

1877.

NEW ZEALAND.

IMMIGRATION.

(LETTERS TO THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW ZEALAND, COVERING REPORTS UPON IMMIGRANT SHIPS BY IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS.)

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

NOTE.—The Reports of the Surgeon-Superintendents are not published, as the substance of them is embodied in the Commissioners' Reports.

No. 1.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 167.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 28th July, 1876.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the "City of Dunedin," which vessel arrived at Port Lyttelton upon the 1st July, 1876:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Surgeon-superintendent's report. 3. Certified list of births and deaths.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
H. A. ATKINSON.

Enclosure in No. 1.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "CITY OF DUNEDIN."

THE Commissioners report the arrival of this ship on the 1st instant, after a passage of 98 days. The number on board comprised 36 families, representing 161 souls, equal to 122 statute adults, 59 single men and 56 single women—total, 276 souls, equal to 237 statute adults. The health of the immigrants had been good throughout the voyage. The surgeon reported one birth and one death (an infant). The 'tween-decks were lofty and the compartments clean, but the light was very insufficient. The space in the issuing-room and dispensary was also insufficient; the surgeon was compelled to remove the dispensary to the single men's hospital, in order to allow more room for the issue of stores. The bath and water-closet in the single women's compartment did not work well, the chief reason being that the discharge pipe was of insufficient length. The bath-room on deck for the use of males was in good order. The forms placed on board were very slightly constructed, and consequently several were broken early on the voyage; the other fittings were of a more satisfactory character. The provisions were good, had been served out regularly, and no complaints were made. The condenser (Chaplin's) had worked satisfactorily. The regulations respecting boat and fire drill had been attended to. The immigrants appeared strong, healthy, and well adapted for the requirements of the colony. They spoke highly of the kind treatment they had received at the hands of the captain, surgeon, and officers of the ship. The Commissioners recommended payment of full gratuities.

Lyttelton, 14th July, 1876.

FREDE. D. GIBSON.
J. E. MARCH.

No. 2.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 188.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 22nd August, 1876.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the ship "Camperdown," which vessel arrived at Nelson upon the 4th July ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Certified list of births and deaths. 3. Correspondence relative to the conduct of the captain and surgeon, and their treatment of the immigrants. Although, upon the recommendation of the Commissioners, I authorized the payment to Dr. Booth of his full gratuity, from circumstances which have since come under my notice I do not consider he should again be employed by the New Zealand Government.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
H. A. ATKINSON.

1—D. 3.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "CAMPERDOWN."

SIR,—

Nelson, 13th July, 1876.

We have the honor to report the arrival, on 4th July, of the ship "Camperdown," R. F. Paton, master, eighty-one days out, having left Gravesend on 14th April with 410 souls, equal to 352½ statute adults. Three births occurred during the voyage, and one death—a married woman—from convulsions connected with pregnancy. No special disorder appeared among the immigrants—in fact, they have arrived in a remarkably healthy condition, as evidenced by there being no applicants for hospital treatment either as in or out patients. We cannot but attribute this to the special capabilities of the "Camperdown" for carrying emigrants, being roomy, cleanly, and well ventilated, and, like the "Fennglen," provided with alleys between the berths and ship's sides. Provisions and water ample and of good quality. Once during the voyage the condenser was not worked for three consecutive days, owing to repairs, the issue of water to the passengers was not, however, curtailed thereby. Some complaints of incivility on the part of the surgeon-superintendent were made by many of the passengers, but not of a nature to justify us in holding any inquiry, or to recommend that the gratuity should be withheld; we have therefore to recommend that all the usual gratuities be paid.

The crew and passengers had been frequently mustered at their several posts, as for fire drill, but were not exercised.

We have, &c.,

LEONARD BOOR.

ALFRED GREENFIELD.

JAMES S. CROSS.

The Hon. the Minister for Immigration,
Wellington.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2.

The IMMIGRATION OFFICER, Hokitika, to the UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION.

(Telegram.)

Hokitika, 21st July, 1876.

THE following letter appeared in this day's *Grey River Argus*. Should the statement therein contained not be inquired into at once?—"Sir,—The British working men are led to think that they will be able to find employment immediately on their landing, but such we find is not the case, as we have been in New Zealand about a fortnight, and we cannot find work anywhere. Again, Sir, the immigrants do not get at all well treated during the passage here; at least we were not treated well on the ship 'Camperdown,' for we were kept short of provisions and also of water. In fact, we were kept so short that we had to get a petition signed to get the matter remedied, but little notice was taken of it, and some of the immigrants received brutal treatment at the hands of the captain of the ship (Captain Paton). For an instance we refer to the following:—Two men were put in irons and fastened upon the deck for several hours on a very cold day without any protection from the weather, for the simple offence of going downstairs while cleaning was going on; and, again, two of the immigrants were brutally kicked by Captain Paton because they were not of the same religion as himself. Two others were flogged like felons for a very trivial offence; and we, the undersigned, complained to the Commissioners at Nelson of these things, but our complaints were not inquired into. Now, Sir, we would like to ask the public a fair question, if they think it right to thus impose on the working classes by enticing them here under pretence that there is plenty of work. We think it far from being just to gentlemen to give up good homes in England, and come here and not be able to find employment, and also ill-used on the journey.—We have, &c., C. R. F—, S. H. D—.—Immigrants' Dépôt, Greymouth, 18th July, 1876."

C. E. Haughton, Esq., Wellington.

F. A. LEARMONTH.

Enclosure 3 in No. 2.

The UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION to the IMMIGRATION OFFICER, Hokitika.

(Telegram.)

Immigration Office, Wellington, 22nd July, 1876.

THANKS for information *re* letter in *Grey River Argus*. Inquiry shall at once be made. I have no doubt that the statements are absolutely false.

C. E. HAUGHTON.

Enclosure 4 in No. 2.

Mr. R. P. PATON to the UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION.

SIR,—

Ship "Camperdown," Wellington, 24th July, 1876.

In answer to yours of the 22nd, I beg to deny the assertion made by the two emigrants F— and D—, as wholly untrue. These men appended their names to a statement published in a Nelson paper of the 11th instant, which was entirely false, and which—the facts elicited before a Court of inquiry (held by a number of gentlemen residents of that port) previous to the emigrants leaving the vessel, will bear witness to. I am, it appears, accused of ill-treating some of the emigrants. I certainly was surprised to read such a statement in the Nelson paper, but when I read this intimation of a similar paragraph in the *Grey River Argus*, with these two names again appended, I begin to think there is some one else deeply interested in it, and bent on mischief, if possible. It certainly is true two men were put in irons for insubordination, on complaint being made by one of the constables to Dr. Booth, but expressly on the doctor's command. Then, as to the men who are stated to have been brutally kicked by me, the facts of the matter are these: Two men (professed atheists) were

brought before me charged with making public use of a book on atheism in the fore compartment, and inciting the rest of the single men to be of the same mind as themselves. When brought before me they would argue the point, when I took the book from them (which is still in my possession), and gave each of them a kick forward. Two others are accused of having been flogged like felons. There were two young lads about seventeen years of age who were continually doing mischief—they got a few stripes with a piece of spun yarn, for throwing overboard some of the ship's furniture (solely at the doctor's express wish); in fact, anything connected with the emigrants was wholly at the doctor's command. Then as to the provisions, the fact of their continually supplying the crew with surplus stores, and no matter at what time of the day you looked over the side you would see whole biscuits floating past and whole tins of preserved meat, will confound that statement and show that they had not only abundance but plenty to waste. And as for the water, the tanks on board of the ship will speak for themselves; all through the tropics there were from 400 to 600 gallons of water served out daily, and from the time the ship's condenser was used there were from 420 to 440 gallons condensed daily, which can be proved by the ship's log. In conclusion, I would ask you and the public at large whether if I had ill-treated or in any way swerved from the path of kindness towards any one of the emigrants, I should hold possession of voluntary testimonials signed by the majority of the emigrants two or three days previous to their arrival in Nelson, and a vote of thanks for the able manner in which I managed the vessel on the passage from England to New Zealand. Hoping I have by this clear and lucid statement in some measure rendered this slander innocuous,

I have, &c.,

ROBERT P. PATON,
Master, ship "Camperdown."

The Under Secretary for Immigration.

Enclosure 5 in No. 2.

The Rev. F. E. TELLING SINCOX to Mr. R. P. PATON.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN PATON,—

3, Terrace Place, Napier, 22nd July 1876.

I think a letter so glaringly false, and emanating from such people as D— and F—, is not worth even a consideration, much less the trouble of a reply. If the Government desire to hold a Court of inquiry, I shall be glad to bear testimony in your behalf. I was a witness of the so-called "brutal treatment" (which, by the by, was at the instigation of Dr. Booth), as was also the water thrown upon the females. The statement about lack of provisions and water is as ridiculous as it is false. I had a private conversation with poor Mr. Elliott the day before his decease, and he expressed his admiration of the ship, and I told him then there would probably be some Irish complaints about water and provisions. His reply was, "Their present condition speaks for itself." I think it is a great pity that an Irish doctor should be appointed to a ship where the majority of the emigrants are Irish.

Considering the obstacles put in my way by Dr. Booth, I think I did far more than many clergymen would have done under the circumstances. For the doctor's sake I am concerned. I hope there will be no inquiry; but if there should be, you may telegraph me as a witness, and I shall then have an opportunity of defending myself.

I have, &c.,

F. E. TELLING SINCOX.

P.S.—You are at liberty to make whatever use you like of this letter.

Enclosure 6 in No 2.

The UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION to Mr. R. P. PATON.

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 27th July, 1876.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 24th July instant, relative to the articles which have appeared in the Greymouth and Nelson papers with regard to the alleged ill-treatment of emigrants by you during the voyage of the "Camperdown."

