

(Vogel, J., 1875: 59)

THE OFFICIAL HISTORY
OF
NEW ZEALAND.

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS
BY EXPERIENCED COLONISTS,

ON
The Colony as a Whole, and on the Several Provinces.

EDITED BY JULIUS VOGEL, C.M.G.

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WYMAN & SONS, GREAT QUEEN STREET,
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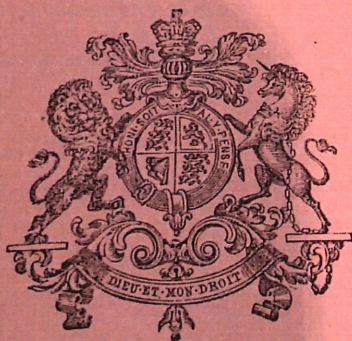
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There are no means at hand for comparing these results with similar ones in England, but apparently the convictions in the Superior Courts in New Zealand are more numerous (proportionately) than those in England and Wales, the numbers there (in 1871) being 1 out of every 1,900 of the population, and in New Zealand, 1 out of every 1,648.

Other items usually included in statistical returns will appear in other sections of these papers.

It must be added that all the details here given apply exclusively to the European population, with the few half-castes living among them. No accurate and complete census of the Native race has ever been made, though it has been partially done more than once. The numbers were estimated in 1842-43, by the Bishop of New Zealand, as about 100,000; but those who knew the Natives more intimately, thought that 70,000 would have been more nearly correct. The last attempt at enumeration made them about 36,000, but this was several years ago, and it is probable that their numbers at present do not exceed 30,000.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL.

The imports and exports of the Colony afford the readiest mode for estimating its commercial position, while the comparison of amounts at different periods has a special interest as showing the growth and development of various industrial pursuits, and the decay or extinction of others that were once of considerable importance.

In the year 1872 the imports were valued at £5,142,951, and the exports (of New Zealand produce) £5,107,186.

The value of the principal items of import in that year were, apparel, boots, shoes, hats, caps, &c., £415,970; drapery, haberdashery, and woollens, £889,922; ironmongery and iron, £190,634; spirits, £145,717; wine, £79,738; tea, £177,722; sugar and molasses, £384,180; tobacco and snuff, £77,474.

The principal items of export were, gold, valued at £1,730,992; wool, £2,537,919; grain and flour, £118,733; kauri gum, £154,167; *Phormium* (New Zealand flax), £99,405; hides and tallow, £90,551; preserved meats, £161,840.

Oil and whalebone, which in the early days of the Colony were regarded as its staple product, had become too insignificant to mention; while gold constituted more than one-third of the exports, and wool more than one-half. Flax had scarcely increased in proportion to the population, and timber

had become a very small item; but grain and other agricultural produce had become considerable. The item "preserved meats" indicates a new industry, and the same may be said of leather, of which there was exported to the United Kingdom nearly 3,000 cwts. Of the whole, the item kauri gum is the only one whose production is due to the aboriginal natives, and to this they are stimulated by the presence of European purchasers. Among the imports, the altered condition of the people and the country is indicated by the importation of coals to the value of £162,549; machinery valued at £62,794; and railway and telegraph materials valued respectively at £118,319 and £6,466.

The shipping return for the year was as follows:—

Ships inwards	775
Aggregate burden	...	300,302 tons	
Aggregate crews	...	13,866 men	
Ships outwards	743
Aggregate burden	...	285,366 tons	
Aggregate crews	...	12,802 men	

Customs duty received in year, £813,278; land revenue (exclusive of gold), £504,717; gold fields revenue and gold duty, £114,055.

The proportions per head of population were:—

	£.	s.	d.
Imports, per head	...	18	8 0
Exports, per head	...	18	5 0
Customs' duty, per head	...	2	18 0
Land revenue, per head	...	1	16 0
Gold duty, &c., per head	...	0	8 0

The following table shows, for the sake of contrast, the respective amounts for the years 1846 and 1872:—

	1846.	1872.
Imports	£155,475	£5,142,951
Ditto per head of population	£10. 16s.	£18. 8s.
Exports	£32,656	£5,107,186
Ditto per head of population	£5. 15s.	£18. 5s.
Shipping—inwards	160	775
Shipping—outwards	157	743
Customs' duty	£18,658	£813,278
Ditto per head of population	£1. 6s.	£2. 18s.
Land revenue	£616	£504,717
Ditto per head of population	10d.	£1. 16s.
Gold duty and revenue	...	£114,055
Ditto per head of population	...	8s.

The item "gold" appears so conspicuously in the returns of 1872, and is in itself of such importance, as to claim more than a mere passing notice.