

BRITISH MIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND, 1840-1914

GEOFFREY BROOKE

This paper examines and attempts to explain migration from the United Kingdom to New Zealand between 1840 and 1914. New Zealand was colonized during a mass migration during which approximately 50 million people left Europe. Migration to New Zealand accounted for a very small fraction of this total migration, and for a larger, but still small fraction of migration from the UK, the source of most of New Zealand's immigrants. Those who migrated to New Zealand faced alternative destinations that could be reached more quickly, at lower cost, and with a corresponding lower cost of return. Part of the explanation is inducements to migrate, with approximately half of the migrants from the UK being offered some form inducement to migrate. The inducements, offered first by private companies and organizations, later by the provincial governments, and lastly by the central government, included discounted and free passages, loans for part of the cost of travel, employment guarantees, and land grants. Beginning with the insights of Hatton and Williamson into the general characteristics of the migration, this paper considers the role of the assisted passages in explaining the decision of migrants to choose New Zealand as a destination. More generally, this paper highlights the role of institutional forces--- organizations and bodies external to the migrants and their families---in starting and sustaining migration flows.