The Hon. the Minister directs me to forward you a copy of the Immigration Commissioners' report upon the ship, which you are at liberty to make public, and further directs me to inform you that the testimonials from the immigrants, forwarded for his perusal, indicate without doubt the general feeling of satisfaction by the passengers with their treatment during the voyage.

I have, &c.,

C. E. HAUGHTON,
Under Secretary.

B. P. Paton, Esq.,
Master, ship "Camperdown," Wellington.

No. 3.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 201.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 18th September, 1876.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the "Bebington," which vessel arrived at Auckland upon the 15th July last, after a voyage of 140 days:— 1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Complaints by certain immigrants; with remarks by Commissioners. 3. Extracts from report by Immigration Officer relative to W— C— and Mrs. K—. 4. Reports from Immigration Officer and surgeon-superintendent relative to origin of disease, and suitability of "Bebington" as an emigrant ship. 5. Certified list of births and deaths.

As the diary kept by the surgeon-superintendent during the voyage contains many practical suggestions, I send it to you in original for your information.

You will learn from a perusal of the above documents that the voyage of the "Bebington" was an extremely unfortunate one from the commencement, and that the surgeon-superintendent and captain had to contend with a great deal of discontent amongst the immigrants, owing in a great measure to the unsuitability of the vessel for the service. I must refer you to the report of the Royal Commission upon this vessel in 1873 (D. 1, 1873, page 14), wherein it is stated that, from a personal inspection of the ship, the Commissioners were of opinion that the "Bebington" was not a fit and proper vessel for the transport of emigrants, &c., and you will observe that this opinion is concurred in by the Immigration Commissioners at the port of Auckland, who recently inspected her. Under these circumstances, I have to request that you will furnish me with a full report from the proper officer as to his reason for again recommending so unsuitable a vessel for the conveyance of emigrants to this colony. The Commissioners also remark upon the scanty outfit of many of the immigrants. This should also be reported upon by the officer concerned.

With regard to the bad quality of the flour, and the short supply of coal, I have deemed it right to make a deduction from the second moiety of the passage money payable to the contractors. The sum of £85 has accordingly been deducted from this account.

On referring to Sir Julius Vogel's letter of 29th June, 1874, forwarding report upon the ship "La Hogue," you will observe that many of the omissions and irregularities which were then complained of still exist. I would also inquire why clause 4 of that letter, recommending the use of certain books and forms, has not been given effect to.

From what I can learn, the captain and surgeon-superintendent of this vessel have both performed their duties satisfactorily and to the best of their abilities; and in forwarding you Dr. Russell's diary, I do so with the hope that his valuable remarks and suggestions will receive every consideration from you. This gentleman has now made three voyages to this colony in medical charge of Government immigrants, and in each instance has he been highly commended by the local officers who have inspected the vessels under his charge.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,

H. A. ATKINSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT ON SHIP "BEBINGTON."

SIR,—

Auckland, August, 1876.

We have the honor to report that we inspected the ship "Bebington," J. P. Holdich, master, from London, on the 7th instant. In consequence of this vessel having been in quarantine from 15th July to 5th August, all the fixtures had been removed previous to being admitted to pratique. Although some improvement has been effected in the ventilation since this ship was condemned in Wellington in 1873, the side scuttles have not been increased to the number then stated as required, and the present increased ventilation is badly distributed. The compartments were sufficiently large and light except the married compartment, which must have been quite dark if the hatch was covered. The few samples of provisions produced (the stores having been nearly all consumed) for our inspection were very good. The captain stated that he condemned twenty-four barrels of the original stock of flour; the sample produced was very bad and unfit for food: this was replaced by a quantity purchased at Algoa Bay. The ventilation was sufficient according to the requirements of the Act, but badly distributed; the after compartment had six side scuttles, and the centre compartment (married people) only three. The following is the distribution of ventilation:—Two quarter hatches abaft saloon always open; two large air scuttles through saloon deck opening on main with glass frames; four small ventilators in main deck, two on each side of saloon; one ventilator just abaft companion hatch; twelve deck "bull's-eye" lights; and one side-light scuttle on port side. Six side-light scuttles, three on each side; two small cowl ventilators in main deck, and one in fore-companion hatch. One side-light scuttle on port side, and two on starboard; one air scuttle made in deck after ship sailed; one skylight in main hatch; one skylight in after hatch; one air scuttle on each side of deck-house, raised after ship sailed—original height above deck about 6 inches, and raised to 3 feet 6 inches when at sea. We notice that the same error still exists in the combings of the temporary ventilators as reported by the Commissioners in 1873, when this vessel was condemned.

There were sufficient tanks on board with fresh water in case the condenser failed, but a very great oversight was committed by the emigration authorities in England allowing this vessel to leave without sufficient coals, there having been barely enough to work the condenser to Algoa Bay.

The suction hose was lost early on the voyage, consequently no exercise could be carried out in conformity with the regulations, and if fire had happened in the hold the consequences must have been very alarming. The captain states he had nothing on board with which to make a new suction hose, but he procured one at Algoa Bay.

In consequence of the collision in Channel on leaving England, the waste pipe of port urinal was carried away. This should have been replaced when ship put back to Portsmouth. Some inconvenience was experienced in consequence, and general complaints were made by the immigrants. The doctor states, "The water-closets were not good, those forward receiving a very insufficient supply of water, and requiring constant attention. The tank supplying them was too small to give force of water in the pipes."

The original hospital accommodation was insufficient, and the captain was obliged to purchase timber at Algoa Bay to construct another, which, from its position, must have been very badly ventilated. The immigrants were landed from Quarantine Station on Saturday, the 19th instant. They were all asked individually if they had any complaints.

The principal complaints were relative to the bad flour, and not having any bread on the voyage until they reached Algoa Bay. The doctor considered it was not fit for food, but the captain was unable to issue better until they arrived in Algoa Bay, when he purchased a supply, a sample of which was produced, and was very good.

The doctor in his journal reports that many of them had not even a change of clothes, and consequently it was utterly impossible to enforce cleanliness. This reflects great discredit on the officer in London whose duty it was to superintend the embarkation. The wonder is that the fever did not rage in a ten-fold degree.

We are perfectly satisfied that the captain and surgeon and officers used every endeavour to carry out their respective duties fully and faithfully. If any misunderstanding occurred between the passengers and officers of the ship, it has simply arisen from their endeavouring to keep order, and enforce cleanliness and discipline. We have much pleasure in recommending that the gratuities of these officers be paid.

We do not consider the ship at present fit to carry immigrants for the following reasons:—The same complaints as reported in 1873 still exist as regards hatchways, close watertight bulkheads between decks, preventing a free current of air, and the ventilation on deck being badly distributed, owing partly to the great space occupied by deck-houses; and this leads us to notice another serious defect in the want of upper-deck space for the recreation of passengers, especially as regards the single women, who by the regulations must be kept in the after-part of the deck, which is completely taken up by the saloon deck-house.

Captain Holdich made a complaint against some of the immigrants of insubordinate conduct, in having signed a letter of protest. We referred this case to the Crown Prosecutor, who decided there was nothing apparently insubordinate in their conduct. He also made other charges of insubordination against eight of them. We came to the conclusion that although they were guilty of insubordination, it would be useless attempting to prosecute, except in the case of J— A—, whose conduct deserved punishment. One of the immigrants, named McL—, escaped from the Quarantine Station on 3rd instant in the steamer which took provisions to the island. This case has been heard in the Police Court, and he was fined £5 and costs. The Act does not authorize proceedings to be taken against a person aiding and abetting in the escape of any one undergoing quarantine. We beg to draw attention to the 84th clause of "The Public Health Act, 1872," by which no one can lay an information except the Health Officer, a Custom House Officer appointed under the Act, or some person especially appointed by the Colonial Secretary. This might at some future time cause great inconvenience.

We have, &c.,

I. J. BURGESS.
EDWARD L. GREEN.
T. M. PHILSON, M.D.

The Hon. the Minister for Immigration,
Wellington.

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

The IMMIGRATION OFFICER, Auckland, to the UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION.

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Auckland, 30th August, 1876.

Agreeably to telegram of 28th instant, I herewith forward a special report of the surgeon-superintendent relative to the origin of sickness on board the "Bebington." Attached to this report is a letter from the surgeon giving a condensed report of his journal, and, as both these have special references to the diary, I forward that also, and I think it will be seen that Dr. Russell spared no trouble or exertion in attending to the comfort of the passengers. All his suggestions are forcible and sound, and I venture to hope the Government will recognize the zeal which actuated him in carrying out his arduous duties. Some of his remarks in the diary which ought to receive special attention are initialed by myself, and marked with a double cross in the margin.

In the diary on 3rd April, he states he was not requested to examine the provisions previous to leaving England. On the 25th May, he reports his reasons for asking the captain to purchase medical comforts and provisions at Algoa Bay. In the epitome, page 32, there are valuable suggestions relative to hospitals being on main deck; and on same page the reason is given for having appointed extra nurses. At page 35 there are certain suggestions relative to remuneration to surgeons.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD L. GREEN,
Immigration Officer.

The Under Secretary for Immigration,
Wellington.

Enclosure 3 in No. 3.

The SURGEON-SUPERINTENDENT, "Bebington," to the IMMIGRATION OFFICER, Auckland.

At the request of Major Green, I have to report on the "accommodation and comfort of the 'Bebington' as a passenger ship." In complying, I but reproduce the substance of entries in my official journals, some time since in the hands of the Government authorities. It is true I may somewhat more fully detail opinions and facts, though possibly the records referred to, written long ere I had the slightest knowledge of any previous history of the ship, may have more weight with such as would dare suggest I would be influenced thereby.

1. The vessel is not fast; even the able seamanship of Captain Holdich cannot disprove this assertion, which fact condemns her.

