

Sidiana Folaumotu

(School)

Tonga High School.

(Date of Birth)

Spinal Page

Class. A.

Tonga High School,
Nukunono,
Tonga.

"Contrast the principal motives for migration from the U.K. to Commonwealth countries in 1958 with those of 1858 and 1658."

The British Commonwealth of Nations today is sprawled across the globe embracing many peoples. Its beginnings lie in the 15th and 16th centuries when a few seafaring Englishmen began to look to strange and foreign lands for trade and adventure. The last 400 years has seen a small maritime nation carry its culture to the furthest parts of the world.

Since the end of the Napoleonic Wars, millions of people from the United Kingdom have emigrated, including 5 million to Canada and 2 million to Australia and New Zealand.

The motives which impelled individual pioneers to spread out from the British Isles were as various as their individual temperaments. These motives can be broadly classified under three heads. Firstly the desire to increase trade, secondly, the desire to achieve a wider life by creating a new home overseas, and thirdly, the desire of the missionary to spread the Gospel as well as to confer civilization upon peoples who have lacked those advantages.

One of the motives for migration from the United Kingdom to the present Commonwealth countries in the 17th and 18th centuries was, obviously, to extend the monopoly of British trade. On 31st December, 1600, the

famous East India Company received its royal charter. Its founders had their eyes on the spices, pepper, cloves, nutmeg and allspice of the Malay Archipelago but the hostile Dutch compelled the English to look elsewhere. Therefore after the English East India Company were driven out of the spice trade in the East Indies in 1623, they concentrated their efforts on trade with India.

The interest in overseas trade was aroused among the English merchants who later emigrated to trade with the colonies in order to obtain wealth. The mercantilists thought that the southern colonies and the West Indian produce was very valuable to England. Some of it was used in England and provided employment. (the Bristol sugar refineries, for instance, were growing in importance.) Thus it was necessary above all things to populate the plantation colonies as speedily as possible. Therefore most of the prisoners taken in Cromwell's campaign in Ireland in 1649, in Scotland in 1650 and at Worcester in 1651, were sent off to populate the West Indies.

British sugar planters then flooded into the West Indian islands. During the 17th and 18th centuries, the "Sugar Islands" were a goldmine for the English planters and were greatly prized by the government at home, for they supplied a valuable sub-tropical product for the home market and one which could be sold at handsome prices to the foreigners. The prosperity of the "Sugar Islands" was, however,

on a highly precarious thing. By the end of the 19th century their heyday was over. Their first blow came with the abolition of the British slave trade in 1807, which cut off their supply of labour recruits. A second and more severe blow was slave emancipation in 1833.

Other people emigrated from the United Kingdom to open the spice trade in Ceylon. English merchants and traders emigrated to the Gold Coast to trade there. These merchants had their foot at Cape Gold Coast and the leader of these merchants was Captain George Maclean. British traders also emigrated to Virginia where they thought to produce silks, waxes, fruits which England was then buying from foreign countries. British merchants traded in India and later in China with opium which they got from India and elsewhere. Traders went over to New Zealand in order to get flax and timber. From about 1830 the number of British subjects living in New Zealand grew rapidly, as it then became the custom for whaling gangs to establish permanent shore stations ^{at suitable} in New Zealand places. For example, at Korororua, in the Bay of Islands, a small township had arisen. From then onwards, whalers and sealers began to emigrate from the United Kingdom to New Zealand as well as Australia and the other Commonwealth countries.

According to mercantile belief, the mother country would grow rich on the profits of the regulated trade made in the

colonies, but she would pay for the navy to defend the colonies against foreigners. But today the main aim is to develop the colonies, to raise ^{their} standards of living, to give them good governance, to help cure the people as well as to educate them, and lastly to help them to follow the mother country in every way. Therefore, today, people from the United Kingdom emigrate to help the development of the colonies and not to obtain wealth from them.

Another important motive for migration from the United Kingdom to the colonies was the search for new homes for an overcrowded population in the mother country. In 1658, there was no need for emigration for this reason as the British Isles had scarcely entered the period known as the Industrial Revolution. But towards the end of the 18th century, England became more and more industrialized. The years succeeding the long war with France that ended in 1815 were a time of great distress in England. The Industrial Revolution had brought wealth to a few, but it had also brought much misery to the less fortunate. Under the factory system thousands of people had to live in dirty, overcrowded houses surrounded by ugliness and misery. Unemployment was rife and the price of food was kept unnecessarily high by the import duties on corn. E. G. Wakefield and the Colonial Reformers thought that the solution to the problem was emigration.

Sisiliana Falaunalea

(School)

Tonga High School

(Date of birth)

[REDACTED]

Tonga High School,
Nukunono.

