

1907.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION

(ANNUAL REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE).

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

SIR,—

Department of Immigration, Wellington, 1st June, 1907.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report upon immigration, conveying the information as to the number of arrivals from the 1st April, 1906, to the 31st March, 1907; the capital they possessed; their classification (such as farmer, navvy, artisan, and domestic); and also showing the extent of the nominations received from persons in New Zealand on behalf of relatives whom they wish to bring out to the colony.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM C. KENSINGTON,
Under-Secretary.

The Hon. James McGowan, Minister of Immigration, Wellington.

REPORT.

In last year's report a statement was embodied, giving the general scope of the High Commissioner's powers and duties in connection with the despatch of emigrants from the United Kingdom. Since that report no change has been made in the *modus operandi*, so far as this Department is aware, unless the recent Conference of Prime Ministers in London has resulted in any further developments, as one of the subjects under discussion was that of emigration.

The appended return shows that a steady, though moderate, stream of immigration has continued to our shores, and the year closed with the gain of 1,243 souls over that given in last year's report. Owing to the limited area of Crown lands which New Zealand has to offer to its immigrants, it is useless to attempt to compete with such a country as Canada, with its vast areas of fertile lands and its comparative proximity to the United Kingdom. But what New Zealand can, and does, offer is an equable climate and life generally under the most agreeable and favourable conditions.

Arrivals of assisted immigrants in the colony during the past year were by means of forty steamships of the various shipping lines running to New Zealand, who landed in good health 3,712 souls, equal to 3,141½ statute adults. These possessed amongst them capital to the extent of £114,689, and an annual income in addition of £1,988. The amount of passage-money contributed by New Zealand through the High Commissioner was £12,570.

In the early portion of last year a number of railway-workers, under the heading of "navvies," arrived for work on the North Island Main Trunk Railway line, the total being 279, who, with their families, numbered 507 souls; but representations having been sent to the High Commissioner that no further supply was needed, he has discontinued granting any further passages to this class of settler.

Domestic servants to the number of 254 were granted assisted passages, and duly arrived in the colony.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF IMMIGRANTS.

The Immigration officers (Messrs. March and Danby) have boarded all the steamers as they arrived, meeting the immigrants and affording them counsel and advice, where desired, and also assisting them in procuring employment by taking them to the local office of the Labour Bureau, at which place they have invariably been aided to find work by the officials. The officers report that all the immigrants have been of a very superior class, and, from the numbers whom I have met personally and discussed land questions with, I am convinced that the High Commissioner has exercised a very wise discretion in selecting them, and has added a fine and sturdy class of settlers, both men and women, to our numbers.

NOMINATION OF RELATIVES BY PERSONS RESIDENT IN NEW ZEALAND.

As briefly indicated in last year's report, the Government has extended the benefits of assisted passages to those persons who, whilst residing in New Zealand, have hitherto been unable to bring out their wives and children or other near relatives, rightly judging that persons are much more likely to become permanent and contented settlers when reunited to those from whom they had parted in the older land.

Relatives to the number of 383½ statute adults have been nominated in New Zealand, and passage-money to the amount of £3,782 10s. has been paid to this office for that purpose. I am convinced that this concession has been of great benefit in reuniting separated families.

GENERAL.

Whilst the major portion of the correspondence with emigrants is carried on by the High Commissioner in London, yet the letters received from and written to inquirers and despatched

from this office numbered 2,826 during the past twelve months. The High Commissioner's Office has been kept fully supplied with copies of "The Immigrants' Guide and Settlers' Handbook," for which there has been great demand, and also with up-to-date copies of the "Crown Lands Guide."

It may be interesting to add that, in addition to the settlers reaching our shores from the United Kingdom, a very large and increasing number of applications for assisted passages and for information as to the lands available for settlement in New Zealand, &c., have been received from persons living in Canada, the United States, South Africa, Australia, &c., and invariably, whilst affording complete particulars and details as to the capabilities of New Zealand and the prospects of intending settlers therein, it has been pointed out that, as the countries referred to are seeking to induce immigration to their own shores, it would savour of an unfriendly act on the part of the New Zealand Government if it were in any way to countenance the granting of assisted passages from those countries to this colony. Such applicants have, therefore, been always advised that assistance in this manner is not given by the Government, except to emigrants from the United Kingdom, and their requests have consequently been declined.

RETURN showing the NAMES of the VESSELS which carried Passengers at Reduced Rates from the United Kingdom for the Year ending 31st March, 1907; and also the NUMBER of PERSONS granted Passages, together with the Amount of Capital possessed by them.

Date of Leaving.	Steamer.	Souls.	Adults.	Declared Amount of Capital.	Income.	Amount of Passage-money paid by High Commissioner.
1906.				£	£	£
April 2	Oswestry Grange	25	21½	488	...	86
" 5	Waiwera	93	80½	1,131	...	322
" 19	Turakina	136	121½	3,022	...	487
" 28	Devon	50	45¼	547	...	181
May 3	Athenic	270	238½	6,315	100	955
" 17	Paparoa	62	57	1,230	...	228
" 26	Morayshire	51	41½	478	...	166
" 31	Corinthic	325	268½	9,724	...	1,073
June 14	Ruapehu	145	122	11,916	...	488
" 23	Ayrshire	75	68	671	...	276
" 28	Mamari	124	99	2,040	...	396
July 12	Rimutaka	134	105½	3,475	...	422
" 21	Somerset	52	45½	1,112	...	182
" 26	Kumara	99	83½	2,228	50	335
Aug. 10	Tongariro	86	74½	3,161	435	298
" 18	Suffolk	71	61	1,670	...	244
" 23	Ionic	270	226½	12,148	687	906
Sept. 6	Turakina	34	29½	707	...	115
" 15	Dorset	75	62½	1,518	...	249
" 21	Athenic	235	198½	6,550	236	793
Oct. 4	Paparoa	49	35	2,680	...	140
" 13	Everton Grange	58	50½	869	...	201
" 19	Corinthic	339	284	13,560	40	1,136
Nov. 1	Ruapehu	51	44½	1,569	...	174
" 13	Oswestry Grange	33	28½	832	...	113
" 16	Gothic	142	122	5,828	...	488
" 29	Rimutaka	68	54½	1,460	70	217
Dec. 3	Surrey	5	4	2	...	16
" 14	Kumara	32	25	671	...	100
" 29	Tongariro	44	38	1,685	40	152
1907.						
Jan. 5	Ayrshire	22	21	530	...	84
" 10	Ionic	100	91½	5,031	182	366
" 24	Turakina	42	33½	997	...	134
Feb. 2	Morayshire	9	8	95	...	32
" 8	Athenic	88	79	3,770	22	320
" 21	Paparoa	42	35	1,073	30	140
March 2	Suffolk	31	20½	160	...	81
" 8	Corinthic	79	66	2,770	36	264
" 21	Ruapehu	40	32	560	...	128
" 30	Fifeshire	26	20½	416	60	82
Totals	...	3,712	3,141½	114,689	1,988	12,570

SUMMARY OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR PASSAGES AT REDUCED RATES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1907.—Farmers: Single men and heads of families, 466—853 souls. Navvies: Single men and heads of families, 279—507 souls. Domestic: 254 souls. Artisans and miscellaneous: Single men and heads of families: 841—2,095 souls.

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