

# **INDIAN MIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND IN THE EARLY 1920S: DECIPHERING THE *IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT, 1908* AND THE *IMMIGRATION AMENDMENT ACT 1920***

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‘Indian migration to the Pacific & Indian Ocean States’  
NZ India Research Institute & NZ South Asian Centre  
Macmillan Brown Centre University of Canterbury  
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# Outline

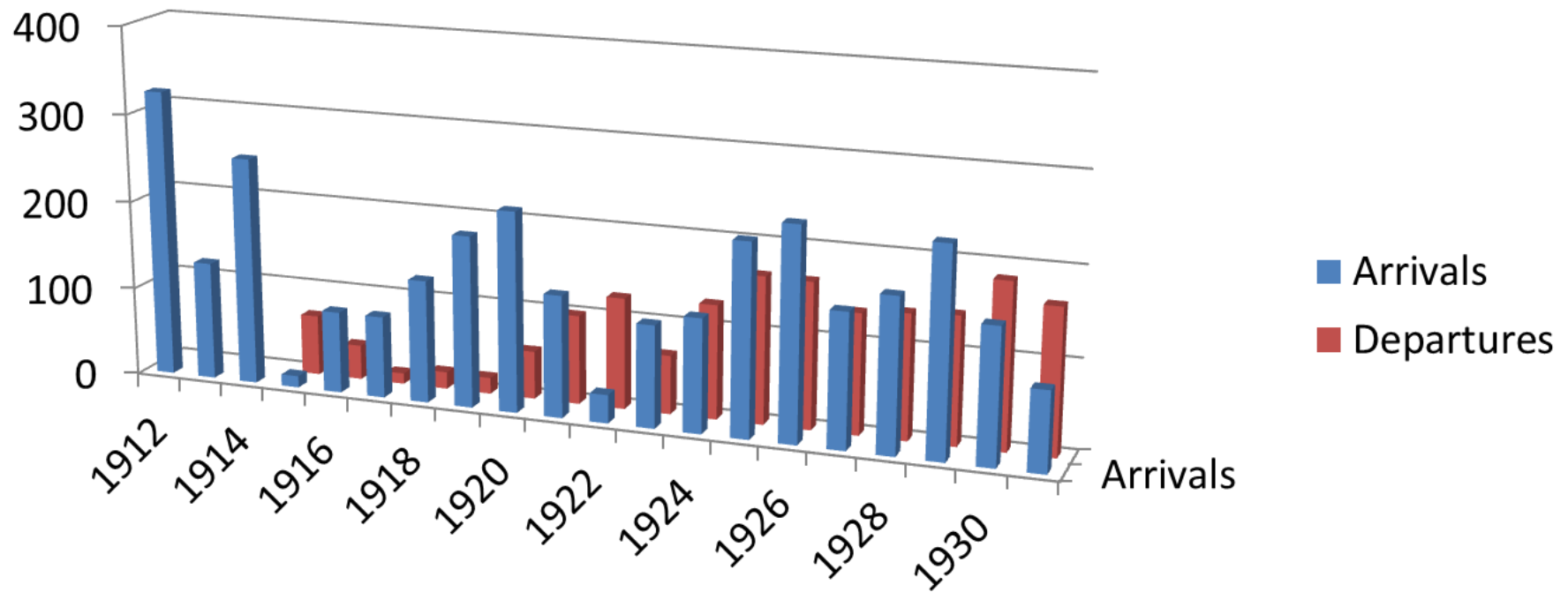
- Serendipitous entry points
- Statistical information
- Picturing the migrants from the re-entry certificates
- Conclusions

# INDIAN MIGRATION TO NZ STATISTICS 1912-1933

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# Indians Arriving & Departing NZ 1912 -1931

