

soft bread one day old (this is most important) should be served out to them in the proportion of one pound daily, each person above the age of four years (no biscuit whatever), and half a pound of flour for the same ages on Saturday. Children below this age should have half the above quantity, with the other articles as usual. I would also recommend stopping all the soups usually placed on board, except the chicken soup, and making soup on board from the preserved meat, taking care that there is a good boiling capacity for the purpose; whilst with regard to the beef tea, Liebeg's extract should be substituted, instructions being given to the medical man to issue it himself, else some favouritism in the store is likely to rapidly exhaust his stock. Eggs are very important, but those packed in salt do not keep. Stout also is highly necessary for nursing women. My general issue was about fifteen pints daily, but it was expended about twenty days before reaching Wellington, and yet the allowance was but one pint in two days. Milk is very useful; my stock was expended before reaching Wellington, and I had to buy of the captain. Cheese also should, I think, be supplied, but it should be served out by the doctor, and not at the store.

15. The duties of a medical man on board ship are of a most extraordinary, and at times of a most unpleasant character. The passengers know all stores apart from medicines are under his control, and if the object of the doctor is to settle amongst these people, he will render himself obnoxious to them by refusing their demands for wine, spirits, or flour, in fact, anything up to chicken broth for strong women, thus running through his stock before the Line is crossed. For myself, I have received considerable abuse from some of the women because I would not supply, to commence a treatment of some supposed diarrhoea, either brandy or port wine; whilst the desires for drink, and the number of stomach aches of an evening to be cured by gin, were very, very numerous.

16. I desire to record here the hearty co-operation I have always received from the captain of the "Woodlark" throughout the voyage. Stern, threatening measures were necessary towards some of the single girls, as the matron from the first had no control over them; indeed, Miss Faithful has virtually performed the matron's duty, and I feel much indebted to her for the manner in which she kept the single girls in order. Some ten or twelve were the ringleaders, whilst others, on the contrary, amongst some of them are of a most respectable and orderly class of persons. I also desire to acknowledge the help afforded me in the treatment of the sick by the nurses, Maria Edgley and Eliza Steer. It was contrary to my instructions to employ single girls, but there was no alternative, as no married women without children were as equal to the task as these professed nurses, and those with children had quite enough to do in attending to their own family duties.

17. Before closing this despatch, I wish to call your attention to my remuneration, as being based upon the number of statute adults and not souls for treatment and care on the voyage; the extraordinary proportion of children making the sum total of 256½ statute adults, instead of 322 souls which left London.

I have, &c.,

HENRY F. MEADOWS,
Late Surgeon-superintendent, ship "Woodlark."

The Immigration Officer, Wellington.

Enclosure 3 in No. 47.

MEMORANDUM for His Honor the SUPERINTENDENT, Wellington.

HEREWITH I forward answers to questions put to immigrants per "Woodlark." I regret to say that so many immigrants were in a state of drunkenness during the first few days after their arrival at the depôt, that I found it difficult to get any number to whom I could put the usual questions, and some of those who I did interrogate were so lamentably ignorant that they could give me little or no information.

I have been subjected to a great deal of abuse and annoyance by some of the immigrants, more especially the constables of the ship, who all expected a much larger gratuity than the Agent-General's regulations allow. The depôt-master and myself have also had a great deal of trouble in getting the compartments kept clean, and I find it very difficult to know how to deal with immigrants who will not obey the rules of the depôt. If strong measures are not adopted, and the offenders are turned out of the depôt, a public scandal is likely to be the result; while, on the other hand, if they are forgiven and allowed to take their places in the depôt, as though nothing had occurred, the more respectable portion of the immigrants feel aggrieved at having to associate with those immigrants who have disgraced the whole shipment.

I would mention that five women in the single women's compartment were brought before me by the matron, on Saturday, for drunkenness and disobedience of rules by staying out all night. Of course I threatened these women that they would be turned out of the depôt and handed over to the police if they did not behave better for the future; but still, I feel that it would be very injudicious to turn them adrift into the streets.

Wellington, 6th April, 1874.

H. J. H. ELLIOTT,
Immigration Officer.

P.S.—Since writing the above, the matron has informed me that she was compelled to turn one notoriously bad girl out of the depôt: her name is Amelia B., from Ratcliff Highway.

I have read the reports and memorandum. I regret to find that the report as to the character of the immigrants is so unsatisfactory. I particularly note the remarks with regard to Mrs. Howard's selection.

13th April, 1874.

WILLIAM FITZHERBERT, Superintendent.

Enclosure 4 in No. 47.

Mr. ORBELL to the IMMIGRATION OFFICER, Wellington.

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wanganui, 14th April, 1874.

In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to furnish the following report *re* the "Woodlark" immigrants, who arrived in Wanganui on the 8th instant, per "Manawatu." With the