2. She rolls under almost all conditions of wind and weather, and to an extent no ship I have had any experience of approximates. Discomfort to the sane is consequently great; she must to the sick be very distressing. I beg you note R. G—'s case (*Medical Journal*). I there report thus:—

"Of bed sores, a word or two applicable to all 'bed cases' on board: My nurses have been most assiduous in their attention to the sick, and my especial request to examine and take steps to prevent any abrasion of skin has been fully acted on; but in such a ship all precautions to that end are unavailable; the continual rolling will, I am sure, tend to a fatal result even where acute disease may have subsided." I now declare it did so,

3. The space on the main deck was, for purposes of recreation, very limited; that of the poop markedly inadequate to the requirements of the single women. I shall, on request, produce a deck plan as evidence of this.

The water-closets, though better than I have before seen, and much more substantially constructed, were not good; those forward receiving a very insufficient supply of water, and requiring constant attention, due to two causes:—1. The tank supplying them was too small to give force to the current of water in the pipes. 2. During the latter part of the voyage it leaked to an extent hand-filling could not compensate, hence when the condenser was not in action (on which its supply depended) it was empty.

5. It will be noticed the main deck was encroached on by the ordinary seamen's house. I say this should have been the hospital block (if it be granted the encroachment was justifiable), and that assigned to the latter purpose, adjacent to the petty-officers' quarters, would have been a most suitable bath-room, its contiguity to galley and condenser further rendering it fit for this and condemning it for that. The representations I have before made in reference to main-deck hospitals and bath-room have in effect been ignored—scarcely an inducement to reiterate them. If my views thereon be unsound, why am I allowed to entertain them without refutation? If they be sound, why are they not acted on? I assert then again, for the last time, whatever my future in your Government service may be, "No ship should be chartered for the conveyance of passengers where the entire hospital accommodation and a bath-room are not available on the spar deck." Further, I reproduce a paragraph in my epitome of this ship's journal, in your possession: "Until both these recommendations have effect, I maintain the greatest practicable immunity from filth, disease, and death will not have been attained."

6. The ventilation of a ship is best determined by a critical reading of the thermometrical records of my general diary (in your hands). I need only supplement these by brief remarks. The aft and main compartments were fairly ventilated, the fore compartment badly so. The side ports were not so numerous as are desirable in a passenger vessel. About the middle of April, it will be observed, the temperatures ranged very high; one exceptional reading of 94° on the 11th, another of 92° on the 21st of that month, being notable; both these in the fore compartment.

6A. The fittings of the berths were good. The plans of the fittings (I here exclude hospital positions) perfect, and, excepting that the single men were somewhat "crowded" in that portion of 'tween-decks of fore compartment abaft the iron bulkhead, the distribution of berths was judicious, indeed could not have been improved on.

7. Probably the sole recommendation of the ship is that her 'tween-decks are exceptionally lofty.

8. The combings of the hatches were low, but the trim of the ship insured us against any evil that might have otherwise arisen. We shipped less water than any vessel I have ever sailed in.

9. The condition of spars and cordage I am not competent to report on.

12th August, 1876.

WILLIAM RUSSELL.

No. 4.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 212.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 5th October, 1876.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the "Waitangi," which vessel arrived at Lyttelton upon the 16th ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Surgeon-superintendent's report. 3. Certified list of births and deaths.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Commissioners, the sum of £50 has been deducted from the second moiety of passage money, on account of the bad quality of the flour supplied to the immigrants.

You will observe that the Commissioners again draw attention to the convenience of having direct communication from the single women's compartment to the poop.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,

H. A. ATKINSON.

Enclosure in No. 4.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "WAITANGI."

THE Commissioners report the arrival of this ship on the 16th instant, after a passage of eighty-four days. The health of the immigrants had been good throughout the voyage. The surgeon reported four births and no deaths. The 'tween-decks were lofty, well ventilated, and very clean throughout. The provisions had been served out regularly, and the quality was good with the exception of the flour, which was reported bad from the commencement of the passage. The Commissioners examined the bread supplied and also the flour, and they have to report that the sample shown them was very inferior, being exceedingly sour and caked into hard masses. The Commissioners were informed by the store-keeper that the sample was similar in quality to that issued during the passage. As the charter-party provides that "all articles of food shall be of the best quality," and as the flour was not of this quality, the Commissioners recommend a deduction of £50 from the second moiety of the passage money. The cooking and distilling apparatus worked satisfactorily, and the bath in the single women's compartment had kept in good order during the passage. The Commissioners were pleased with the arrangements in all the compartments—the plan of having the compartment for single women in direct communication with the poop, and thus preventing the necessity of their going on the main deck, is very advantageous, and should be adopted as far as possible in all ships. The immigrants appear to have been selected with great care; their conduct throughout the voyage was exemplary, and they are in all

respects well suited for the colony. The Commissioners have much pleasure in recommending the payment of full gratuities, and the further employment of the surgeon-superintendent should he desire it.

WM. DONALD.
JOHN F. ROUSE.
J. E. MARCH.

Lyttelton, 21st September, 1876.

No. 5.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 216.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 11th October, 1876.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the "Invercargill," which vessel arrived at Port Chalmers upon the 23rd September ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Surgeon-superintendent's report. 3. Certified list of births and deaths.

I observe with satisfaction the favourable nature of the report with regard to the ventilation of the ship and the health of the immigrants.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
H. A. ATKINSON.

Enclosure in No. 5.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "INVERCARGILL."

SIR,—

Port Chalmers, 25th September, 1876.

The ship "Invercargill" arrived in this port from Glasgow with 300 statute adults, Government immigrants, on the 23rd instant, having made a passage from port to port of ninety-one days. Two births and one death occurred on the passage, the latter being that of a young man who died of consumption. Dr. Hamilton, surgeon-superintendent in charge, reports very favourably of the health of the passengers during the voyage. On inspection, we found the several compartments of the ship in a most creditable condition, order and cleanliness being conspicuous throughout. The ventilation by side scuttles and deck ventilators was very effective, and contributed greatly to sustain the health of the passengers. Both the cooking range and condenser proved equal to all requirements. The immigrants expressed themselves fully satisfied with their treatment, and with the provisions supplied on the voyage. We are satisfied that the terms of the charter-party were complied with in every respect. Dr. Hamilton, Captain Muir, and his officers have fulfilled their several duties both faithfully and conscientiously, and are entitled to the gratuities assigned to them.

We have, &c.,
COLIN ALLAN.
JOHN DRYSDALE.
WM. THOMSON.

His Honor the Deputy Superintendent of Otago.

No. 6.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 228.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 19th October, 1876.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the "Waimea," which vessel arrived in Port Nicholson upon the 4th October instant:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Surgeon-superintendent's report. 3. Certified lists of births and deaths.

I am pleased to observe the generally satisfactory character of these reports, and I commend to your notice the remarks of the surgeon-superintendent, written with the practical knowledge obtained by four voyages in our emigration service. I again direct attention to the inferior quality of the plumbing work, which is the cause of great discomfort during the voyage.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
H. A. ATKINSON.

Enclosure in No. 6.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "WAIMEA."

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 10th October, 1876.

We have the honor to report the arrival of ship "Waimea," 848 tons, from London, with 245½ statute adults. The ship arrived at the anchorage about 2 o'clock on Wednesday, the 4th of October, with a clean bill of health, and was soon after boarded by the Commissioners, and everything found very clean and orderly. There were three deaths of young children from infantile diseases on the voyage, equal to half an adult, and one birth. An old lady of sixty-five years or more, whose passage had been paid by her son who was on board, and who had been ailing nearly all the voyage, requiring the doctor's constant attention, died the night after the mustering had taken place. The entrance to the single women's compartment was from the poop, part of the poop being used as a hospital, matron's cabin, and for

other purposes, the main compartment for the girls being below. It was found to be very roomy, clean, tidy, and well ventilated by an air shaft. The single women appear to be a superior class, and the matron has carried out her duties exceedingly well, no complaint of any kind having been made. The married people's compartment was amidship. This part of the ship appeared to be more crowded than any other, but was found clean, tidy, and well ventilated, having two hatchways, one skylight, and a good ventilator. The married hospital was below, and not in a good situation. Fortunately it was not required on the voyage. The married people also appear to be a good class. The single men's compartment was forward, and was also found in the same order as the others. There was a lot of open space, it had one entrance, and a good air shaft. The single men's hospital was well situated on deck. The single men appear to have behaved themselves well during the voyage. The usual questions were asked as to any complaints, and were replied to by three cheers for the captain and doctor. The 'tween-decks of the ship were about 7 feet 6 inches in height. The bunks were in blocks, with alleyways round the side of the ship. There were no side ports, but the ship was well provided with deck lights. Fire and boat drill was carried out during the voyage, according to the Government regulations. Attached is a report from the surgeon-superintendent, who has made four voyages to New Zealand in charge of immigrants. His remarks with regard to the windsails and the carbolic acid are worthy of attention. In conclusion, we beg to say that the captain, doctor, and officers appear to have carried out their duties efficiently, and we therefore recommend the payment of all gratuities.

His Honor the Deputy Superintendent,
Wellington.

We have, &c.,

ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, M.D.
JOHN HOLLIDAY.
JAMES B. REDWARD.

No. 7.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 234.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 13th November, 1876.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following documents relative to the "Timaru," which vessel arrived at Port Chalmers upon the 20th October ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Certified list of births and deaths.

I have to call your attention to the remarks of the Commissioners with regard to the character of some of the single women.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,

H. A. ATKINSON.

Enclosure in No. 7.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "TIMARU."

SIR,—

Port Chalmers, 23rd October, 1876.