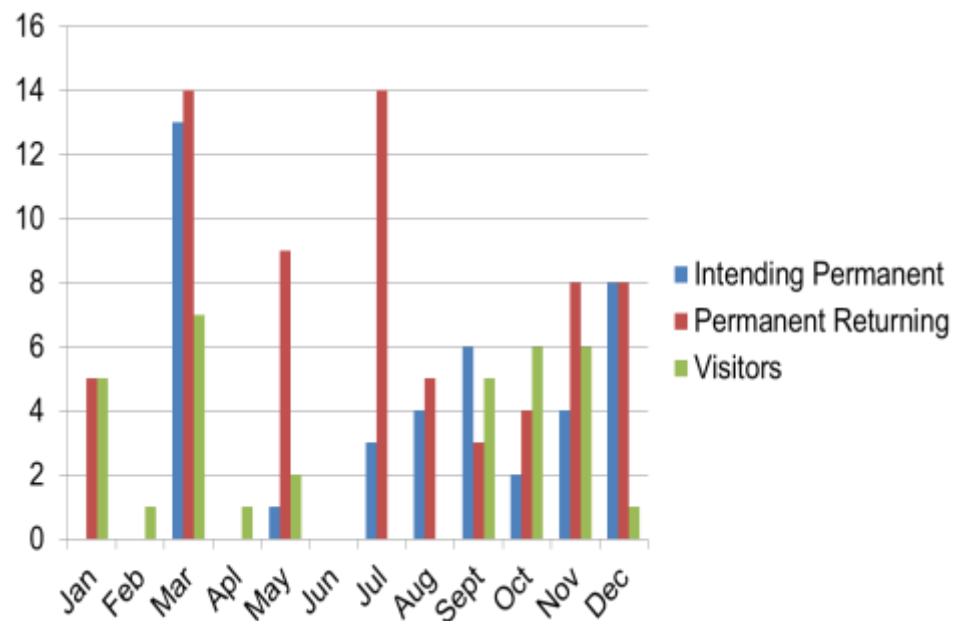
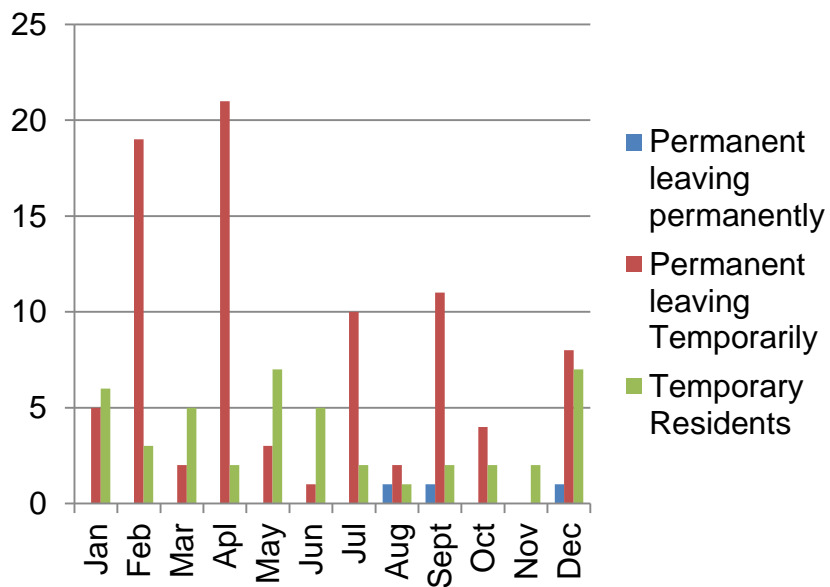
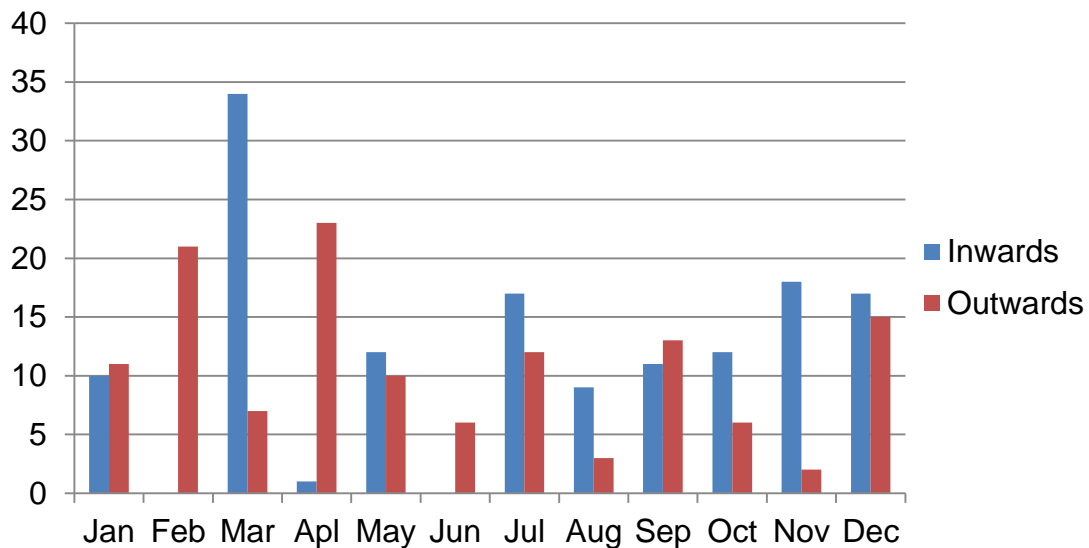
## [Customs Department]



