

advisable, firstly, to make certain concessions to different classes of labour most needed by the Dominion—viz., domestic servants, farm labourers, and miners—which were eligible under the applied-passage scheme, also to add such classes as artisans, mechanics, and bricklayers under this category of reduced-rate passages; and, secondly, to accept immigrants under the Imperial overseas-settlement scheme.

In view of the fact that the object of this latter scheme is not generally known, I have to state that the Imperial Government appointed the Overseas-settlement Committee to deal with the problem of free emigration of ex-service men and women who had served in the recent war and who wished to settle within the Empire overseas. A large number of the best type of ex-service men have arrived in the Dominion under this free-passage scheme, and those who required it have been found accommodation and suitable employment. The following are the conditions under which these passages are granted:—

- (1.) Application is made to the Imperial Overseas-settlement Committee for free passage to New Zealand.
- (2.) Duplicates of applications are then submitted to the High Commissioner for approval or otherwise.
- (3.) Upon receipt of the duplicate application the High Commissioner requests each applicant to supply a medical certificate, also two references of recommendation as a suitable settler for the Dominion.
- (4.) When the approval of the High Commissioner has been given the Imperial Overseas-settlement Committee is advised accordingly, and they then issue a warrant-book of vouchers for train and boat tickets, also a document in lieu of passport.

At the time of first acceptance of immigrants under this scheme the conditions regarding housing and employment existing in the Dominion were totally different from those of to-day, and it has, therefore, been found necessary not to accept any further applicants under this scheme unless they are proceeding to assured accommodation and employment, thereby bringing them practically within the Government nominated policy.

The total number of arrivals in New Zealand from the United Kingdom during the year ended 31st March, 1921, was 14,444, consisting of 6,832 males and 7,612 females. Out of the total number of persons arriving—viz., 14,444—4,821 were assisted by the New Zealand Government, and 5,286 by the British Government under the Imperial overseas-settlement scheme. The number assisted by the New Zealand Government is made up of persons nominated in the Dominion, totalling 3,670, and of persons applying themselves for assisted passages in London, totalling 1,151.

During the year twenty-seven steamers brought out assisted immigrants as follows:—

Arrived in New Zealand.	Vessel.	Nominated Passengers.	Overseas-settlement Passengers.	Total.
April	Tainui	221	26	247
.. .. .	Corinthic	194	24	218
May	Remuera	87	96	183
.. .. .	Ionic	180	85	265
.. .. .	Paparoa	94	102	196
June	Arawa	146	111	257
July	Ruahine	133	143	276
.. .. .	Mahana	742	134	876
August	Rimutaka	86	79	165
.. .. .	Ruapehu	51	81	132
September	Athenic	188	170	358
.. .. .	Corinthic	208	200	408
.. .. .	Mamari	305	122	427
October	Tainui	254	104	358
November	Remuera	136	195	331
.. .. .	Ionic	180	201	381
December	Dorset	231	15	246
.. .. .	Arawa	115	146	261
January	Paparoa	93	74	167
.. .. .	Pakeha	623	163	786
.. .. .	Ruahine	53	261	314
February	Athenic	31	64	95
.. .. .	Otarama	182	59	241
.. .. .	Rimutaka	162	56	218
March	Ruapehu	90	115	205
.. .. .	Corinthic	35	85	120
.. .. .	Waimana	1	911	912
Indirect routes	1,464	1,464
Total	4,821	5,286	10,107