

SESSION II.
1921.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION

(ANNUAL REPORT OF).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

SIR,—

Department of Immigration, Wellington, 1st June, 1921.

Herewith I have the honour to submit the annual report upon the immigration which has taken place into New Zealand from the United Kingdom during the year 1920-21.

I have, &c.,

H. D. THOMSON, Under-Secretary.

The Hon. W. Nosworthy, Minister of Immigration.

REPORT.

It is gratifying for me to be able to state that there has been such a marked expansion of the immigration movement during the past twelve months, and that under the existing Government policy the statistical return quoted hereafter shows a record for the Dominion since the inception of assisted immigration. That such a large number has been absorbed without disturbing the industrial conditions of the Dominion is sufficient evidence as to the prosperity of the country and its capacity for absorbing immigrants of the right type.

It has been stated from time to time in certain quarters that a large influx of immigrants would have a detrimental effect on the labour-market, and it was therefore deemed advisable to have a census taken in the early part of 1920 setting forth the number of registered factories in each trade or industry, the shortage of hands existing in these industries, together with the number of machines idle as the result of lack of operatives to work them. This return showed the number of factories registered in New Zealand to be 12,703, and the total labour shortage 12,937. The employers stated that they had exhausted all reasonable means in their power to obtain labour, and generally suggested that in immigration lay the chief remedy. At this date the repatriation of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force men was almost completed, and it was considered opportune to bring into force the new regulations governing the expansion of the then immigration policy considered necessary to deal with a most important problem—post-war immigration. Because of the fact that New Zealand is situated at such a great distance from the base whence our supply of immigrants is drawn, it is essential that none but the best quality should be despatched to our shores. The present policy—the main point of which is “open nomination”—ensures this result, for not only can private individuals take advantage of the reduction in passage-money offered under this scheme, but also all employers of labour, and to the latter this is the most important factor, for it gives to all industries requiring skilled labour the privilege and opportunity of choosing their own requirements. This concession, which previously was restricted to only near relatives (by blood or marriage) of the nominator, has already been taken advantage of by several employers, who recognize that not only do they benefit, but that the immigrant is immediately absorbed in an occupation profitable to himself and becomes a permanent asset to the country.

This expansion of the past policy from restricted to open nomination has proved an unqualified success, as the year's figures go to show; but it was not due only to this fact that the number of immigrants far exceeds that of any other year for the past forty years, for in addition it was considered

advisable, firstly, to make certain concessions to different classes of labour most needed by the Dominion—viz., domestic servants, farm labourers, and miners—which were eligible under the applied-passages scheme, also to add such classes as artisans, mechanics, and bricklayers under this category of reduced-rate passages; and, secondly, to accept immigrants under the Imperial overseas-settlement scheme.

In view of the fact that the object of this latter scheme is not generally known, I have to state that the Imperial Government appointed the Overseas-settlement Committee to deal with the problem of free emigration of ex-service men and women who had served in the recent war and who wished to settle within the Empire overseas. A large number of the best type of ex-service men have arrived in the Dominion under this free-passages scheme, and those who required it have been found accommodation and suitable employment. The following are the conditions under which these passages are granted:—

- (1.) Application is made to the Imperial Overseas-settlement Committee for free passage to New Zealand.
- (2.) Duplicates of applications are then submitted to the High Commissioner for approval or otherwise.
- (3.) Upon receipt of the duplicate application the High Commissioner requests each applicant to supply a medical certificate, also two references of recommendation as a suitable settler for the Dominion.
- (4.) When the approval of the High Commissioner has been given the Imperial Overseas-settlement Committee is advised accordingly, and they then issue a warrant-book of vouchers for train and boat tickets, also a document in lieu of passport.

At the time of first acceptance of immigrants under this scheme the conditions regarding housing and employment existing in the Dominion were totally different from those of to-day, and it has, therefore, been found necessary not to accept any further applicants under this scheme unless they are proceeding to assured accommodation and employment, thereby bringing them practically within the Government nominated policy.

The total number of arrivals in New Zealand from the United Kingdom during the year ended 31st March, 1921, was 14,444, consisting of 6,832 males and 7,612 females. Out of the total number of persons arriving—viz., 14,444—4,821 were assisted by the New Zealand Government, and 5,286 by the British Government under the Imperial overseas-settlement scheme. The number assisted by the New Zealand Government is made up of persons nominated in the Dominion, totalling 3,670, and of persons applying themselves for assisted passages in London, totalling 1,151.