We have the honor to report that the ship "Timaru," from Glasgow, arrived in port on the 20th instant, having made a passage of eighty-six days. Her immigrants numbered equal to 300½ statute adults, who appear to be a very suitable class to supply the wants of the province. There were three births and four deaths on the voyage, the latter being infants, who succumbed to the usual infantile diseases—namely, head affection and teething. On inspection, we found the several compartments of the ship in a very creditable state of order and cleanliness, which appear to have been carried out during the voyage under the superintendence of the surgeon. We particularly took notice of the ventilation as being admirable. The cooking range was large and equal to every requirement, and the condenser (Chaplin's patent) supplied abundance of wholesome water. The provisions supplied were of the best description and abundant. We were well pleased with our inspection, and are satisfied that the provisions of the charter-party were fully complied with. We also believe that Dr. Crawford, Captain Taylor and his officers, performed their respective duties in a most satisfactory manner. The instructions of the Government regarding fire drill were fully carried out. We would recommend that greater care should be exercised in the selection and inspection of the single girls. One of the latter on board gave birth to a child, and another is now near her confinement, and will have to be supported by the Government for some time thereafter.

We have, &c.,

COLIN ALLAN.
WM. THOMSON.
JOHN DREYSDALE, M.D.

His Honor the Superintendent of Otago.

No. 8.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 246.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 17th November, 1876.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relating to the ship "Orari," which arrived at Auckland upon the 2nd instant:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Immigration Officer's report. 3. Certified list of births and deaths.

You will observe that there have again been complaints as to the bad quality of the flour, on account of which the Commissioners recommend a deduction of £33 from the balance of the passage money. The deduction has accordingly been made. I have also to call your attention to the remarks of the Commissioners with regard to the case of C— M—, respecting whom inquiry should be made as to how he came to be passed as a suitable emigrant.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
H. A. ATKINSON.

Enclosure in No. 8.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "ORARI."

SIR,—

Auckland, 6th November, 1876.

We have the honor to report the arrival here, on the evening of the 2nd instant, of the ship "Orari" from London, 112 days out, with 278 souls, equal to 239 adults. There had been only one death during the voyage—a man named J. M—, of phthisis; he has left a wife and five young children. There were two births during the voyage. We found the ship scrupulously clean, and we have never had the pleasure of examining one more perfect for the conveyance of immigrants. The between-decks are unusually lofty, and there are twenty-eight side scuttles, and most complete ventilation; her measurement is capable of accommodating 256 adults. The only fault in her fittings on the main deck is the large space occupied by the poop and deck houses, which limits the space for the passengers airing themselves. The berths are most admirably fitted for light, ventilation, and convenience, there being continuous passages round them. The single women's compartment is in the after part of the 'tween-decks, and completely isolated from the next. Their ladder-way is through a scuttle hatch in the foremost poop cabin. The hospital is on the port side, and looked very clean and comfortable; the compartment is well lighted and ventilated. The married compartment is next; their ladder is under the main hatch, which is fitted with booby hatch. The hospital is on starboard side, and very clean and comfortable; the compartment is well lighted and ventilated. The single men's compartment is in fore part of 'tween-decks, is well lighted and ventilated; the two starboard cabins in the after deck-house are hospitals, which were very clean. The surgeon stated that the medical comforts were good and sufficient in quantity. We examined the stores, all of which appeared good except the flour and some tins of preserved meat. The captain stated he had a sufficient quantity of the latter on board to enable him to reject any of inferior quality. There was a general complaint by all the passengers of the bad flour; they seldom could eat the bread during the entire voyage. We recommend that the following quantity be charged against the ship—three tons, at the rate of £11 per ton. The passengers were perfectly satisfied with the quality and quantity of water; the condenser appeared in good working order and of sufficient size. There was a case of impropriety reported by the captain and surgeon against the matron, who had constantly to be checked for too much familiarity with the second officer. Although the case is not sufficiently serious to warrant proceedings being taken against her, we do not recommend her gratuity being paid. In conclusion, we cannot speak too highly of the captain, surgeon, and chief officer, and recommend that their gratuities be paid. A young man named C— M— has been reported by the surgeon as suffering during the whole voyage from incipient phthisis, and somewhat improved in health before landing, but is still in a delicate state of health; he should not have been permitted to embark.

We have, &c.,

EDWARD L. GREEN.
T. M. PHILSON, M.D.
I. J. BURGESS.

The Hon the Minister for Immigration,
Wellington.

No. 9.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 255.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 14th December, 1876.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the "Howrah," which vessel arrived at Nelson upon 9th November ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Surgeon-superintendent's report. 3. Certified list of births and deaths. 4. Memorandum by the Immigration Officer at Nelson as to the conduct of the chief officer and the surgeon. 5. Report of the Immigration Officer at Wellington.

I have to state that, after consideration of all the circumstances, I am of opinion that Dr. Lee should not be re-employed as surgeon-superintendent of an emigrant ship to this colony.

I have, &c.,

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

H. A. ATKINSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 9.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "HOWRAH."

SIR,—

Nelson, 17th November, 1876.

We have the honor to report the arrival, on the 9th November instant, of the ship "Howrah," W. R. Greeves, master, 103 days out, having left London on the 29th July with 299 souls, equal to 257½ adults. One birth occurred during the voyage, and two infants died, one five months old and the other six days. The immigrants arrived in good health, and expressed themselves well

2—D. 3.

satisfied with the treatment they had received on board. The "Howrah" is a fine ship, and the arrangements made for the accommodation of the immigrants were very satisfactory. The provisions and water were good and ample. The condenser worked well all the voyage, and averaged from 250 to 300 gallons. The crew and passengers have been regularly mustered for fire drill every week. We recommend with much satisfaction the payment of all the usual gratuities.

We have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister for Immigration,
Wellington.

LEONARD BOOB.
ALFRED GREENFIELD.
JAMES S. CROSS.

Enclosure 2 in No. 9.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER'S REPORT on Ship "HOWRAH."

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 1st December, 1876.

I have the honor to report the arrival of the "Howrah" on the 18th November, after landing and transshipping most of her immigrants at Nelson. There were seventy-seven adults—eighty-eight souls brought on here. The ship was boarded by Captain Holliday and myself shortly after arrival. The vessel having been officially inspected by the Commissioners in Nelson, it was not necessary to have a medical inspection. I was sorry to find on mustering the immigrants that a married woman named W—— had died of consumption since the ship left Nelson; she belonged to one of three families sent out by the Colonist's Aid Corporation. Fortunately a Mrs. W—— had no family, and she kindly arranged to take charge of W——'s two young children. The three families were afterwards forwarded to Feilding. The "Moa" was sent alongside by the agents of the New Zealand Shipping Company, as I had arranged to land the immigrants and their luggage at once, which was accordingly done. I have paid the gratuities to the captain, officers, and surgeon of the ship, as directed by a memorandum from the Acting Under Secretary. I should not feel justified in recommending the doctor for another ship. He appears to be unequal to the numerous duties required of a surgeon-superintendent on board an immigrant ship, especially if sickness should break out.

I have, &c.,

H. Bunny, Esq., Wellington.

JAMES B. REDWARD,
Acting Immigration Officer.

No. 10.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 261.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 15th December, 1876.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the "Dunedin," which vessel arrived at Port Chalmers upon 19th November ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Certified list of births and deaths.

I will address you further with reference to the surgeon-superintendent by the next mail.

I have, &c.,

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

H. A. ATKINSON.

Enclosure in No. 10.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "DUNEDIN."

SIR,—

Port Chalmers, 6th December, 1876.

We have the honor to report that the ship "Dunedin," with Government immigrants from Glasgow, arrived in port on the 19th November, having made a passage of eighty-four days. The report as to the state of health on board being handed to us, we learned that there were forty cases of measles under treatment during the passage, and nine deaths, three of which were directly and two indirectly traceable to the disease. On the recommendation of the medical member of the Commission, the ship was placed in quarantine, and the matter reported to the Colonial Secretary, as President of the Central Board of Health. The Board decided that the whole of the immigrants, with the exception of the cabin passengers, be removed to the Quarantine Station, and that the ship be thoroughly cleaned and fumigated, with a view to her being released on an early day. The families and single women were conveyed to the station on the 21st November, and the single men to Goat Island Station on the following day. The surgeon-superintendent, Dr. Stenhouse, reported that an infant had been attacked with measles on the 22nd, and that he immediately removed the family and child to the hospital. It proved to be a very mild attack. The captain of the ship having reported that he had fully and faithfully complied with the instructions given to him, authority was asked by the Superintendent of Quarantine to allow the ship to be released, and she was admitted to pratique accordingly on the 24th, when we boarded her for our official inspection. The several compartments were well fitted and clean, and the ventilation very good. Authority having been received from the President of the Central Board, on the certificate of the Superintendent of Quarantine, the single men on Goat Island were admitted to pratique on the 27th ultimo, and the married men without families and single women on the 28th ultimo, and conveyed to Caversham depôt. The remaining families numbering 71½ adults, were kept in quarantine for fourteen additional days, being the period allowed for the incubation of the disease, and as no fresh case broke out, authority was asked for and received to admit them to pratique on the 4th instant, which was accordingly done. A written complaint made by an immigrant named D—— G—— against Dr. Stenhouse, surgeon-superintendent, for alleged

inattention to his wife immediately before she died, was made a subject of investigation by the Commissioners on the 5th and 6th instant. There were eleven signatures to the document, all excepting one being written by the same person; and in our examination of the witnesses it was found that three of the signatures were adhibited without authority. The gist of the complaint was that Dr. Stenhouse declined to visit Mrs. G—— about an hour before she died, when called by one of the immigrants to do so. Nine witnesses were examined, including the captain and second mate of the ship. It came out in evidence that Mrs. G—— was very delicate when she embarked—that she was attacked with measles—that on the night referred to in the complaint Dr. Stenhouse visited her at 10 o'clock, the patient being then very low, that he prescribed a draught and instructed the attendant nurse when to administer it—that being without proper rest for some nights previously he went to bed, and was called by a man named B—— to visit Mrs. G—— about two hours thereafter—that Dr. Stenhouse said that it was no use for him to visit the patient as he could do her no good—that he afterwards visited her with Captain Whitson, and found she had just died. The evidence of all the witnesses went to prove that Dr. Stenhouse paid every attention to the sick during the voyage, the complainant G—— himself also having acknowledged that the former attended to his wife and children regularly during the time they had been ill, and that he had nothing to say against him until the last call. From the evidence adduced, we have come to the conclusion that while Dr. Stenhouse is entirely exonerated from all blame in respect to his treatment of Mrs. G——, we think he committed an error in judgment in not immediately acceding to the request made to him to visit the patient, although in doing so the result would be the same. The immigrants by the ship appear to have been well satisfied with the general treatment they received on the voyage, no complaint having been made to the Commissioners, excepting the one already referred to. We believe Dr. Stenhouse, Captain Whitson and his officers performed their respective duties with the utmost fidelity, and are entitled to their gratuities.

