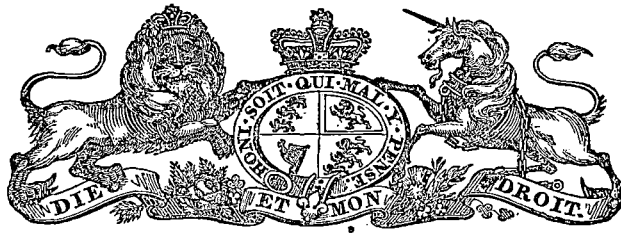


(No. 20.)



1865.

T A S M A N I A.

REPORT OF THE IMMIGRATION AGENT

FOR THE YEAR 1864.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 27 July, 1865.



Immigration Office, Hobart Town, 23rd February, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit my Report upon the Immigration Department for the year 1864, with the usual Statistical Returns (Nos. 1 to 7) appended.

The arrivals at the Public expense during the past year (118 in number) have, without exception, been sent for by relatives in Tasmania, who had themselves taken advantage of the Bounty and Assisted Immigration Regulations when emigrating from the United Kingdom.

In the Report for the half-year ended 30th June, 1863, it was notified that one hundred Single Female Bounty Tickets had been forwarded by the Board of Immigration to the Colonial Agents in London for issue, under the conditions of the Bounty Regulations, to the Committees of the National Female Emigration Society, London, and the Colonial Emigration Society, Birmingham. Contrary to the expectations both of the Commissioners in Tasmania and the above Societies, these Tickets (with the exception of 15, upon which as many Single Females arrived per "Greyhound" in December, 1863,) remained unused, and were returned to the Colony by Messrs. Julyan & Sargeant in July last, the period for which they were available having then expired.

The fifty Bounty Tickets for Single Females entrusted to Duncan M'Pherson, Esquire, for a similar purpose on his departure for England in February, 1863, have also been returned, that gentleman not having succeeded in carrying out the intentions of the Board with respect to the introduction of domestic servants of a suitable class.

As in former years, the "Black Ball" and "White Star" Lines of Sailing Packets have brought out almost the entire number of the Immigrants destined for Tasmania as far as Melbourne, whence they have been forwarded either to Hobart Town or Launceston by the regular steamers, at ship's expense.

As a general rule, the Immigrants have spoken well of the treatment experienced by them during the voyage from England; and several have borne testimony to the kindness and attention afforded them at the Immigration Depot, Melbourne, while awaiting means of transit hither.

In all cases the new arrivals have been received by those who sent for them, and have obtained employment without difficulty or delay, either in domestic service or as agricultural or ordinary labourers. So far as I can learn, they appear to be contented with their employers, and disposed to remain in the Colony.

The labour market does not show any decline in the demand for house servants, and the rates of wages continue unaltered. With regard to tradesmen generally, the demand and rates of wages vary considerably with the seasons.

I have made enquiries from employers of different kinds from time to time, and all agree on one point; viz.—that steady artizans and labourers who seek employment with a hearty spirit of industry need seldom be out of work.

An impression has existed for some years back, and, indeed, still exists in the minds of a considerable portion of the community, that the great bulk of the Bounty and assisted Immigrants to these shores has been induced by the greater attractions of the adjacent Colonies to migrate thither, to the serious detriment of Tasmania. That the grounds upon which this belief obtained a footing cannot be substantiated by facts I shall here endeavour to prove.

During the great gold excitement, when the rates of wages for all kinds of labour had reached to an unnatural height in Victoria and New South Wales, and at the time when our Bounty Regulations were in operation on a large scale, it cannot be wondered at if numbers of those just landed

on our shores, without any special inducement to remain from kindred or other associations, should have attempted to evade their engagements with the Government; nor was it possible, with the very limited, and utterly insufficient means at the disposal of the Immigration authorities for preventive purposes to oppose their egress with success. Of those who did leave, however, many were called upon and obliged to pay the amount of their passage money due to the Government; and it is but just to add, not a few came forward and voluntarily liquidated their liabilities.

The excitement alluded to has for some years subsided,—the great difference in the rates of wages here and elsewhere no longer exists, and that craving for a change has evidently died out, as shown by the fact that all our arrivals through this Department of late years have been sent for by permanently settled immigrants who had saved from their earnings since their arrival the cost of the Bounty Tickets.