During the year twenty-seven steamers brought out assisted immigrants as follows:—

Arrived in New Zealand.	Vessel.	Nominated Passengers.	Overseas- settlement Passengers.	Total.
April	Tainui	221	26	247
"	Corinthic	194	24	218
May	Remuera	87	96	183
"	Ionic	180	85	265
"	Paparoa	94	102	196
June	Arawa	146	111	257
July	Ruahine	133	143	276
"	Mahana	742	134	876
August	Rimutaka	86	79	165
"	Ruapehu	51	81	132
September	Athenic	188	170	358
"	Corinthic	208	200	408
"	Mamari	305	122	427
October	Tainui	254	104	358
November	Remuera	136	195	331
"	Ionic	180	201	381
December	Dorset	231	15	246
"	Arawa	115	146	261
January	Paparoa	93	74	167
"	Pakeha	623	163	786
"	Ruahine	53	261	314
February	Athenic	31	64	95
"	Otarama	182	59	241
"	Rimutaka	162	56	218
March	Ruapehu	90	115	205
"	Corinthic	35	85	120
"	Waimana	1	911	912
Indirect routes		..	1,464	1,464
Total		4,821	5,286	10,107

The distribution of immigrants under the headings of nominated and overseas-settlement passages is as follows:—

District.	Nominated.			Overseas-settlement Passengers (Direct).			Overseas-settlement Passengers (Indirect).			Total Overseas- settlement Passengers.		
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.
Auckland ..	354	863	397	506	286	335	208	114	110	714	400	445
Canterbury ..	131	356	158	223	118	139	83	36	32	306	154	171
Hawke's Bay ..	54	99	46	127	48	61	55	21	22	182	69	83
Marlborough ..	29	41	18	44	21	23	11	4	11	55	25	34
Nelson ..	31	53	24	70	28	39	15	9	8	85	37	47
Otago ..	78	202	104	162	82	110	50	30	37	212	112	147
Southland ..	39	82	41	78	35	40	14	8	11	92	43	51
Taranaki ..	47	107	66	162	71	68	38	8	6	200	79	74
Wellington ..	238	789	271	381	202	203	159	70	77	540	272	280
Westland ..	30	41	32	103	29	28	6	3	4	109	32	32
Indefinite ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135	41	28	135	41	28
	1,031	2,633	1,157	1,856	920	1,046	774	344	346	2,630	1,264	1,392
Totals ..	4,821			3,822			1,464			10,107		

Summary.

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Nominated passengers	1,031	2,633	1,157	4,821
Overseas-settlement passengers (direct)	1,856	920	1,046	3,822
Overseas-settlement passengers (indirect)	774	344	346	1,464
	3,661	3,897	2,549	10,107

Distribution of Grand Total.

Auckland	3,173	Southland	348
Canterbury	1,276	Taranaki	573
Hawke's Bay	533	Wellington	2,390
Marlborough	202	Westland	276
Nelson	277	Indefinite	204
Otago	855		
			10,107
North Island	6,669		
South Island	3,234		
Indefinite	204		
	10,107		

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ASSISTED IMMIGRANTS INTRODUCED INTO THE DOMINION DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Applied in London.	Nominated from New Zealand.	Overseas-settlement Passengers.	Totals.
1912	1,728	1,572	..	3,300
1913	1,797	2,131	..	3,928
1914	2,309	2,755	..	5,064
1915	867	2,119	..	2,986
1916	229	874	..	1,103
1917	123	515	..	638
1918	..	171	..	171
1919	..	906	..	906
1920	..	3,811	..	3,811
1921	1,151	3,670	5,286	10,107

THE MEETING AND TRANSHIPMENT OF IMMIGRANTS ON ARRIVAL.