The Under Secretary for Immigration,
Wellington.

We have, &c.,
WM. THOMSON.
COLIN ALLAN.

No. 11.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 18.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 6th February, 1877.

Referring to the Hon. Major Atkinson's letter of the 15th December last, transmitting copies of reports, &c., upon the ship "Dunedin," I have now the honor to forward copy of a memorandum from the Immigration Officer covering copies of the evidence in an inquiry into a complaint which was made against the surgeon-superintendent. You will observe that Dr. Stenhouse is again recommended for employment in the immigration service.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
D. REID.

Enclosure in No. 11.

The IMMIGRATION OFFICER, Dunedin, to the UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION.

Immigration Office, Dunedin, 29th December, 1876.

I HEREWITH enclose the evidence taken by the Immigration Commissioners in the matter of the complaint made by D—— G——, immigrant per ship "Dunedin," against Dr. Stenhouse, surgeon-superintendent of said ship. The matter of your circular of the 13th instant was laid before the Commissioners, and they are unanimous in their opinion that nothing has transpired in the course of the inquiry prejudicial to the character and conduct of Dr. Stenhouse, and would therefore have no hesitation in recommending him for re-employment from the Agent-General, if he should so desire.

The Under Secretary for Immigration, Wellington.

COLIN ALLAN,
Immigration Officer.

No. 12.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 3.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 5th January, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following documents relating to the ship "Waitara," which arrived at Napier upon the 21st December ultimo, namely,—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Report by the surgeon-superintendent. 3. Immigration Officer's report. 4. Certified list of births and deaths.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
D. REID.

Enclosure in No. 12.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "WAITARA."

SIR,—

Immigration Commissioners' Office, Napier, 27th December, 1876.

We beg to report the arrival of the ship "Waitara" on the 21st instant. Owing to unavoidable circumstances we were unable to inspect the ship on her arrival; the pilot, however, on taking her

to her berth, learnt there was no sickness aboard. On the 22nd we inspected the ship in accordance with instructions, and found everything most satisfactory. The fire-engine and boat service were quickly acted upon after signal had been given. The fire service was in complete working order in three minutes after signal, and the boat service four minutes after word "Man overboard."

The cleanliness of the vessel does not require any further comment than everything was as it should be, and the Commissioners have much pleasure in recording their entire approval, as evidenced by the immigrants on inquiry, that the captain and officers of the ship had given every attention to their duties, and that the surgeon, Mr. W. Rogers, had unremittingly attended to the health and cleanliness of the people under his charge. The Commissioners, under instructions No. 349, beg to convey perfect satisfaction of the doctor's proper performance of his duties, and consider him a suitable person to have charge of immigrants.

The Commissioners have much pleasure in again congratulating the colony, or rather county, in having a healthy ship to its shores.

The Hon. the Minister for Immigration,
Wellington.

We have, &c.,
G. T. FANNIN.
H. S. TIFFEN.
J. M. TABUTEAU.

No. 13.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 15.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 2nd February, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the ship "Rangitikei," which vessel arrived at Lyttelton upon the 11th December ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report; 2. Certified list of births and deaths; 3. Surgeon-Superintendent's report; and to inform you that the recommendations of the Commissioners have been given effect to. You will note that the surgeon-superintendent is not recommended for re-employment. I have also to inform you that the Immigration Commissioners do not consider the captain, owing to violence of temper, is a fit person to have command of an immigrant vessel. You will therefore object to his commanding any ship which may convey immigrants to this colony. The agent of the New Zealand Shipping Company applied for a further inquiry upon oath, but, after obtaining a full report from the Commissioners, I did not consider the circumstances justified the issue of a Royal Commission. I have not forwarded copies of the correspondence, which is very voluminous; and as neither the surgeon nor captain will be re-employed, there will be no further difficulty on their account.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
D. REID.

Enclosure in No. 13.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT ON SHIP "RANGITIKEI."

THE Commissioners report the arrival of this ship on December 11th, after a passage of ninety-four days. In the early part of the passage measles prevailed amongst the children. Thirty cases were reported, the first appearing on the second day after departure, the last being convalescent on the 1st October. Six births and eight deaths were reported. The deaths, with one exception (that of a married woman who died of consumption), were from measles or its consequences. The compartment appeared fairly clean on inspection, but from the evidence appended the Commissioners fear that this was not the case throughout the voyage. The quality of the provisions was very satisfactory, and the quantity placed on board sufficient. The special dietary for children does not appear to have been issued during the earlier part of the passage. This appears from the evidence to have been due to the negligence of the issuing officer, the third mate. From the statements of the immigrants, the Commissioners gather that these stores were issued as soon as complaint was made through the surgeon. Statements were made to the Commissioners that spirits had been purchased by the immigrants through the baker, and this was corroborated in a passage in the surgeon's journal. It appears to the Commissioners that this sale was a private transaction of the baker, who sold a portion of his allowance clandestinely to certain immigrants. The Commissioners exonerate the captain from any knowledge of the transaction. The distilling apparatus worked well throughout the passage, and the fire and boat drill appear to have been attended to, weather permitting. The class of immigrants was satisfactory. The Commissioners regret that a want of harmonious action between the captain and surgeon, and between the surgeon and matron, prevailed throughout the voyage. They cannot acquit either party of fault in this matter. Neither of the three appears to have properly recognized the authority and position of the other. The surgeon's responsible position amongst the immigrants was not understood by the matron, nor the matron's authority over the single women properly appreciated by the surgeon, and consequently the captain's interference was frequently invoked unnecessarily, creating ill-feeling between himself and the surgeon, and leading to insubordination on many occasions. The Commissioners cannot but consider that it was a grave error of judgment on the part of the captain to cause to be posted in the single women's compartment a mutilated extract from the Passenger Act, clause 60, omitting all those words in the earlier part of the clause referring to the authority of the surgeon. The matron's diary shows a disposition to make frequent complaints, mostly of a trivial nature; while the surgeon appears to have been indisposed to pay sufficient attention in those cases where his interference was really required. The captain's interference, when solicited, appears to have been given freely, but in one or two instances with more violence than circumstances justified. The surgeon appears to have performed his professional duties with great kindness and

attention, and was spoken of in strong terms of gratitude by all classes of immigrants. The third mate appears to the Commissioners to have been totally unfit for the post, of issuing officer—rude and violent in manner, and generally by his conduct to have aroused suspicion amongst the immigrants as to the fair issue of the stores. His language was generally complained of by the immigrants as coarse and frequently indecent. The Commissioners append to this report extracts from the evidence taken at an inquiry extending over four days, and are of opinion that the non-issue of a portion of the children's stores at the commencement of the voyage should involve a penalty of £20 on the owners of the ship. The Commissioners recommend that the surgeon receive his gratuity, but are unable to recommend him for further employment under the New Zealand Government. They recommend that the captain's gratuity be reduced to £20, that the first officer's be paid in full, and that the third officer's be forfeited. The Commissioners consider that the matron and sub-matron, though injudicious, anxiously endeavoured to do their duty, and do not recommend any deduction from their gratuities.

WM. DONALD.
JOHN F. ROUSE.
J. E. MARCH.

Lyttelton, 28th December, 1876.

No. 14.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 29.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 2nd February, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the ship "Oamaru," which vessel arrived at Port Chalmers upon the 16th December ultimo, and was unfortunately placed in quarantine:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Certified list of births and deaths.

I have, &c.,
D. REID.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

Enclosure in No. 14.

(No. 24.)

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "OAMARU."

SIR,—

Port Chalmers, 8th January, 1877.

We have to report that the ship "Oamaru" arrived in this port from Glasgow with Government immigrants on the 16th December ultimo, after a passage of eighty-two days. On receiving the usual report, we found that there were thirty-one cases of measles and two cases of enteric fever amongst the immigrants during the passage, that the last case of the former occurred on the 8th December, and that of the latter was then convalescent; that four deaths occurred, two being from measles, one from diarrhœa, and one from infantile exhaustion. The ship was at once placed in quarantine, and instructions were given to the captain to have the immigrants and all their effects in readiness for removal to the Quarantine Station next morning (Sunday). The sick married people and single females were accordingly removed on that day, and the single men on the day following. Instructions were at the same time given to have all the fittings in use by the immigrants removed to the Quarantine Station, to have the ship well fumigated, and the between-decks painted. It is due to Captain Hood that we should here bear testimony to the readiness and promptness with which he complied with our instructions even in the most minute particulars. We accordingly advised that the ship be admitted to pratique on the 21st December. The single men on Goat Island, having washed their clothes and performed quarantine, were admitted to pratique on the following day. The married people without children, and the families the members of which have all had measles previously, having duly performed quarantine, were admitted to pratique on 28th December; the single females on Tuesday, 2nd January; and the remaining families, whose period of quarantine had expired without any indication of a fresh case, were admitted to pratique on the 5th January. The period of quarantine was prolonged in consequence of the occurrence of three cases of measles after the immigrants were landed on the station. Dr. Hasard, surgeon-superintendent, was in charge, and we have pleasure in recording our sense of the care and attention he devoted to his duties, and the promptness with which he executed our instructions with regard to quarantine. Our inspection of the ship was eminently satisfactory, and the testimony of the immigrants, who were all questioned before leaving the station, goes to prove that the provisions of the Passenger Act and charter-party were fully carried out. The immigrants spoke in terms of the highest praise of Dr. Hasard, Captain Hood, and his officers. We have pleasure in recommending Dr. Hasard for further service under the Government.

