

1947

NEW ZEALAND

SOCIAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT

REPORT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1947

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to the Provisions of the Social Security Act, 1938

**This report deals with Part II of the Social Security Act only.
Reports on the operation of Part III and Part IV of the Act will be submitted by the Health and Land and Income Tax Departments respectively.**

REPORT

To the Hon. the MINISTER OF SOCIAL SECURITY.

Social Security Department, Wellington, 5th June, 1947.

SIR,—

We have the honour to submit for the information of Parliament the eighth annual report of the Social Security Department for the period 1st April, 1946, to 31st March, 1947.

SECTION I.—SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

NEW LEGISLATION

The only new legislation affecting monetary benefits under the Social Security Act, 1938, was contained in the Social Security Amendment Act, 1946.

The following is a brief summary of the legislation :—

(1) WIDOWS' BENEFITS

(a) The basic rate for a widow's benefit was increased to £104 a year for all classes of widows. Previously only widows who had or had had a child or children received this rate. Widows who had never had a child were limited to a benefit of £78 a year.

(b) Provision was made for the additional payment of a mother's allowance of £65 a year for widows with a dependent child or children.

(c) On reaching the age of sixty years widows without a dependent child now have their widows' benefit computed in respect of both income and property on a similar basis to an applicant for an age-benefit.

(2) FAMILY BENEFITS

(a) Previously children adopted subsequent to an application for a family benefit were excluded from benefit. The Act has now been amended to provide for the inclusion of all adopted children.

(b) The previous restrictive residential qualifications of the parents have been removed, and now a family benefit is payable in respect of all children born in New Zealand or who have been permanently resident in New Zealand for not less than one year.

(c) For the purpose of further assisting in the education of children provision was made for the extension of the period for which benefit in respect of children over sixteen years may be paid to the end of the year in which the child attains the age of eighteen years.

QUARTERLY BENEFITS

SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS

Superannuation benefits came into operation on 1st April, 1940, at the rate of £10 a year. This rate of benefit increases by £2 10s. a year until 1978, when the full rate of £104 a year will be in operation. For the year ended 31st March, 1947, the rate was £25 a year, and the sum of £1,349,689 was paid out during the year. There were 57,992 benefits in force at the end of the financial year, an increase of 1,811 over the number for the previous year.

MONTHLY BENEFITS

(1) AGE BENEFITS

During the year under review 12,835 new benefits were granted and 1,302 applications were declined, also 102,535 existing benefits were, after individual investigation, renewed for a further year. At the 31st March, 1947, there were 115,287 benefits in force, an increase of 5,227 over the figure for the previous year.

The expenditure increased from £9,817,615 for the year ended 31st March, 1946, to £11,881,119 for year ended 31st March, 1947.

(2) WIDOWS' BENEFITS

The number of women receiving widows' benefit increased from 11,507 as at 31st March, 1946, to 13,133 as at the 31st March, 1947. During the year, 10,888 existing benefits were, after investigation, renewed for a further year. New grants during the year totalled 2,407, and 608 applications were declined.

Included in above figures are benefits paid as widows' benefits in respect of women who have been deserted by their husbands. A "deserted wife," in order to qualify for a benefit, must satisfy the main provisions of the Act applicable to widows whose husbands have died and, in addition, satisfy the Social Security Commission that they have been deserted by their husbands, and have taken proceedings against the deserting husbands for maintenance orders under the Destitute Persons Act, 1910.

At 31st March, 1947, there were 1,102 benefits of this nature in force, and there were maintenance orders in operation against 959 defaulting husbands representing an annual amount of £109,842. On the granting of a benefit to a deserted wife the Department undertakes the enforcement of maintenance orders and the collection of maintenance. During the year £44,554 was collected by way of maintenance, representing 40.5 per cent. of the amount of the orders in force.

At 31st March, 1947, there were 5,006 widows receiving the mother's allowance of £65 a year authorized by the Social Security Amendment Act, 1946.

The expenditure for the year for all widows' benefits amounted to £1,529,010, an increase for the year of £485,417.

