

EMERGENCY BENEFITS

Under the provisions of section 58 of the Social Security Act, 1938, the Social Security Commission may in its discretion grant a special benefit on the grounds of hardship to any person who is not qualified for any other benefit under the Act, but who by reason of age or physical or mental disability, or for any other reason, is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants.

Each year full and sympathetic use is made of this section, and during the past year 1,702 new grants were made. As at 31st March, 1947, there were 1,845 of these benefits still current, and the expenditure for the year amounted to £134,288, as against £121,958 for the previous year, an increase of £12,330.

FINANCE

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1947

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Payments</i>	
	£	£	£
Balance	1,716,302	Monetary benefits—	
Social security registration fees ..	15,287	Universal super-annuation ..	1,349,689
Social security charge on wages and other income	22,383,884	Age	11,881,119
Penalties, fines, interest, and miscellaneous receipts ..	120,730	Widows'	1,529,010
	22,519,901	Orphans'	22,905
Grants from Consolidated Fund, vote, "Social Security" (Social Security Act, 1938, section 105 (c))	18,000,000	Family	12,680,778
		Invalids'	1,328,485
		Miners'	105,416
		Maori War	104
		Unemployment	24,332
		Sickness	853,328
		Emergency	134,288
			29,909,454
		Medical benefits, &c.—	
		Medical benefits ..	1,760,574
		Hospital benefits ..	1,986,288
		Maternity benefits ..	672,989
		Pharmaceutical benefits ..	1,439,686
		Supplementary benefits	352,043
			6,211,580
		Administration expenses—	
		Social Security Department ..	704,193
		Balance	5,410,976
	<u>£42,236,203</u>		<u>£42,236,203</u>

SECTION II.—WAR PENSIONS

The general administration of the enactments providing for pensions and allowances in respect of war service and the carrying-out of the decisions of the War Pensions Boards and the War Pensions Appeal Board are the functions of the Secretary for War Pensions.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation became operative from 1st April, 1946 :—

(a) War Pensions Amendment Act, 1946 :

(b) War Pensions and Allowances (Mercantile Marine) Amendment Act, 1946.