

The initial agreement entered into on the 28th August, 1922, between His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Dominion Government had the effect of reducing the then current assisted fares from £26 per adult and half-price for children between the ages of three and twelve years to £18 per adult and children free. This agreement expired on the 31st March, 1923, and it is anticipated upon renewal that there will be a still further substantial reduction in adult passage-money and also for juveniles—i.e., boys and girls up to the age of sixteen and eighteen years. If anticipations are realized it should be the means of inducing an increased number of immigrants to our shores sufficient to make up our total to not less than ten thousand per annum.

There is no doubt that if certain restrictions were removed and a more open policy adopted the number of immigrants arriving per annum could be doubled. Whilst fully alive to the economic advantage to the Empire as a whole of migration and settlement within the Empire, it would be useless to say, no matter how much they are needed, that we can take thousands and thousands of people from any country and plant them down in the Dominion without proper reception or without being able to assure them that openings and work can be found upon arrival. Therefore it is better to proceed as at present and consolidate our position rather than cause disruption and dissatisfaction.

The total number of arrivals in New Zealand from the United Kingdom during the year ended 31st March, 1923, was 11,341, excluding returning New-Zealanders. Out of the total number of persons arriving, 6,737 were assisted by the New Zealand Government.

During the year thirty-two steamers brought out assisted immigrants as follows:—

NOMINATED AND OVERSEA SETTLEMENT PASSENGERS WHO ARRIVED IN THE DOMINION FROM THE 1ST APRIL, 1922, TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1923.

Boat.	Date of Arrival.	Nominated.				Oversea Settlement.				Grand Total.
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	
Tainui ..	3/4/22	22	58	21	101	90	47	60	197	298
Waimana ..	25/4/22	63	74	102	239	270	163	298	731	970
Port Melbourne	27/4/22	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
Ionic ..	15/5/22	42	76	36	154	67	43	47	157	311
Ruahine ..	20/5/22	22	72	30	124	56	45	65	166	290
Rimutaka ..	11/6/22	22	23	25	70	67	48	73	188	258
Arawa ..	29/6/22	15	52	20	87	16	15	14	45	132
Ruapehu ..	23/7/22	19	66	25	110	28	35	52	115	225
Athenic ..	9/8/22	21	76	31	128	34	32	52	118	246
Dorset ..	18/9/22	67	48	44	159	64	15	18	97	256
Corinthic ..	18/9/22	69	73	23	165	72	36	37	145	310
Paparoa ..	27/9/22	25	63	28	116	22	14	21	57	173
Durham ..	6/10/22	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Ruahine ..	10/10/22	39	61	23	123	42	34	44	120	243
Middlesex ..	27/10/22	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Tainui ..	29/10/22	58	81	26	165	73	29	58	160	325
Suffolk ..	23/11/22	78	79	74	231	51	42	71	164	395
Rimutaka ..	27/11/22	12	46	17	75	17	30	40	87	162
Kent ..	28/11/22	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
*Barrabool ..	30/11/22	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	3	3
Ionic ..	10/12/22	54	86	27	167	53	32	47	132	299
Port Darwin ..	11/12/22	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Otarama ..	31/12/22	34	56	44	134	48	52	70	170	304
Ruapehu ..	11/1/23	17	66	20	103	21	20	40	81	184
Arawa ..	24/1/23	49	105	57	211	43	40	39	122	333
Remuera ..	27/1/23	39	28	30	97	52	50	77	179	276
Athenic ..	7/2/23	47	55	20	122	75	55	103	233	355
Pakeha ..	8/2/23	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
*Ormonde ..	27/2/23	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Paparoa ..	28/2/23	68	36	39	143	..	..	..	..	143
Corinthic ..	6/3/23	64	83	70	217	3	3	8	14	231
Ruahine ..	28/3/23	4	3	..	7	..	..	..	..	7
Totals ..	..	956	1,466	833	3,255	1,266	881	1,335	3,482	6,737

* Arrived Sydney : passengers transhipped.

NOTE.—(a.) Of the above nominated passengers (excluding oversea settlement scheme) 706 were granted applied passages in the United Kingdom, leaving a total of 2,549 nominated. (b.) Included in the above nominated figures are 550 domestics, of whom 126 were nominated and 424 were granted applied passages. (c.) Of the nominated passages 2,217 were assisted by the New Zealand Government and 1,038 by both New Zealand and Imperial Governments.