Tonga.

Some of these people then emigrated to New Zealand and Australia while others went to Canada. In 1842 five hundred immigrants arrived directly in the ships "Duchess of Argyll" and "Jane Blifford" to settle in New Zealand owing to bad conditions at home. Others went to Canada, and so Canada grew from being a few scattered settlements of struggling pioneers to an independent nation. Canada's vast mineral resources and rapid industrial development opened up vistas of a great future.

Some people emigrated from the United Kingdom as convicts. For example, Australia began as a convict settlement in 1788. Free settlers actually began to arrive from the British Isles at the beginning of the last century, but it was not until 1850 that the peopling of Australia really began as a result of a great wave of migration from Britain and Ireland, which was partly the result of hard times at home and partly in consequence of gold discoveries in New South Wales and Victoria, for the Industrial Revolution actually speeded up the growth of the United Kingdom's population.

Other people migrated in order to get better farming lands. During the latter half of the 18th century, British settlers began to make homes for themselves in the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Some people who went to North America went westwards to the valley of the Connecticut River, and

reported that its soil was more fertile than that of the Massachusetts Bay. In 1633, therefore, settlers began to move to the new regions, and townships were founded along the river. A little later, new emigrants from England settled nearer the sea at Saybrook, and ^{large} communities were ultimately united to form the colony of Connecticut.

After 1813, Australian explorers discovered a pass which led to the Bathurst Plains, and other vast areas beyond, which were found to be one of the finest grazing regions in the world. Emigrants from England following on the heels of the explorers came to start sheep farming in Australia. Others, who emigrated for the same purpose, went to the fine grazing plains of Marlborough and Canterbury in New Zealand, while the rest went to the almost featureless expanse of the North American prairies, one of the richest wheat growing areas in the world. These people then set up new provinces of their own, for example, Manitoba in 1870. These motives are still important today but more from the Commonwealth countries' point of view.

Another important motive for migration from the United Kingdom to the colonies in 1658 - 1858 was the desire to obtain the liberty to worship. For example, the pioneer settlement of North America was at Plymouth, and it arose out of the persecution of Puritans in the reign of James I. On this matter the English Government did not actively hunt down

and punish men of unpopular religious views so long as they kept their opinions to themselves. What it did do was to prohibit the holding of religious meetings for worship other than that sanctioned by the Church of England. To this, the Puritans were not satisfied and therefore migrated from the United Kingdom to Holland and then finally in the early 17th century they determined to move once again. This time to North America. It was their intention to land at Virginia, but their ship, the Mayflower, was driven ashore much further north. Within the Bay sheltered by Cape Cod, the one hundred and two pilgrims landed. In the following spring more emigrants arrived, and soon the new colony of Plymouth began to thrive.

Other religious sects also found refuge from persecution in America and before the end of the 17th century, English colonies extended all along the east coast of North America. Others, like the Quakers formed by George Fox during the reign of Oliver Cromwell, were misunderstood in their early years and were persecuted, and for that reason they were glad to emigrate to New York and New Jersey, where toleration was the rule. These Quakers emigrated and this led to the foundation of Pennsylvania.

Some Puritans, who did not join the Pilgrim Fathers, formed themselves into a Company and later emigrated to North America where they led to the foundation of the colony of Massachusetts. Other Puritans, with the help of Oliver Cromwell, migrated to the

West Indies in the middle of the 17th century with the same desire to worship as they pleased.

The persecution of people in the British Isles for different religious reasons was a very important motive for migration in the 17th and the early years of the 18th centuries, but towards the end of the 18th and the early years of the 19th centuries, it grew less important as religious tolerance grew.

People of the United Kingdom are now given religious freedom and so worship where and when they like. Hence this religious motive has disappeared.

In the 17th and 18th centuries when people had to go sail in foul-smelling ship's holds and on unprotected decks, unsegregated and on a starvation diet, many lives were lost if the voyage was an unusually long one. In spite of this, immigration continued as people grew dissatisfied with their conditions at home.

Conditions in the United Kingdom today are much better than ever before, and better transport and communications are now available. People migrate from the United Kingdom to the Commonwealth countries in order to see those countries and how life is there. Good transport and quick communications therefore, link the Commonwealth countries very closely together in 1958 than ever before.

Another motive for migration from the United Kingdom in the 19th century was the desire of the missionaries to spread Christianity through the colonies. During the years between

Niesiana Falanmatini

(School)

Tonga High School

(Date of birth)

[REDACTED]

Tonga High School

Nukunono,

Tonga.