The reception of the immigrants in the country of their adoption, the information required, the handling and quick despatch to their different destinations after a long sea-voyage, are all points which have been carefully considered by the Department. In order to give effect to this method of dealing with the new-comers the following system has been adopted :—

- (1.) The Immigration officers proceed to the vessel with the Port Health Officer.
- (2.) Letters from friends, together with instructions from the Department, are handed to each immigrant as he passes for health inspection.
- (3.) Railway and boat tickets are issued in lieu of contract tickets.
- (4.) Accommodation allotted if required.
- (5.) Employment given, or particulars taken.
- (6.) Wires taken for despatch to friends or employers.
- (7.) English money changed to New Zealand money at par.
- (8.) Any further information given if required.
(This work is all completed before the vessel berths.)
- (9.) Immigration officers attend and assist immigrants to get their baggage passed by the Customs, and, in the case of domestics, undertake the whole of this work.
- (10.) Connecting boats and trains are attended by departmental officers.

HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT OF IMMIGRANTS.

The method adopted by the Department in fulfilling these two important functions has proved singularly successful notwithstanding the fact that there has been a shortage of residential houses and accommodation. I am able to report that not in one single case of assisted or overseas-settlement immigrants can it be said that the Department was unable to supply accommodation immediately upon arrival and to offer employment within forty-eight hours of entrance into the Dominion. It was early realized that, with the prospect of a large influx of immigrants under the Imperial scheme, who had neither friends nor employment to proceed to, the two most important factors in dealing with this class were—firstly, accommodation, and, secondly, employment. As the Department has no branch offices, it was found necessary, at other than the port of arrival, to make provision for meeting the new-comer at his destination and conducting him to suitable accommodation. This work was entrusted to the Salvation Army, whose organization is not only established in the towns, but also penetrates every country district. The thoroughness with which its officers carried out their part of the work, under my supervision, contributed mainly to the above-stated result, and placed the Department in the position that it could readily deal with any accommodation emergency. The Departmental Employment Register, together with the assistance of the Auckland Branch of the Farmers' Union, proved sufficient to enable every immigrant who required it to be offered suitable employment.

SHIPPING: PASSENGER RATES AND BOOKING-PORTS.

There has been considerable improvement in the shipping situation during the year, although conditions are still far from normal. The shipping available for the large number of immigrants wishing to proceed to New Zealand was not sufficient to meet the demand—in fact, the congestion became so acute that the High Commissioner found it necessary to make special arrangements for putting on additional ships, and his action had the effect of affording some relief, although there are still several thousand intending immigrants awaiting passages to the Dominion.

The question of passage rates and the limitation of ports of booking recently imposed by the shipping companies for Government assisted passengers is one of the most important concerning immigration to-day. Even taking into consideration the extra expense of running ships as compared with pre-war times, it is evident that the companies concerned seem to have overlooked the enormous amount of passage-money received annually from this source of revenue, and also that their homeward freights are obtained from the Dominion. Negotiations are at present proceeding to procure more favourable and satisfactory terms for the Government.

DOMESTICS.

Owing to the shortage of shipping accommodation the number proceeding under this heading has been small, but the outlook for the ensuing year gives promise of a constant flow of this class of immigrant, the High Commissioner having already received 1,500 applications for passages under this scheme.

IMMIGRATION LITERATURE.

During the war and the long period of repatriation of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force there was no necessity for the encouragement of immigration, consequently the literature available to intending emigrants from England was limited and became out of date. Urgent requests for suitable up-to-date literature were received from the Hon. Sir James Allen upon taking up the position of High Commissioner for New Zealand in London, and a comprehensive plan of publicity was approved by you, a portion of which has already been carried out.

The scheme of immigration literature provides for the issue of an attractive general booklet on New Zealand, containing all the information required by an intending immigrant in regard to conditions of living in New Zealand, educational facilities, social life, productive activities, and the general character of the people and country. This booklet is suitable as a reply to all inquiries from intending immigrants, and it is printed in an attractive style, comparing favourably with the literature circulated among this class by other countries seeking immigrants.

A subsidiary series of booklets, smaller in size, but prepared with equal care and attention to good appearance, deals specifically with various phases of occupations in which intending immigrants may find scope in New Zealand. These comprise "Dairying in New Zealand"; "The Pastoral Industry in New Zealand"; "Agriculture in New Zealand"; "Fruitgrowing, Beekeeping, Poultry-farming, Horticulture in New Zealand"; and "Industrial New Zealand," the last-named dealing with the openings for immigrants other than on the land.

A considerable economy is secured by means of this scheme of specialized booklets, as an immigrant intending to go on the land is able to secure (in the booklet entitled "New Zealand") information of a general character about the Dominion, while his special requirements will be met by one or other of the subsidiary booklets covering in detail the occupation which he desires to enter on arriving in the Dominion. The artisan, for instance, will be furnished with literature concerning the trades and industries of the country, and will not be supplied with matter relating to land occupations in which he is not interested.