We have, &c.,
COLIN ALLAN.
JOHN DRYSDALE, M.D.
WM. THOMSON.

The Under Secretary for Immigration,
Wellington.

No. 15.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 17.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 6th February, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the ship "Leicester," which vessel arrived at Wellington upon the 20th January ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Surgeon-superintendent's report. 3. Certified list of births and deaths.

I have, &c.,
D. REID.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

Enclosure in No. 15.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "LEICESTER."

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 30th January, 1877.

We have the honor to report the arrival, on Saturday, the 20th instant, of the fine ship "Leicester," ninety-one days from London, with 287 adult immigrants, all well with the exception of a single girl, named D—— D——, aged twenty-two years, formerly a barmaid in London. We found her suffering from inflammation of the lungs, with severe cough, and every indication of phthisis. There were three births, and two deaths, one of an infant, and the other of a child over twelve months, reckoning half an adult. The "Leicester" was boarded by us before her anchor was let go, and everything found to be very clean and orderly. The immigrants appeared, except in three or four cases, to be a very desirable lot of people, being nearly all farm labourers. They all expressed themselves very pleased with the voyage, saying that they had been very well fed and looked after by the captain, doctor, and all on board. It was found to be too late to muster and pass the immigrants on Saturday. Monday being Anniversary Day and a general holiday, nothing could be done until Tuesday. On that day we proceeded on board at 9 o'clock, and mustered and inspected the people and ship. The "Leicester" is very well suited for the conveyance of immigrants, having a large amount of space on the poop and main deck, giving plenty of room for exercise; she was also very lofty between decks, and fitted with a good galley and condenser, which worked very well. The entrance to the single women's compartment was from the poop, their hospital being one of the stern cabins; and the bath-room and water-closets were also aft. The matron had one of the saloon cabins next to the doctor's. The main compartment, situated below the poop, was found to be very clean, roomy, and well fitted. There were two air shafts and six side lights. The bunks were in blocks, with a large space between them, and alley-ways all round the sides. This equally applies to all the compartments. The married people's quarters were amidships, with entrances by the main and after hatches; the bunks on the patent principle, which is a great improvement on the old style. There were three air shafts and eighteen side lights. The hospital for married people was 'tween-decks, facing the main hatch; the issuing-room on the opposite side. The single men's compartment was forward, and entered by the fore hatch. There were ten side lights and two ventilators. The single men appeared to be more crowded than any other part of the ship. Their hospital was well situated on deck. Fire drill, as ordered by the regulations, was carried out once a week, the saloon passengers taking an active part in it. We have much pleasure in recommending the surgeon-superintendent, Dr. Warren, for re-employment should he desire it, and also that all gratuities should be paid.

We have, &c.,

ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, M.D.

JOHN HOLLIDAY.

JAMES B. REDWARD.

H. Bunny, Esq., Wellington.

No. 16.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 27.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 7th January, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit for your information the following documents respecting the ship "Jessie Osborne," which arrived at Auckland on the 19th December last:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Immigration Officer's report. 3. Certified list of births and deaths. 4. Correspondence relative to boat and fire drill not being carried out during the voyage.

Having made inquiry as to the instructions issued to the captain and surgeon in this respect, I directed that the sum of £10 should be deducted from the gratuities payable to each of them, as a mark of the sense of the Government of the neglect of those officers in not carrying out the important duty intrusted to them.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,

D. REID.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "JESSIE OSBORNE."

SIR,—

Auckland, 23rd December, 1876.

We have the honor to report the arrival of the immigrant ship "Jessie Osborne," with 202 statute adults, on the 19th instant. We made a careful examination of the ship, and found everything clean and regular. The immigrants had no complaints, and looked well and healthy. The light and ventilation are not sufficient in the compartments for single men and single women. Had there been much rough weather, the hatchways must have been closed, which would have made the heat excessive. The fire drill and muster, agreeably to the Agent-General's letter of 23rd August, 1876, were not regularly attended to. The captain stated he did not receive any directions on this subject. The samples of provisions produced were all of good quality. The surgeon-superintendent conducted his duties satisfactorily, and is eligible for re-engagement. In conclusion, we recommend the gratuities to be paid to the captain and officers. Four children died on the voyage, the eldest aged two years, and one infant.

We have, &c.,

EDWARD L. GREEN.

I. J. BURGESS.

T. M. PHILSON, M.D.

The Hon. the Minister for Immigration,
Wellington.

Enclosure 2 in No. 16.

The IMMIGRATION OFFICER, Auckland, to the UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION,
Immigration Office, Auckland, 4th January, 1877.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 2nd instant, I now forward a letter from the captain and surgeon of the "Jessie Osborne," stating they were not on board at the time of inspection of the ship in London; they also stated to me verbally that the Despatching Officer was not on board when the inspection took place, and the captain only saw him for one hour before departure of ship. The surplus stores have not yet been handed over to me.

The Under Secretary for Immigration, Wellington.

EDWARD GREEN,
Immigration Officer.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 2 in No. 16.

Messrs. H. FALCONER and W. ALLNUTT to the IMMIGRATION OFFICER, Auckland.

SIR,—

Ship "Jessie Osborne," Auckland, 3rd January, 1877.

With reference to your memo. of to-day, we beg to inform you that neither of us received any instructions from the Despatching Officer, Mr. Smith, concerning fire drill during the voyage. We have taken care that the fire-engines and hose should be always kept where they would be most readily accessible in case of need, and they have been frequently worked by the crew and some of the passengers during the voyage, so that there might be no difficulty in getting them at work if their services should be required.

Major Green,
Immigration Officer, Auckland.

We have, &c.,
HUGH FALCONER, Master.
W. ALLNUTT, Surgeon-Superintendent.

Enclosure 3 in No. 16.

The ACTING UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION to the IMMIGRATION OFFICER, Auckland.

SIR,—

Wellington, 15th January, 1877.

In reply to your memorandum of the 4th instant, transmitting a letter signed by the surgeon-superintendent and captain of the ship "Jessie Osborne," in which they state that they did not receive any special instructions from the Despatching Officer in London with reference to fire drill during the passage of that vessel with Government immigrants to Auckland, I am directed to state that, after due inquiry, it is found that Captain Falconer received his instructions from the representative of the New Zealand Shipping Company, dated 15th September last.

In the general instructions issued to surgeons by the Agent-General, their attention is specially directed to the question in the following terms:—"I have to call your special attention to the notice which is posted in the between-decks, requiring that all adult male emigrants shall be exercised in fire-quarters drill at least once a week. You will be careful to note in your general journal whenever the crew and emigrants are so exercised, and also on every occasion on which the emigrants are mustered."

It is clear that both the captain and surgeon-superintendent of this vessel must have been aware of the instructions respecting fire drill, even though the Despatching Officer may not have specially directed their attention to the subject as he states he did.

Under all the circumstances, the Hon. the Minister for Immigration has directed that the sum of £10 shall be deducted from the gratuities payable to the master and surgeon as a mark of his sense of their neglect in not carrying out the important duties intrusted to them, which might have resulted in very serious consequences. You will be good enough to act in accordance with this direction.

The Immigration Officer, Auckland.

H. J. H. ELLIOTT,
Acting Under Secretary for Immigration.

No. 17.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 24.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 8th February, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit copies of the following documents relative to the ship "Waipa," which vessel arrived at Lyttelton upon the 24th January ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Surgeon-superintendent's report. 3. Certified list of births and deaths.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
D. REID.

Enclosure in No. 17.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "WAIPA."

THE Commissioners report the arrival of this ship on 24th January, after a passage of eighty-eight days. The health of the immigrants had been excellent throughout the voyage. The surgeon-superintendent reported one birth, and three deaths—infants. The Commissioners cannot speak too highly of the admirable condition of this ship on their inspection. The 'tween-decks were scrupulously clean, not a particle of dirt being seen, and in each of the compartments the utmost order and tidiness was observed.

The Commissioners also noticed with much pleasure the thorough discipline that prevailed on board. The officers co-operated heartily together in strictly carrying out the rules and regulations as laid down by the Government, and the immigrants cheerfully complied with them. The provisions had been served out in accordance with the dietary scale, and the quality was very good. The condenser and cooking apparatus had worked well throughout the passage. No complaints of any kind were made. In order to test whether the regulations respecting boat and fire drill had been carefully attended to, the Commissioners caused the alarm of fire to be sounded. The thorough discipline that prevailed on board was here made very apparent, and the manner in which the drill was gone through showed clearly that it had not been neglected during the passage. The immigrants appear to have been carefully selected, and very suitable for the colony. It is, however, to be regretted that a larger supply of female servants is not sent. The matron, Miss M——, performed her duties in a most satisfactory manner. The Commissioners have much pleasure in recommending payment of full gratuities, and the further employment of the surgeon-superintendent should he desire it.

We have, &c.,
 WM. DONALD.
 JOHN F. ROUSE.
 FREDK. D. GIBSON.
 J. E. MARCH.

Lyttelton, 27th January, 1877.

No. 18.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 25.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 8th February, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relating to the ship "Cardigan Castle," which vessel arrived at Lyttelton on the 6th January ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Certified list of births and deaths.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
 D. REID.

Enclosure in No. 18.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT ON SHIP "CARDIGAN CASTLE."

