden ..	18	0	Austria-Hungary ..	100	0
Denmark ..	27	2	Greece ..	4	0
Russia and Finland ..	23	0	China ..	12	0
France and possessions ..	4	0	Japan ..	2	0
Belgium ..	2	0	United States of America ..	5	0
Netherlands ..	1	0	Syria ..	10	0
Switzerland ..	8	1	Chili ..	1	0
Italy ..	8	1			

The number of natives of each country naturalised during the last twenty-five years is next shown.

Natives of—			Natives of—		
Germany ..	1,742		Portugal ..	67	
Sweden and Norway ..	1,375		Austria-Hungary ..	778	
Denmark ..	954		Greece ..	62	
Russia in Europe ..	310		China ..	416	
France ..	149		United States of America ..	108	
Belgium ..	36		Other countries ..	183	
Netherlands ..	70				
Switzerland ..	202				
Italy and Sicily ..	256		Total ..	6,708	

By section 2 of "The Aliens Act Amendment Act, 1882," repealed and re-enacted by section 2 of "The Aliens Act Amendment Act, 1892," it is provided that when the father, or mother being a widow, has obtained naturalisation in the Dominion every child who during infancy has become resident with them in New Zealand shall be deemed to be naturalised, and shall have the rights and privileges of a natural-born subject.