

loans, of which number 507 have been fully paid off, 365 are being paid off, 18 have been written off, and instalments outstanding on the remaining 154 have not yet become due. These figures go to show that the Government has availed itself of the provisions of the Empire Settlement Act, and that the result of the repayments of these loans is an indication that these migrants have been satisfactorily absorbed.

The number of assisted migrants that arrived in the Dominion during the past year shows an increase of 48 per cent. on the previous year's figures—in fact, the total is the largest since the year 1880: of this total 37 per cent. were men, 30 per cent. women, and 33 per cent. children, and nearly all have been readily and satisfactorily absorbed. Included in the men's total are 14 per cent. of farmers, farm labourers, and miners, and as these go direct to the farms and the mines for their occupation it will be seen that only 23 per cent. of the total number of migrants come into competition for other occupations in the labour-market—truly a very small percentage; and, as these were all nominated migrants, positions awaited them upon arrival in practically all cases. It is pleasing to record the manner in which the nominators have carried out their obligations in regard to maintenance and employment for their nominees. In a few cases, where the nominators found themselves unable to carry out their obligations through circumstances over which they had no control, the Department has always come to the rescue, to the satisfaction of the new-comers.

*Children and Juveniles.*—There is no doubt that this class of migration under proper conditions is of immense advantage both to the migrants themselves and to the Dominion. They grow up from tender years accustomed to New Zealand conditions, and if placed upon the land they have not nearly so great an inclination to drift back to the towns as have older immigrants whose habits have been formed by previous environment. On the other hand, the Dominion, by training the children in its schools and placing the youths on the land according to its own conditions, gains citizens of the true New Zealand spirit. During the past five years approximately fifteen thousand migrants under this heading have come to the Dominion. Included in this total are 1,400 juveniles who have been brought out under the following special land schemes, and they are doing exceedingly well:—

Public and secondary school boys' scheme	..	..	..	..	630
Salvation Army scheme	..	..	..	..	403
Flock House boys	..	..	..	..	266
Flock House girls	..	..	..	..	36
Fellowship of British Empire Exhibition Scholarship at Ruakura State Farm	..	..	..	..	12
Church of England boys	..	..	..	..	53
Total	..	..	..	..	1,400

It is indeed pleasing for me to be able to state that five boys under the public and secondary schools scheme have purchased farms of their own, and several parents, together with their families (who were preceded by their sons under this scheme), have taken up permanent residence in the Dominion. Reports from the organizations controlling the other juvenile schemes, as to progress, &c., are entirely satisfactory.

*Restriction.*—In view of the economic conditions ruling at the commencement of the present year it was necessary for a reconsideration of the volume of immigration, and it was decided that during the forthcoming winter months the number of assisted migrants should be reduced to a minimum.

The total number of arrivals in New Zealand from the United Kingdom and Ireland during the year ended 31st March, 1927, was 14,943 (8,457 males and 6,486 females). Out of the total number of persons arriving—namely, 14,943—11,239 were assisted to New Zealand by the Imperial and New Zealand Governments. The number of assisted immigrants is made up of persons nominated from New Zealand and of persons themselves applying for assisted passages in London.

During the year the following steamers brought out assisted immigrants:—

Vessel.	Date of Arrival.	Number of Assisted Immigrants.	Vessel.	Date of Arrival.	Number of Assisted Immigrants.
Corinthic ..	7/4/26	297	Tekoa ..	24/10/26*	1
Suffolk ..	17/4/26*	1	Ruahine ..	31/10/26	257
Remuera ..	19/4/26	338	Port Bowen ..	11/11/26*	1
Ionic ..	7/5/26	370	Tainui ..	14/11/26	299
Hororata ..	17/5/26	595	Jervis Bay ..	23/11/26*	1
Mahana ..	21/5/26	756	Arawa ..	25/11/26	380
Ruapehu ..	25/5/26	237	Medic ..	27/11/26*	1
Arawa ..	4/6/26	173	Mataroa ..	13/12/26	380
Ruahine ..	14/6/26	216	Athenic ..	21/12/26	399
Tainui ..	16/7/26	344	Rotorua ..	24/12/26	200
Athenic ..	2/8/26	371	Corinthic ..	9/1/27	337
Rotorua ..	7/8/26	237	Remuera ..	10/1/27	263
Corinthic ..	24/8/26	363	Pakeha ..	28/1/27	591
Largs Bay ..	24/8/26*	1	Rimutaka ..	2/2/27	226
Rimutaka ..	1/9/26	334	Ionic ..	8/2/27	298
Remuera ..	5/9/26	330	Hororata ..	1/3/27	509
Ionic ..	23/9/26	368	Tamaroa ..	7/3/27	260
Ruapehu ..	5/10/26	224	Ruapehu ..	14/3/27	237
Hororata ..	11/10/26	571	Ruahine ..	19/3/27	93
Oronsay ..	16/10/26*	1			
Tamaroa ..	16/10/26	379	Total ..	..	11,239

\* Date of sailing.