# Indian Permanent Arrivals/Departures from New Zealand 1922 -1932 [NZ Year Book]

Year	Arrivals Intending permanent residence	Departures permanently leaving	Permanent increase
1922	8	6	2
1923	32	-	32
1924	44	1	43
1925	56	3	69
1926	41	3	53
1927	41	5	38
1928	44	-	39
1929	50	7	50
1930	34	3	27
1931	16	5	13
1932	23	2	33

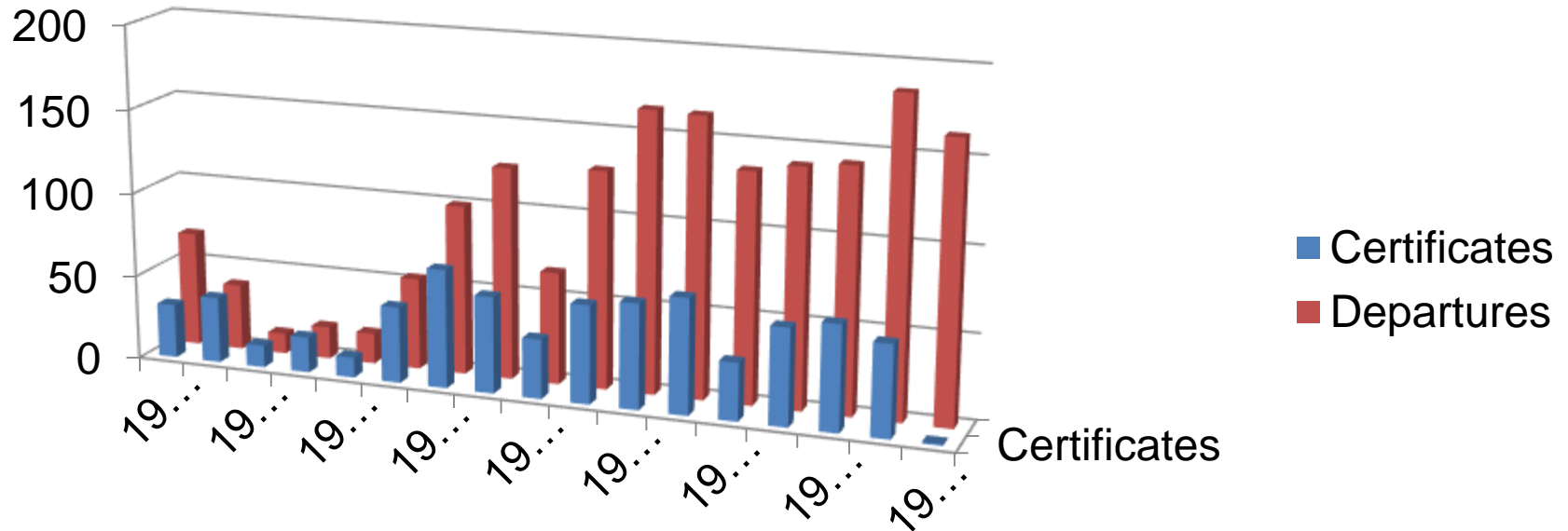
# Indians - Monthly Abstract of Statistics 1927