THE Commissioners report the arrival of this ship on January 6th, after a passage of ninety five days. The surgeon-superintendent reported that during the passage there have been five births and thirteen deaths, the latter from the following causes, viz.,—Pneumonia, 2; diphtheria, 2; apoplexy, 1; tabes mesenterica, 2; enteric fever, 1; atrophy from birth, 2; inanition, 1; softening of brain, 1; suicide, 1. The first case of enteric fever occurred October 17, convalescent November 20; last case, December 20; under treatment, eight cases. The ship was accordingly placed in quarantine, the families and single women being landed at Ripa Island, and the single men at Quail Island. During the detention of the immigrants in quarantine two deaths occurred—viz., E—— G——, aged four; F—— W——, aged eighteen. All the fittings of the ship were landed, and after she had been thoroughly fumigated she was released from quarantine. On inspection of the 'tween-decks they were found to be very lofty, the light and ventilation perfect, and the ship appeared to be in all respects admirably adapted for carrying immigrants. On January 16th the single men were released from quarantine. They spoke in high terms of the kind treatment they had received throughout the voyage from the captain and surgeon-superintendent. No complaints of any kind were made. On January 23rd the Commissioners visited the immigrants at Ripa Island, and report that all classes spoke very thankfully of the treatment received during the passage and during their detention in quarantine. The immigrants by this ship appeared well adapted for the requirements of the colony. The Commissioners recommend payment of full gratuities, and the further employment of the surgeon-superintendent should he desire it.

WM. DONALD.
 JOHN F. ROUSE.
 FREDK. D. GIBSON.
 J. E. MARCH.

Lyttelton, 23rd January, 1877.

NOTE.—Some of the preserved meat shown to me on board was very bad, the tins all blown up. It was labelled, "John McCall and Co., 137, Houndsditch, London." I find that wholesome food was immediately substituted.—WM. DONALD.

No. 19.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 33.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 8th February, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit copies of the following documents relating to the ship "Marlborough," which vessel arrived at Port Chalmers on the 20th January instant:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Certified list of births and deaths.

You will observe that the Commissioners have not recommended the surgeon-superintendent for re-employment.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
 D. REID.

Enclosure in No. 19.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT ON SHIP "MARLBOROUGH."

SIR,—

Port Chalmers, 31st January, 1877.

The ship "Marlborough," with Government immigrants from Glasgow, arrived in port on the 20th instant, after a passage of eighty-five days. Her immigrants, who numbered 233 souls, equal to 201½ statute adults, arrived in excellent health, there being no case of sickness on the surgeon's books on coming into port. There were two deaths among the children—one from febricula, and one from diarrhœa. The Commissioners at once cleared the ship, and proceeded with the usual inspection. The several compartments were visited, and found in a very creditable state of cleanliness and order. This ship not having been pierced with side scuttles, the married people's compartment was somewhat deficient in the matter of light. The immigrants, however, did not complain. The ventilation through the deck appeared sufficient. The condenser (Chaplin's) supplied abundance of water for all purposes, and the cooking range and oven were fully equal to their requirements. The immigrants were exercised in boat and fire drill twice a week in fine weather. The immigrants expressed themselves as fully satisfied with the provisions supplied, and their general treatment on board. A complaint was addressed to the Commissioners by the surgeon-superintendent that spirits were sold by the steward of the ship to the emigrants on the voyage. The matter being fully investigated, the Crown Solicitor recommended that no action should be taken, as it could not be proved. It was evident, besides, that the charge had its origin in a spiteful feeling between the two individuals referred to, and was of so paltry a nature that it was deemed unworthy of recognition. The captain brought a charge against the surgeon for breach of surgeon-superintendent's regulations. The Commissioners, after a patient investigation, dismissed the case. We are satisfied that the terms of the charter-party and Passenger Act were complied with, and that the surgeon, master, and his officers performed their respective duties to the immigrants in a satisfactory manner.

We have, &c.,

COLIN ALLAN.
JOHN DRYSDALE, M.D.
WM. THOMSON.

The Under Secretary for Immigration,
Wellington.

No. 20.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 41.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 2nd March, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following documents relative to the ship "Wiltshire," which arrived at Lyttelton upon 17th February ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Certified list of births and deaths.

I am glad to notice the exceedingly satisfactory character of the report.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,
D. REID.

Enclosure in No. 20.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT ON SHIP "WILTSHIRE."

THE Commissioners report the arrival of this ship on the 17th instant, after a passage of ninety-seven days. The health of the immigrants had been generally good throughout the voyage. The surgeon-superintendent reported one death, that of a married woman.

All the compartments were very clean, and in each there was ample room and ventilation. The provisions were of excellent quality, and had been served out regularly. No complaints of any kind were made. The bath in the single women's compartment had worked satisfactorily, and also the condenser and cooking apparatus. The regulations respecting boat and fire drill had been carefully complied with. In order to test the efficiency of the immigrants and crew in this matter, the Commissioners caused an unpremeditated alarm of fire to be sounded. The port hose was playing in eighty seconds, and the starboard one in two minutes and twenty seconds. The boats were lowered in one and a half minutes from the time of sounding the alarm. The immigrants appear to have been carefully selected, and very suitable for the colony. The Commissioners recommend the payment of full gratuities, and the further employment of the surgeon-superintendent should he desire it.

WM. DONALD.
JOHN F. ROUSE.
J. E. MARCH.

Lyttelton, 19th February, 1877.

No. 21.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 44.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 23rd March, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relative to the ship "Hurunui," which arrived in this harbour upon the 18th ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Surgeon-superintendent's report. 3. Certified list of births and deaths

I have, &c.,
D. REID.

The Agent-General for New Zealand,
London.

3—D. 3.

Enclosure in No. 21.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "HURUNUI."

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 26th February, 1877.

We have the honor to report the arrival of the ship "Hurunui" on Sunday, the 18th instant. The "Hurunui" originally left Gravesend on the 23rd of September, with 224 statute adults, but from sickness and other causes her number was reduced to 148 statute adults, and she finally sailed from Plymouth on the 20th of November, thus having been two months in getting away from England. We name this more particularly as we feel that the surgeon-superintendent should be allowed remuneration for his services during this long delay. There has been no serious case of sickness or any deaths. Four infants were born during the voyage from Plymouth. We inspected the ship and immigrants early on Monday morning, and were very well pleased to find everything so clean and orderly; the different compartments had all been kept whitewashed, which we think a great improvement. The single women were berthed under the after hatch; their compartment was well lighted, and they had abundance of room and fresh air; the bunks were in blocks, with alley-ways all round the sides of the ship. The hospital and bath-room were good and well situated. The married people's compartment was entered from the main hatch; it was found to be very clean, roomy, well ventilated, and lighted; the bunks were in blocks, fitted up on the patent principle, with alley-ways round the sides. The hospital and dispensary were under the main hatch, with the issuing-room on the opposite side—a most convenient arrangement. The single men's compartment, under the fore hatch, was clean, roomy, well ventilated, and lighted; the bunks fitted the same as those in the single women's compartment. The hospital for the single men was a good one, and well situated on deck. We consider the "Hurunui" to be well suited for the conveyance of immigrants, having large hatchways, plenty of side lights, and a good height between decks. The only thing we noticed was that the entrance to the single women's compartment was from the main deck, thus making it difficult to prevent talking between the girls and others. Evidently the surgeon-superintendent had felt the inconvenience of this, as he called our attention to it. The fire drill was carried out as ordered by the regulations. The people were put through the drill while we were on board, showing that they had been well exercised in it. There were no complaints of any kind made. The immigrants were all landed the same day, except one family, the mother of which was not very well, and it was thought advisable to leave them on board until the ship came alongside the wharf. In conclusion, we beg to recommend the surgeon-superintendent for re-employment should he desire it, and that all gratuities be paid. A report by the surgeon-superintendent is attached.

ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, M.D.

JOHN HOLLIDAY.

JAMES B. REDWARD.

H. Bunny, Esq.

No. 22.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No 57.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 28th March, 1877.

I have the honor to forward, for your information, copies of the following documents relating to the "Oxford" which arrived at Auckland upon the 1st instant:—1. Commissioners' report of the inspection. 2. Commissioners' report upon the case of T—D—, a supposed lunatic. 3. Certified list of births and deaths.

I have, &c.,

GEO. MCLEAN,

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

(for the Minister for Immigration).

Enclosure 1 in No. 22.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "OXFORD."

SIR,—

Auckland, 5th March, 1877.

We have the honor to report the arrival of the immigrant ship "Oxford" with 207½ statute adults, all well. We made a careful examination of the ship, and found everything clean and regular. There were only three complaints—two about the flour, and one of a bunk being wet constantly during the voyage from a leakage in the deck. These cases were found to be trivial, and we did not consider it necessary to make any special inquiries. T—D— was reported by the surgeon-superintendent to be idiotic. We shall make a special report of his case to-morrow. The light and ventilation were quite sufficient, and the accommodation in each compartment was adapted for more passengers. The fire drill and muster were regularly attended to. The samples of provisions produced were all of good quality. The surgeon-superintendent conducted his duties satisfactorily, and is eligible for re-employment. In conclusion, we recommend the gratuities to be paid to the captain and officers.

We have, &c.,

EDWARD L. GREEN.

I. J. BURGESS.

T. M. PHILSON, M.D.

The Hon. the Minister for Immigration,
Wellington.

Enclosure 2 in No. 22.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on supposed LUNATIC by "OXFORD."

SIR,—

Auckland, 6th March, 1877.

We have the honor to report that an immigrant who arrived by the ship "Oxford" was reported by the surgeon-superintendent to be quite idiotic. We examined this man this morning, and fail to find any evidence of insanity, or anything that would warrant us in recommending him to be sent back to England.

We have, &c.,

EDWARD L. GREEN.

I. J. BURGESS.

T. M. PHILSON, M.D.

The Hon. the Minister for Immigration,
Wellington.

No. 23.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 67.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 10th April, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following documents relating to the "Fernglen," which arrived at Napier upon the 20th ultimo:—1. Immigration Commissioners' report. 2. Immigration Officer's report. 3. Certified list of births and deaths.

