

and fright of travel took hold of these unfortunate people, who set out on what was considered a forlorn hope to seek a livelihood overseas.

The legislation then in force did not tend to increase the respect for the emigrant among those who were not obliged to go overseas; while the wife and little children, as well as the emigrant himself, were obliged to discard even the thought of the comforts of the little home they had, during the weary and burdensome voyage, under shipping, sleeping and feeding conditions that would now be considered intolerable.

#### **The Trials of Early Settlers.**

The Merchant Shipping Act even now refers to the "Emigrant Ship," and solemnly and soullessly provides that if a ship is a sailing ship, such ship can carry "one statute adult" (referring to steerage passengers) to every 33 tons of the ship's registered tonnage, and if the ship be a steam ship, "one statute adult" to every 20 tons; and while it was necessary to provide against imposition upon emigrants and penalties for certain acts of misconduct by emigrant runners in those days, it does seem a pity that useful citizens of the British Isles should still, in legal language, be categorised as they were fifty years ago, when everything was so different.

In those days it was necessary for steerage passengers to take their own tin plates and tin cups, their straw beds and bundles, and if conditions were bad at sea neither the men nor their families had a clean, dry place whereon to sleep during the whole of the voyage. Indeed, the horrors of the journey were sufficient to drive out all ideas of ever taking such a journey again, and that proved a blessing in disguise for the country which received these emigrants.

The emigrant was generally considered a sort of outcast with whom other people only associated from sheer pity, and yet he or she was undoubtedly the bedrock on which was based a large portion of the development of Imperial and national enterprise in the Overseas Dominions.

They were men and women of sturdy stock, asking only a chance to make a decent living in return for very hard work. They did not refuse to take themselves and their families to the ragged edge and fringe of civilisation, and thus, passing through hardship and vicissitudes that are inevitable to a pioneer life, they did a noble and Imperial work in pushing the wilderness a few miles further back. The talk of developing natural resources nowadays is but a feeble compliment to the efforts of the early settlers.

#### **Changed and Changing Conditions.**

Times have changed, and so have some of the descendants of those "emigrants." They are no longer willing to work hard and to carry the burden of their country's welfare as did their forbears. Some of them refuse to accept the vicissitudes and even the glories of a pioneer life—a life which made