

REPORTS

FROM THE

CUSTOMS OFFICER - IN - CHARGE

AT

SHORTLAND, RIVER THAMES ;

ENCLOSING RETURNS OF THE NUMBER OF VESSELS AND THE NATURE OF THEIR CARGOES,
AND THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT AND LEAVING SHORTLAND.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BY COMMAND OF
HIS EXCELLENCY.

WELLINGTON.

—
1868.

REPORTS FROM CUSTOMS OFFICER, SHORTLAND, THAMES.

No. 1.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. D. LONDON to the COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, Auckland.

SIR,—

Shortland, 9th May, 1868.

I beg to forward the enclosed statement of the number of vessels, tonnage, &c., together with the number of passengers arrived at Shortland, for the fortnight ending 30th April instant.

The population of this district is increasing steadily; the building trade is brisk, and, in consequence, timber is fetching higher rates; stores and cottages are springing up in all directions, and on the whole this place is assuming the appearance of a settled population.

The quantity of gold deposited at the Banks is 826 ounces. The falling off in the quantity is accounted for by the severe weather preventing the miners from bringing their stuff to the machines.

At Hastings (Tapu Creek), there are new discoveries of gold every day, and the paddle steamer "Clyde," twenty-seven tons, is now a regular trader between the latter place and Shortland, and is doing a good passenger trade.

I have, &c.,

D. LONDON,

Landing Waiter.

To the Collector of Customs, Auckland.

No. 2.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. D. LONDON to the COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, Auckland.

SIR,—

Shortland, 20th May, 1868.

I beg to forward the enclosed statement of the number of vessels, nature of cargo, &c., together with the number of passengers arrived at Shortland, from the 1st to the 16th May, 1868, both days inclusive.

The quantity of gold deposited at the various Banks within the above period, is 924 ounces. Some of the machines are at a standstill for want of stuff to crush, the roads are so bad that carters are demanding one pound per ton for cartage, and the miners do not feel inclined to pay such high rates, they prefer to do without crushing until the roads are in better order.

Since my last report gold has been discovered at Kennedy's Bay, and several miners have taken their departure from Shortland with the intention of trying their luck in the former district. The favourite route from Shortland to Kennedy's Bay is in small vessels to Coromandel, and thence by a good track over the range, a distance of ten miles, brings them to the mining locality.

I have, &c.,

D. LONDON,

Landing Waiter.

To the Collector of Customs, Auckland.

No. 3.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. D. LONDON to the COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, Auckland.

SIR,—

Shortland, 13th June, 1868.

I have the honor to forward the enclosed return of the number of vessels and their tonnage, nature of cargo, &c., together with the number of passengers arriving at and departing from Shortland, for the fortnight ending 31st May.

The population of Shortland, including Puriri and Hastings, is estimated at 9,000, and the number of miners' rights issued to date is 6,483; the number of miners' rights is not a fair estimate of the actual number of miners at work on the ground, for when shares are sold the parties purchasing have to provide themselves with miners' rights to enable them to hold their shares. Now that the winter has set in a large number of the claims are being registered to enable parties to return to their homes for a short time, and until the necessary machinery in their immediate neighbourhood is completed.

The quantity of gold deposited with the Banks in Shortland, is 1,739 ounces, and this amount will not be increased before September next.

I have, &c.,

D. LONDON,

Landing Waiter.

To the Collector of Customs, Auckland.

No. 4.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. D. LONDON to the COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, Auckland.

SIR,—

Shortland, 30th June, 1868.

I have the honor to transmit herewith a return of the number and tonnage of vessels, and number of passengers arriving at Shortland, from the 1st to the 15th June instant, together with the quantities of spirits, wines, and tobacco (duty paid) within the above period.

I have, &c.,

D. LONDON,

Landing Waiter.

To the Collector of Customs, Auckland.

No. 5.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. D. LONDON to the COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS.

SIR,—

Shortland, 4th July, 1868.

I beg to forward the enclosed statement of the number and tonnage of vessels and nature of cargo, together with the number of passengers arrived and departed from Shortland, for the fortnight ending 30th June.

There is a marked increase in the number of passengers arrived within the above period, principally from the West Coast of the Middle Island; and I am happy to say that, from inquiries made among them, they are well satisfied with their prospects on these diggings.

The quantity of gold deposited with the Banks is larger than usual. This is accounted for by the large return from a crushing of two tons of stuff from the "Manukau Claim," which yielded above 1,200 ounces of melted gold.

I have, &c.,

D. LONDON,

Landing Waiter.

To the Collector of Customs, Auckland.

No. 6.

SUMMARY of RETURNS referred to in Mr. LONDON'S REPORTS of 9th MAY, 20th MAY, and 13th JUNE, 1868.