	Inwards						Outwards			
	Intending permanent	Permanent returning	Visitors			Total	Permanent		Temporary Resident	Total
			Tourists	Business	Other		Permanent	Temporary		
Jan		5	3	1	1	10		5	6	11
Feb			1			1		19	3	21
Mar	13	14	3	2	2	34		2	5	7
Apl			1			1		21	2	23
May	1	9	2			12		3	7	10
Jun								1	5	6
July	3	14				17		10	2	12
Aug	4	5				9	1	2	1	3
Sept	6	3	3		2	11	1	11	2	13
Oct	2	4	5			12		4	2	6
Nov	4	8	6			18			2	2
Dec	8	8	1			17	1	8	7	15

# Re-entry Certificates & Departures for Indians 1915-1931

[our compilation from Customs files]





# Index Books to Re-entry Certificates



<u>Hindoo</u>		
<del>Shaji Jivan</del>	10/1915	13 AUG 1929
<del>Shakar Shira</del>	100/1915	Reld 21.7.25
<del>Malhi Uka</del>	105/1915	
<del>Mogani Lonia</del>	109/1915	
<del>Bahan Bhana</del>	111/1915	
<del>Maga</del>	112/1916	Returned 26/6/25
<del>Mohan Singh</del>	115/1916	
<del>Mohan Bawa</del>	91/1916	
<del>Moh Singh</del>	106/1916	Returned 26/6/25
<del>Mohandas Singh</del>	104/1916	Did not go enrolled.
<del>Mohan Khan</del>	109/1916	2.8 JAN 1929
<del>Mohan Bawa</del>	111/1916	
<del>Munshi</del>	11/1918	Dec 87/1922 Reld 26/1/25
<del>Malhi</del>	2/1918	
<del>Makhu Kera</del>	106/1918	relt but no ong filed again
<del>Mohan Singh</del>	10/1918	Left 29/6/24 Reld 9/6/25
<del>Mehunga Singh</del>	118/1920	Reld 26.6.25
<del>Abadand Lona</del>	50/1920	9.6.24 Reld 13.10.25
<del>Manga Singh</del>	117/1920	11.7.24 Reld 18.1.26
<del>Munshi</del>	118/1920	11.7.24 Reld 18.1.26
<del>Madhav Bhikha</del>	129/1920	2/5/24 Reld 13.5.25
<del>Mamulal Bhawan</del>	130/1920	2/5/24 Reld 13.10.25

# Travel patterns: 1923 Examples

C Form No. 5913

NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS.

9/1/1923

**Certificate of Registration under the Immigration Restriction Amendment Act, 1920.**

Port of Auckland. 22nd May, 1923.

This is to certify that Dahyabhai Kalyanji Patel  
residing in New Zealand, being desirous of leaving New Zealand, has registered his name  
with me.

If he returns to New Zealand within four years from the date hereof, and is identified  
to the satisfaction of the Collector of Customs, he will, on presentation of this certificate,  
be permitted to enter New Zealand.

