

A summary of the Social Security Fund is as follows :—

**Social Security
Fund, 1943-44,
expenditure.**

EXPENDITURE		£	£
Monetary benefits—			
Age		8,100,000	
Widows		965,000	
Orphans		22,000	
Family		920,000	
Invalids		1,030,000	
Miners		80,000	
Unemployment		60,000	
Sickness		420,000	
Universal superannuation		820,000	
Emergency		130,000	
Maori War		80	
		12,547,080	
Hospital, &c., benefits—			
Hospital		2,067,000	
Medical		1,030,000	
Maternity		539,000	
Pharmaceutical		536,000	
Supplementary		160,000	
		4,332,000	
Administrative expenses		524,000	
		£17,403,080	
REVENUE			
Social security charge		11,600,000	Revenue.
Registration fee and miscellaneous		575,000	
Transfer from Consolidated Fund		4,100,000	
		£16,275,000	

Thus it will be seen that the resources of both the Consolidated and the Social Security Funds will be sufficient to meet requirements without increased taxation.

Preliminary inquiries with a view to arriving at a definite and early settlement of the Native claims are in progress. Steps are being taken in an endeavour to reach agreement of a nature that will ensure continuing advantages and benefits to the Maori people in full accord with the merits of their case.

Native claims.

As we have been fortunate enough to have had practically no calls upon the War Damage Fund the question has arisen as to whether the time has come to reduce the annual premium of 5s. per £100 of insurable value. On 31st March last there was £2,320,000 in the Fund, but this sum is very small relative to the value of property covered, and it would not go far in meeting the costs of damage should a raid be made on some of the city areas. The Government have, therefore, decided to make no change at present, but to reconsider the matter at the close of this year when, if all goes well, there is every prospect of a reduction being made in the premium rate.

**War Damage
Fund.**

When the Fund is no longer required as insurance against war damage, it will be very valuable as a reserve for the relief of those who in the future may suffer losses from earthquake or other major disaster.

An integral part of the Government's plans for post-war development is, of course, the rehabilitation of the men and women who are serving their country with the armed forces.

Rehabilitation.

In the re-establishment of ex-servicemen and women—those demobilized after service in New Zealand as well as those discharged after service overseas—provision has already been made for almost every important aspect. Men medically unfit for employment are retained on Army, Navy, or Air Force pay for as long as they continue to receive hospital treatment, unless they request their discharge, in which event the continuation of treatment and the payment of any pension due becomes the responsibility of the War Pensions Department.

A special rehabilitation allowance is provided in cases where normal employment is not immediately available.