Any resident in Hobart Town or Launceston who will take the trouble of questioning his neighbours or acquaintances as to the history of the artizans, labourers, or domestic servants employed by them, will find that in four out of five instances the answer, if given after due enquiry, satisfies him that the immigrants are still here. The same experiment might be tried as regards the homesteads of the settlers throughout the Colony, with a like result. Again, it may easily be ascertained that the proportion of male Immigrants introduced at the public expense who are now enrolled in the Territorial Police Force, as well as in that of the Hobart Town and Launceston Corporations, and the different Municipalities, is decidedly in excess of any other class; and, coupling the result of these enquiries with the fact of so many of the single females brought out having since married, and, in consequence, become lost to the public as house servants, although in their new sphere fulfilling their ultimate mission as Colonists, it must appear evident that we have not been losers of our Immigrants to the extent supposed, and that the amount voted by Parliament for the purpose of increasing the population has not been expended without beneficial results to the Colony.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. SMITH, *Immigration Agent.*

The Hon. JAMES WHYTE, President of the Board of Immigration.

No. 2.

NATIVE COUNTRIES and RELIGIONS of IMMIGRANTS arrived during the Year ended 31st December, 1864.

	<i>Married.</i>		<i>Single.</i>		<i>Children.</i>		<i>Total Souls.</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
England	5	4	4	5	7	2	27
Scotland	2	2	1	4	1	5	15
Ireland	7	7	17	27	9	8	75
Other Countries	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	14	13	22	37	17	15	118
Protestants	6	6	7	15	9	7	50
Roman Catholics	8	7	15	22	8	8	68
TOTALS	14	13	22	37	17	15	118

G. SMITH, *Immigration Agent.*

No. 3.

RETURN of the LIABILITIES of the Government on 31st December, 1864, for Repayments on OVERDUE BOUNTY TICKETS under the Bounty Regulations of 24th January, 1854, 1st March, 1856, and 1st July, 1856.

	TICKETS OVERDUE.			TOTAL LIABILITY.
	<i>Family Tickets.</i>	<i>Man and Wife Tickets.</i>	<i>Single Tickets.</i>	
Liability under Regulations of 24th January, 1854, chargeable against General Revenue	62	—	137	£ 721
Ditto 1st March, 1856, chargeable against Board of Immigration	32	—	67	361
Ditto 1st July, 1856 ditto	—	—	32	160
TOTALS	94	—	236	1242

G. SMITH, *Immigration Agent.*

No. 4.

RETURN of LIABILITIES of the Board of Immigration on OVERDUE and OUTSTANDING BOUNTY TICKETS, under the Regulations of 21st December, 1858, on 31st December, 1864.

	FAMILY. TICKETS.	SINGLE MALE TICKETS.	SINGLE FEMALE TICKETS.	AMOUNT.
On Overdue Tickets	9	18	38	£ 505
On Outstanding Tickets	14	31	49*	2008
	23	49	87	2513

G. SMITH, *Immigration Agent.*

* The cost of each family introduced, calculating from former averages, may be estimated at £37, exclusive of the amount of deposit.

No. 5.

CONDITION of the BOUNTY IMMIGRATION SYSTEM, under the Regulations of the 21st December, 1858, up to 31st December, 1864.

	FAMILY TICKETS.	SINGLE TICKETS.	
		<i>For Males.</i>	<i>For Females.</i>
General Issue, Hobart Town	96	162	305
Ditto, Launceston	98	142	260
Issued to St. Andrew's Society, ditto	59	200	263
Ditto Immigration Aid Society, ditto	20	20	10
Ditto Duncan M'Pherson, Esquire, Hobart Town	—	—	50
Ditto National Female Immigration Society, London	—	—	50
Ditto Colonial Emigration Society, Birmingham	—	—	50
TOTALS	273	524	988
Less certified for payment, or acted on	209	406	667
Cancelled	41	69	234
Overdue	9	18	38
OUTSTANDING	14	31	49

G. SMITH, *Immigration Agent.*

No. 6.

OCCUPATIONS of the MALE IMMIGRANTS introduced during the Year ended 31st December, 1864.

	<i>Married.</i>	<i>Single.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>
Agricultural Labourers	7	8	15
Bookseller	1	—	1
Boot and Shoemaker	—	1	1
Butcher	1	—	1
Carpenters	1	3	4
Domestic Servants	—	1	1
Labourers	3	7	10
Painter	1	—	1
Police Constable	—	1	1
Telegraph Mechanic	—	1	1
TOTALS	14	22	36

G. SMITH, *Immigration Agent.*

No. 7.

OCCUPATIONS of the FEMALE IMMIGRANTS introduced during the Year ended 31st December, 1864.

Cook and General Servant	1
Dressmaker	1
Farm Servants	1
General Servants	26
Governess	1
Housekeepers	3
Laundress	1
Nurserymaids	3
TOTAL	37

G. SMITH, *Immigration Agent.*