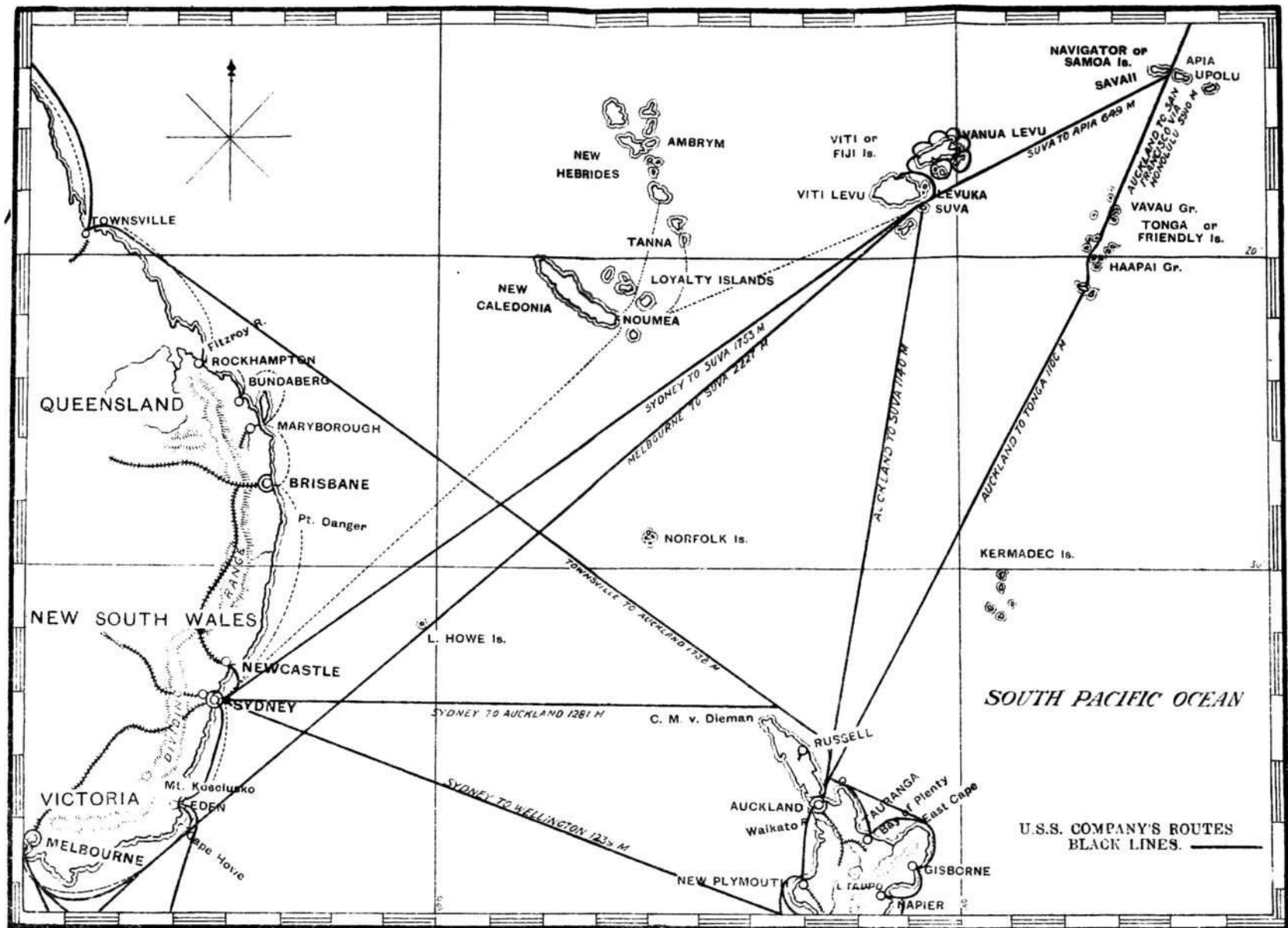
  
Collector of Customs.

Signature of Dahyabhai Kalyanji Patel.

In English (if possible) Dahyabhai Kalyanji Patel

In any other language दाह्याबाई कल्याजी पटेल

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THIS CERTIFICATE IS GRANTED.	Particulars to aid identification.
	Height: <u>5</u> ft. <u>2</u> in. Build: <u>Slim</u>
	Age: <u>24 years.</u>
	Scars or birth marks (if any): <u>Left eye not straight.</u>
	Whether or not can speak English: <u>Yes</u>
	Place of residence in New Zealand: <u>61 Grey St. Auckland</u>
	Date and port of first arrival in New Zealand: <u>18th October 1915- Auckland.</u>
	If a Chinese he presents a permit to reside, number, date, and port where issued: <u>---</u>
	Other particulars considered necessary: <u>Indian.</u> <u>Leaving per "Ranika" for Wellington</u> <u>25th May 1923.</u>





# Certificated departures by Vessel for 1923

Ship	Route	Number	Returning	Average time away (Months)
<i>Marama</i> (Union SS Line)	Ak- PI –SF	5	4	22.5
<i>Manuka</i>	Wtgn– PI – Van	3	3	23
<i>Niagra</i>	Ak – Suva	3	3	21
<i>Navua</i>	Ak –PI	1	1	23
<i>Ulimaroa</i> (Huddett Parker Line)	Ak – Syd – Melb	8	7	42