	During the Fortnights ending—		
	30th April, 1868.	16th May, 1868.	31st May, 1868.
Shipping—			
Vessels	62	107	101
Tons	1,862	3,089	2,925
With Cargoes	60	97	88
In Ballast	2	10	13
Passengers Inwards	1,415	1,751	1,491
Do. Outwards	973	1,490	1,405
Building Materials—			
Timber	157,000 feet	362,600 feet	316,600 feet
Shingles	215,000 No.	240,500 No.	407,000 No.
Bricks	1,000 "	12,600 No.	76,000 No.
House Blocks ... ..	...	400 feet	100 feet
Palings ... ..	...	...	4,300 No.
Lime ... ..	...	...	105 bushels
Provisions—			
Flour	42½ Tons	31½ tons	61½ tons
Potatoes	23½ "	10½ tons	37 tons
Biscuit ... ..	...	...	1½ tons, 10 cases
Eggs	4 boxes	3 boxes	8 boxes
Carcases of Beef ... ..	...	6 No.	18 No.
Salt ... ..	...	...	10 cwt.
Groceries—			
Soap ... ..	...	22 boxes	...
Sugar	4 tons 19 bags	3 tons, 39 bags, 6 mats	3 tons, 58 bags, 32 mats, 132 gunnies
Tea	11 half-chests	10 chests, 29 ½-chests, 24 boxes	32 chests, 24 ½-chests, 9 boxes
Coffee ... ..	...	...	2 cases
Oatmeal ... ..	...	...	2 casks
Butter	5 kegs	66 kegs, 13 boxes	18 kegs
Cheeses	40 No.	128 No., half-ton	...
Candles ... ..	...	55 boxes	10 boxes
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	315 packages	304 packages
Tobacco	1 qr.-tierce, 4 boxes, 5 pkgs.	2 cases, 5 boxes, 7 packages	1 case 1 package
Cigars	6,800 No.	18,000 No.	...
Spirits—			
Brandy	11 qr.-casks, 87 cases, 3 kegs	9 qr.-casks, 90 cases, 7 kegs	8 qr.-casks, 105 cases, 3 kegs
Rum	2 qr.-casks, 4 kegs	1 quarter-cask, 4 kegs	3 quarter-casks, 4 kegs
Whisky	5 qr.-casks, 27 cases	51 cases, 5 kegs	3 quarter-casks, 18 cases
Geneva	6 cases, 22 half-cases	5 cases, 5 half-cases	5 cases, 10 gallons
Old Tom	18 cases	4 cases	12 cases
Wine	29 cases	2 qr.-casks, 23 cases, 1 keg	1 qr.-cask, 35 cases, 6 kegs
Ale and Beer	62 hhds., 23 barrels, 55 casks, 19 cases	35 hhds., 13 barrels, 20 casks, 87 cases	57 hhds., 41 barrels, 20 casks, 123 cases
Live Stock—			
Horses	4 No.	3 No.	13 No.
Donkeys ... ..	...	...	1 No.
Bullocks	25 No.	15 No.	18 No.
Cows ... ..	...	2 No.	7 No.
Sheep	141 No.	350 No.	38 No.
Fodder—			
Bran ... ..	...	3 tons	6 tons
Hay	1 ton	12 tons	4 tons 12 bales
Grain—			
Maize ... ..	...	1 ton	50 bags, 114 bushels
Oats ... ..	...	...	20 bags
Wheat ... ..	...	...	90 bushels
Machinery	16 tons, 4 packages	1 ton, 61 packages	15 tons, 52 packages
Iron ... ..	...	...	3 tons
Coals ... ..	...	226½ tons	36 tons
Quicksilver	8 bottles	3 bottles	4 bottles
Miscellaneous	24 packages	502 packages	5 tons, 394 packages

No. 7.

SUMMARY of RETURNS referred to in Mr. LUNDON'S REPORTS of 30th JUNE and 4th JULY, 1868.

	During the Fortnight ending—	
	15th June, 1868.	30th June, 1868.
Shipping—		
Vessels	95	108
Tons	2,728	2,941
With Cargoes	76	97
In Ballast	19	11
Passengers Inwards	1,663	2,089
Do. Outwards	1,341	1,572
Building Materials—		
Timber	233,343 feet	206,880 feet
Shingles	9,000 No.	126,400 No.
Bricks	23,700 No.	27,900 No.
House Blocks	Nil.	Nil
Palings	500 No.	...
Lime	6 bags, 130 bushels	775 bushels
Provisions—		
Flour	20 tons	58 tons
Potatoes	31½ tons	22 tons
Biscuits ... ..	...	27 cases
Eggs	Nil.	Nil
Carcases of Beef ... ..	...	63 No.
Salt ... ..	...	1 ton, 10 bags
Groceries—		
Soap	4 boxes	14 boxes
Sugar	4 tons, 158 bags	4 tons, 46 bags, 6 gunnies, 128 mats
Tea	1 chest, 21 half do., 10 boxes	3 chests, 57 half-ditto, 1 box
Coffee	Nil.	Nil
Oatmeal	Nil.	Nil
Butter	33 kegs	33 kegs
Cheeses	Nil.	Nil
Candles	38 boxes	148 boxes
Miscellaneous	358 pkgs.	313 packages
Tobacco	7 boxes, 7 pkgs., 1 case	3 boxes, 4 pkgs., 2 cases, 57 lbs.
Cigars	Nil.	Nil.
Spirits—		
Brandy	1 hhd., 11 qr.-casks, 72 cases, 5 kegs	8 qr.-casks, 128 cases, 7 kegs
Rum	0 " 2 " 0 " 6 "	5 " 0 " 2 "
Whisky	0 " 3 " 66 " 5 "	3 " 12 " 3 "
Geneva	8 cases, 2 half do.	17 cases
Old Tom ... ..	...	22 cases
Wine	2 qr.-casks, 48 cases	1 qr.-cask, 61 cases
Ale and Beer	35 hhd., 13 barrels, 14 casks, 6 cases	56 hhd., 29 barrels, 15 casks, 44 cases
Live Stock—		
Horses	14 No.	9 No.
Donkeys	Nil.	Nil.
Bullocks	23 No.	27 No.
Cows	Nil.	Nil.
Sheep	6 No.	242 No.
Fodder—		
Bran	3 tons, 10 bags	2 tons, 60 bags
Hay	7½ tons	3 tons
Grain—		
Maize	7½ tons, 50 bushels	1½ tons, 94 bags
Oats	1 ton, 17 bags	2 tons, 50 bags
Wheat	Nil.	Nil.
Machinery	92 pkgs.	30 pkgs.
Iron ... ..	...	1½ tons
Coals	40 tons	22 tons
Quicksilver	Nil.	Nil.
Miscellaneous	335 pkgs.	159 pkgs.