1856 and 1873 the missionary and explorer David Livingstone and other British explorers were penetrating the interior of East Africa. They went, but not only on exploration, but also on unmasking and breaking the slave trade. Others of Livingstone's fellow-seats were working in other places. Other missionaries, like Mary Slessor in Nigeria, Reverend John Smith in British Guiana, migrated from Britain to spread Christianity throughout the colonies. Another good example of migration in the past three centuries to spread the Gospel was that of Samuel Marsden. He migrated to Australia and had been chaplain to the convict settlement of New South Wales. He later came to New Zealand where he established a mission station at the Bay of Islands. The personal enthusiasm and practical efforts of Reverend Samuel Marsden had brought Christianity to New Zealand at an early date, that is, in 1814.

Today very few people migrate from the United Kingdom to spread the Gospel in the Commonwealth countries as most of them are now Christians.

Other people emigrated from the United Kingdom to the colonies in order to explore them. For example, David Livingstone in Africa, Captain Cook in Australia and New Zealand. Others, like William Dampier, visited western Australia in 1688 and again in 1699, made some minor discoveries in what is now called the Bismarck Archipelago.

James Cook, who in 1769 circumnavigated the North and South Islands

[REDACTED]

of New Zealand, went to the eastern side of Australia and coasted it from South to North. Cook's achievements rank with those of Columbus and Magellan, and Great Britain has produced no greater maritime explorer.

By 1958, the Commonwealth countries were fully ~~developed~~ explored.

Some people migrated to the present Commonwealth countries in the past centuries after being selected or chosen by the leaders of Settlement Companies. Wakefield, for instance, laid great stress on the careful selection of settlers so that they should be of a good type both physically and morally. These people were known as "selected immigrants". Other emigrants, known as "assisted emigrants" came to Australia in their thousands between 1832 - 1851. In the 18th century the British migrated to Canada, firstly as conquerors at Quebec and some, twenty-seven years later, as Loyalists fleeing from the imperative of their fellow colonists in the thirteen rebellious colonies to the South.

Another important motive for migration in the 17th and 19th centuries was the desire for wealth. It was the discovery of gold, that gave Australia a substantial population for the first time. Gold was discovered at Bathurst in New South Wales and then in richer quantities at Ballarat in Victoria. The race was unparalleled, people flooded from the United Kingdom and other countries into Australia in search for gold. This raised the population of Victoria from 70,000

in 1850 to 333,000 five years later. The discovery of gold at Ophir in New South Wales and at Blues, Ballarat and Bendigo in Victoria caused a rush to the goldfields from every inhabited place in Australia and, much more importantly, from the United Kingdom and, to a lesser extent, the United States of America. Three rushes of the fifties were repeated, though not in such volume, as the result of later discoveries in Queensland and Western Australia.

Another example was the discovery of gold in Otago by Gabriel Read in 1861, and in Westland by Albert Hunt in 1864. This caused many people to rush to New Zealand. The British people who migrated to the Victorian goldfields also flooded into New Zealand and this also raised the population of New Zealand. The discovery of diamonds at Kimberley also brought thousands of people there, and most of these people were from the British Isles. As the great gold and diamond fields were discovered, fewer people migrated.

In 1847, some people, especially girls from the United Kingdom, came to Australia on the promise of jobs and then found that they were placed in country homes where, as often as not, no job was available and they were expected to succumb to the will and whim of the already established settlers. Some came to Australia at the instigation of so-called friends, finding themselves, on arrival, stranded, and the friends having turned to be virtual strangers. Others came with no knowledge of the new country, lured by the tales sent back home of the quick prosperity

available.

The main motive for migration from the United Kingdom to the Commonwealth countries in 1958 is the desire to achieve a wider life by creating a new home overseas. People from the British Isles migrated to Australia and New Zealand as a result of being too over populated there. Great Britain itself is too small for a population of 50 million people. Therefore some young people think that they can have a better chance in life if they migrate to the vast, lightly-populated lands of Australia and New Zealand. So in 1958 some people from the United Kingdom migrated for this reason. Other people in the United Kingdom just prefer living in country homes and not being disturbed by noise in an industrialized country like Great Britain. These people then migrate to either visit Australia or New Zealand.

Thus from these different motives described, we can observe that there are great differences between the motives for migration from the United Kingdom to the Commonwealth countries in 1958 with those of 1658 and 1858.

Reference Books

1. The British Empire and Commonwealth by J.A. Williamson.
2. The British Commonwealth since 1815 by Currey (Vols I and II)
3. Modern Britain by Denis Richards and J.W. Hunt
4. Our Country (A brief Survey of N.Z. history and Civics)
5. The March of Civilization by George Guest
6. Origins and Purpose (A handbook on the Commonwealth of Nations)