I have, &c.,

GEO. McLEAN,

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

(for the Minister for Immigration).

Enclosure in No. 23.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "FERNGLEN."

SIR,—

Commissioners' Office, Napier, 31st, March 1877.

We have the honor to report the arrival of the ship "Fernglen" in the Ahuriri roadstead, on Tuesday, the 20th instant, and have again the pleasant duty of stating that all is well. In accordance with the instructions furnished, we proceeded to examine the ship—immigrants, accommodation, provisions, inquiring minutely whether the people were satisfied with the treatment, &c., which they had received from the officers of the ship. All unanimously expressed themselves in unqualified terms of gratitude of the way they had been treated on board. The stores and provisions, which we examined, were of very good quality. The ship very clean, well lighted and roomy between decks. The fire brigade, called without a moment's notice, were in good working order, expeditiously throwing water all over the vessel within two and a half minutes from the word "Fire" being called. The passengers speak well both of the captain and doctor—the former getting up sports in order to relieve the ennui of a long passage, the latter for looking after their bodily welfare.

The Hon. the Minister for Immigration,
Wellington.

We have, &c.,

H. P. TIFFEN.

THOS. HITCHINGS.

No. 24.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(No. 78.)

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 26th April, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the following documents relating to the "Northampton," which vessel arrived at Nelson on the 3rd instant, viz.,—1. Commissioners' report. 2. Certified lists of births and deaths.

I have to direct your attention to the portions of the report of the Commissioners in which complaints are made as to the faulty construction of the deck hospitals, the annoyance caused by the single-men saloon passengers, and also the question of the issue of water. Inquiry should also be made as to the construction of the hospitals, as the result might have been very serious had there been much sickness during the voyage. With regard to allowing single-men saloon passengers to proceed in emigrant vessels, I have to request that the utmost caution should be exercised before granting permission under clause 26 of the contract of 16th November last. I have also to request that full inquiry may be made into the circumstances under which the unfortunate man S— was allowed to come out as a Government immigrant after having been refused a saloon passage. Had he come as a private passenger, the provisions of "The Imbecile Passengers Act, 1873," would have applied to the owners of the vessel which brought him to the colony. With regard to the question of the issue of water, it appears to be clear, by clause 22 of the contract above referred to, that full rations of water, in terms of Schedule A thereto—viz., three quarts daily, are to be issued to each statute adult, the quantity required for cooking being separate and distinct. I am glad to note that, after full inquiry, the Commissioners at Nelson did not consider the dispute between the captain and the surgeon-superintendent of sufficient importance to call for the interference of the department. The "Northampton" arrived safely in Wellington Harbour on the 12th instant, and the immigrants selected for the Emigrant and Colonist's Aid Corporation were sent direct to Foxton on the following day.

The Agent-General for New Zealand, London.

I have, &c.,

D. REID.

Enclosure in No. 24.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT on Ship "NORTHAMPTON."

THE ship "Northampton," A1 at Lloyds, 1,161 tons, arrived at Nelson outer-anchorage on Tuesday, the 3rd of April, with 336 immigrants, equal to 283 adults. At 9.30 a.m. the Immigration Commissioners, with the Health Officer and pilot, went off to the ship, notice having been previously given to the agents. The usual questions from the Health Officer having been satisfactorily answered, the Commissioners went on board, and found all the passengers in good health, excepting one suffering from acute mania, and two or three of the female passengers from weakness; and the surgeon reported that the health of the passengers had been exceedingly good all the voyage. Two children died and two births occurred. The Commissioners then proceeded to examine the

ship and immigrants, and report as follows:—The accommodation between decks exceedingly good, being commodious, well ventilated, and the bunks well arranged away from the sides of the ship; the general appearance clean and comfortable. The provision issuing-room being between decks, within the married people's compartment, was a source of great annoyance to the occupants of that compartment, and should, in the opinion of the Commissioners, have been on the main deck. The deck-room was sufficient excepting for the single women, half the poop deck having been denied them to accommodate cabin passengers. Clause 26 of the contract provides that "no single men shall be taken in the ship as saloon passengers without the consent of the Queen," and the Commissioners regret very much that this provision has not been strictly adhered to. Three single men were cabin passengers by the "Northampton," and not only were the single girls restricted to one-half the poop deck in consequence, but it was next to impossible for the matron to prevent communication between them and the cabin passengers. The hospitals on deck were not well constructed; they were found to leak on the top and sides, and the partitions between the male and female hospitals were merely double half-inch planking, so that what took place in one part could be heard in the other. The cooking apparatus was found to be very complete and sufficient. The distilling apparatus has continued in good working order all the voyage, and is capable of distilling 500 gallons per diem. The average quantity distilled was 300 gallons per diem. The lavatories on deck were very convenient. Fire drill was not commenced until the 14th February, but after that date it was continued regularly every week with the use of engines and hose. The provisions were examined and found to be of good quality.

The immigrants were all mustered and individually questioned by the Commissioners. No complaints were preferred against the captain, surgeon-superintendent, matron, or any of the officers of the ship by any of the immigrants, but on the contrary many of them expressed themselves thoroughly satisfied with the treatment they had received on board. A document was, however, handed to the Commissioners, signed by 103 immigrants, setting forth that during the early part of the voyage the full quantities of some of the articles to which they were entitled by their contract tickets had not been supplied, and, further, that they had not received their full allowance of water. On concluding the examination of the ship and immigrants, the Commissioners were informed by the surgeon-superintendent that he was sorry to say he and the captain had disagreed, and handed to the Commissioners a long statement of complaints containing charges against the captain and matron. The captain then said that if the doctor brought charges against him, he had charges to make against the doctor. The Commissioners thereupon opened an inquiry into all the complaints, which lasted three days and a half, many witnesses being examined, and after a careful investigation came to the following conclusions:—

Short Issue of Rations.—It appears that for the first six weeks of the voyage there had been a mistake made in the issue of rations and water for children. This was found out by some of the immigrants, who represented the matter to the captain, who, after some discussion with a deputation he had appointed to meet him, agreed, although he thought his contract and the immigrants' contract tickets were at variance as to the quantity of water for children, to supply the full quantity of water mentioned in the ticket, and not only to give the full rations claimed for the future, but also to make up the deficient supply for the past six weeks. This was accepted by most of the immigrants, some six or eight only declining. The immigrants also complained that out of the three quarts of water allowed, two quarts were required by the cook for tea and coffee, &c., leaving them one quart only for washing and drinking; whereas they considered the water for tea and coffee should have been taken from the quantity allowed for cooking. The captain contended that tea and coffee rations were not supplied in a cooked state, and that the water required for them must therefore be supplied from the three quarts allowance. The contract is by no means clear about this, and the Commissioners think it should be put beyond dispute, and that if the captain's view of the question be correct the supply of water should be increased, as one quart of water is not a sufficient supply for washing and drinking. The Commissioners are quite satisfied that there was no intention to deprive the immigrants of their proper supply of rations; that they had plenty of food all the voyage; and the deficient supply having been offered to them, they have no real grievance.

Disagreement between Captain and Surgeon-Superintendent.—On the 31st of January, a fortnight after leaving port, the captain and surgeon disagreed as to the right of conducting Divine service, and from that date until the arrival of the ship at Nelson they have continued to disagree, and a bad feeling has existed between them throughout the voyage. Although this of course made it difficult for them to work harmoniously together, the general welfare of the immigrants does not appear to have suffered in consequence. The Commissioners, after considering the charges made, finding that the more serious charges could not be sustained, that others were of a trifling nature, and feeling satisfied also that none of them would have been preferred at all but for the quarrel, desire to express their opinion that, so far as they are able to judge, Captain Clare and Dr. Kesteven have performed their respective duties in a satisfactory manner, and that no charges have been sustained in any way reflecting on their characters.

Charges against the Matron.—Some charges were preferred against the matron of allowing communication between the single girls and the cabin passengers, contrary to the regulations; but from the evidence taken, the Commissioners are of opinion that the matron did her best to prevent it, but having fifty-three single women under her charge without any assistance, and the cabin passengers being allowed on the same deck, she was unable to enforce a strict observance of the regulations.

With reference to the case of lunacy, which has been a source of great trouble to many on board and to the surgeon in particular, from information given to the Commissioners, it appears that some four years ago the young man S— was placed under restraint, but since that time his mind had so much improved that his friends thought it safe to allow him to join his brothers in New Zealand, and as a man named K—, who was going by the "Northampton," was well known to S—'s friends, application was made for a cabin passage by that ship. This was very properly refused by the Agent-General, but by some means S— was put on board as an emigrant and placed under the charge

of K—. When symptoms of insanity were first developed he was placed in the hospital, but in a short time his noisy and violent conduct rendered it necessary that he should be removed, as other patients in the female hospital were much disturbed by him. The single men's lavatory was therefore fitted up for his accommodation, and although far from comfortable, it was perhaps the best that could be provided under the circumstances. Two constables were appointed by the surgeon to attend the patient, and gratuities of £5 each have been recommended for their services, which they have apparently well earned.

In conclusion, the Commissioners cannot too strongly condemn the departure from the provision of clause 26 of the contract in allowing emigrant ships to carry saloon passengers, especially single young men. Much of this trouble and disagreement may be no doubt attributed to the breach of this clause. The quarrel between the captain and surgeon-superintendent would probably not have lasted long had they been by themselves, and the trouble and anxiety of the matron has been considerably increased by allowing cabin passengers on the same deck with the single women. The attention of the Hon. the Minister for Immigration is therefore respectfully directed to clause 26 of the contract, which requires the consent of the Queen before cabin passengers may be carried by emigrant ships under contract with the New Zealand Shipping Company. All the usual gratuities are recommended to be paid; and the Commissioners have much pleasure in recommending the surgeon-superintendent, Leighton Kesteven, Esq., for re-engagement.

Nelson, 11th April, 1877.

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