The booklets are very freely illustrated, as photographs are often more convincing than letter-press. The literary matter has been carefully compiled and written in an interesting manner, with an avoidance of statistical detail. Care has been taken to avoid exaggeration and overstatement, for the actual facts in regard to the resources of New Zealand, its productivity and its potentialities, are quite sufficient to indicate that it is an attractive country in which to settle.

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PASSAGES MAY BE OBTAINED AT REDUCED RATES FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO NEW ZEALAND.

Nominated Passages : General.

Permanent residents of the Dominion and *bona fide* New-Zealanders visiting the United Kingdom may nominate any person residing in the United Kingdom for an assisted passage to New Zealand under the following conditions :—

1. Provided that such person has not attained the age of fifty years.
2. Provided that such person has not resided in the Dominion for a period of at least five years immediately preceding nomination.
3. Provided that such person can supply to the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London satisfactory medical certificate and certificate of character.
4. Provided that, in the case of such person being married, nomination must include husband, wife, and family (if any), except where a judicial separation exists or desertion is proved.
5. Provided that the nominator undertakes to make provision for maintenance and employment for such nominee after arrival in the Dominion, and also guarantees that such person will take up permanent residence in the Dominion.
6. All questions as to suitability of any such person nominated for an assisted passage to be decided by the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London.
7. Provided that the above conditions are complied with, an assisted passage will be granted at the following rates, such rates to be subject to revision should the occasion arise : Second-class three-berth, £67 per adult ; third-class two-berth, £30 per adult ; third-class four-berth, £26 per adult.
8. Children between three years and twelve years of age travelling with their parents are charged half-price. One child under three years of age in each family is taken free. A quarter fare is charged for each additional child under three years of age.
9. Total amount of passage-money must be paid before a passage is booked. The money can be paid in New Zealand by the nominator, or in London by the nominee, or partly by both.
10. Passages can be booked to the following ports in New Zealand : Wellington, Auckland, Lyttelton, Port Chalmers, Gisborne, Napier, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Nelson, Picton, Westport, Greymouth, Hokitika, Timaru, Oamaru, and Bluff.
11. Nominated passages to be granted by direct route only.

Special : Farm Labourers and Miners.

In addition to the conditions set out as governing the general nominated passages, the following will apply to nominated persons under the above heading :—

1. Provided that such person is a *bona fide* farm labourer or miner and is employed as such at the time of nomination, and that a written undertaking is given to follow such calling for at least twelve months after arrival in the Dominion.
 2. Provided that such farm labourer or miner has not attained the age of forty-five years, but has attained the age of seventeen years.
- Fare : £10 per adult for third-class four- or six-berth cabin.

Domestics.

1. Provided that such person is a *bona fide* domestic and is employed as such at the time of nomination, and a written undertaking is given to follow such calling for at least twelve months after arrival in the Dominion.

2. (a.) Provided that such person has not attained the age of forty years. (b.) Provided that such person has attained the age of eighteen years.

Fare : Free third-class passage, and gratuity £2.

NOTE.—"Domestic" means general servant, cook, housemaid, parlourmaid, waitress, laundress, nursemaid.

Applied Passages.

The High Commissioner may grant reduced-rate passages to persons who are *bona fide* artisans, mechanics, bricklayers—in fact, any skilled labourer who may from time to time be required for the Dominion.

1. Provided that such person is actually employed at his trade or calling at the time of application, and also gives an undertaking to engage in same for a period of at least twelve months after arrival in the Dominion.

2. Provided that such person has not attained the age of forty-five years, but has attained the age of seventeen years.

3. Provided that such person can comply with the general regulations as set out governing the nominated passages.

Fares : Third-class four-berth, £26 per adult ; third-class two-berth, £30 per adult.

Farm Labourers and Miners.

Farm labourers and miners may be granted reduced-rate passages under the same conditions as nominated passages under this heading. Fare : Third-class four- or six-berth, £10 per adult.

Domestics.

Domestics may be granted reduced-rate passages under the same conditions as nominated passages under this heading. Fare : Free third-class passage, and gratuity £2.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given ; printing (530 copies), £9 10s.

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