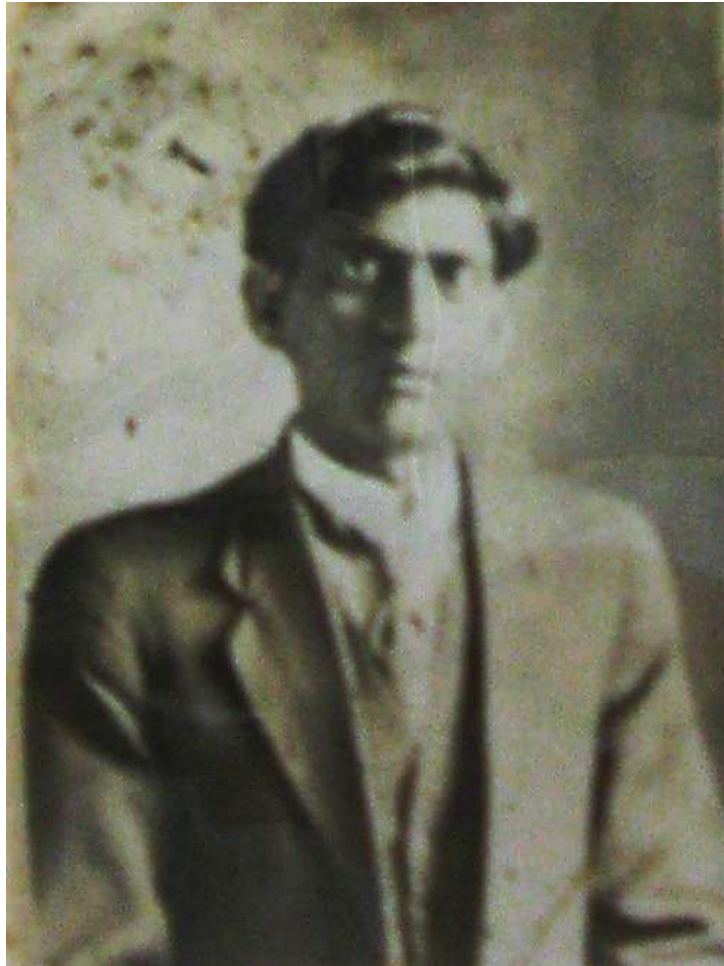
# PICTURING MIGRANTS FROM THE RE-ENTRY CERTIFICATES

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# Lallubhai Khushal 1920



# David Dudley: fruiterer of Ponsonby road Auckland, 1916



# Rishi Ram & wife Maya Devi





# Som Prakash



# Daji Manga



# Mrs Piyari Mewa

C Form No. 1013

NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS

21/12/1924

**Certificate of Registration under the Immigration Restriction Amendment Act, 1920.**

Port of AUCKLAND, 21st December, 1924

This is to certify that Mrs. Piyari MEWA, accompanied by her three children Cudley Roberts aged 11, Yippee Aliou aged 7, and Hector residing in New Zealand, being desirous of leaving New Zealand, has registered as a visitor under the Act with me.

He returns to New Zealand within four years from the date hereof, and is identified to the satisfaction of the Collector of Customs, he will, on presentation of this certificate, be permitted to enter New Zealand.

*[Signature]*  
Collector of Customs.

Signature of Mrs. Piyari MEWA,

In English (if possible) Piyari Mewa

In any other language \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THIS CERTIFICATE IS GRANTED.	Particulars to aid identification.
<p>As per Passport 34334, of 21st. December, 1924</p> <p>PHOTOGRAPH (mounted and authenticated) to be affixed here.</p>	Height <u>5 8 1/2</u> in. Build <u>Medium</u>
	Age <u>30 years.</u>
	Scars or birth marks (if any) <u>None.</u>
	Whether or not can speak English <u>Yes.</u>
	Place of residence in New Zealand <u>Auckland.</u>
	Date and port of first arrival in New Zealand <u>Auckland,</u> <u>1914.</u>
	If a Chinaman in possession of police pass, number, date, and port where issued <u>XXXXXXXXXX</u>
	Other particulars considered necessary <u>Indine 1924</u> <u>leaving per "DIAGNA" 21/12/24.</u>

47 (10/12/1924)

NEW ZEALAND

# Mehar Singh



# Armed Services Connections





# Partap Singh, Polo, Bhagta, Te Awamutu, 1916



# Puna Singh, 1916, Banta, 1918



# CONCLUSION

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- Official data sets – highlight small absolute numbers involved but mobile but expanding population in 1920s
- As 1920s unfold a stable number of re-entry certificates issued but more certificate holders return – sojourner era ending?
- Back to India – mainly via Fiji, 1-2 years
- Augmenting and extending Leckie and McLeod's accounts – known people, new people



- Photographs – questioning of individual's circumstances
- Constructing micro narratives
- Adding people to numbers