(3) ORPHANS' BENEFITS

During the year 63 new benefits were granted, and as at 31st March, 1947, there were 397 orphans' benefits in force, representing payments in respect of 595 children. The expenditure during the year amounted to £22,905.

(4) FAMILY BENEFITS

With the abolition of the means test on 1st April, 1946, the year under review witnessed a large influx of applications for family benefit, and grants were made in 194,313 cases, and 1,560 applications were declined. During the year 37,608 benefits current at the 31st March, 1946, were reviewed and brought within the new provisions of the Act.

The number of benefits in force as at 31st March, 1947, totalled 230,021, representing payments in respect of 490,260 children. The actual expenditure for the year amounted to £12,680,778.

As a special concession to mothers, arrangements were made for monthly instalments of benefit to be credited to Post Office Savings-bank accounts, if desired, as it was realized that this would be of great convenience, especially to mothers with very young children, who might find difficulty in collecting instalments through the normal channels each month. By the end of the year 58,960 mothers had taken advantage of this method of payment, and instalments are lodged direct to the credit of their individual Post Office Savings-bank accounts, the amount involved being £3,073,406 a year.

Also by the special authority of the mother, the Department may divert the whole or part of any family benefit to the Commissioner of Taxes for the purpose of meeting the income-tax payments of the husband; 6,602 benefits were diverted in this manner, representing a sum of £248,072.

The provision in the legislation for family benefits to be continued beyond the age of sixteen years to the end of the calendar year in which a child attains eighteen years for the purpose of assisting in its further education was availed of in respect of 10,359 children who are continuing as full-time day pupils at schools.

Numbers according to Size of Families

Number of Children in Family	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10 or more.
Number of families	94,163	68,292	36,171	17,722	7,252	3,430	1,576	797	401	217

(5) INVALIDS' BENEFITS

During the year 3,608 persons applied for benefit on the grounds of permanent incapacity for work or total blindness, and 10,457 existing benefits were reviewed and renewed for a further year. Grants were made in 2,103 cases, and 1,178 applications were declined, mainly for the reason that the medical evidence revealed that they were not permanently incapacitated. As at 31st March, 1947, there were 12,466 benefits in force, an increase of only 302 for the year. The expenditure for the year amounted to £1,328,485.

(6) MINERS' BENEFITS

This class of benefit shows a decrease in the number of beneficiaries, there being 718 in force as at 31st March, against 736 for the previous year. During the year 45 new grants were made.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £105,416.

(7) MAORI WAR BENEFITS

There is now only one person receiving this benefit of £104 a year.

(8) RECIPROCAL AGE AND INVALIDS' BENEFITS

Under the Age and Invalids' Benefits (Reciprocity with Australia) Act, 1943, the Social Security Commission is empowered to make grants of age and invalids' benefits to persons living in the Dominion not being qualified to receive these benefits under the Social Security Act, 1938, but who immediately before taking up residence in New Zealand had been resident in Australia.

The number of applications received and dealt with for the period 1st April, 1946, to 31st March, 1947, was:—

—	Age.	Invalids.	Total.
Applications received and those outstanding at the beginning of the year	158	30	188
Applications granted	94	15	109
Applications rejected	31	10	41
Applications outstanding as at 31/3/47	33	5	38

The number of reciprocal benefits in force as at 31st March, 1947, was age, 158; invalids, 53; total, 211.

WEEKLY BENEFITS

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The following figures show the number of applications for unemployment benefits dealt with during the years ended 31st March, 1946, and 31st March 1947, respectively.

—	1945-46.			1946-47.		
	Males.	Females.	Totals.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Persons granted benefit	1,149	85	1,234	790	51	841
Number of applications declined	402	746	1,148	503	840	1,343
Number of persons whose applications were declined, but who were granted emergency benefits on grounds of hardship	210	502	712	313	503	816
Totals	1,761	1,333	3,094	1,606	1,394	3,000

As at 31st March, 1947, there were 35 persons in receipt of unemployment benefit, a decrease of 170 over the figure as at 31st March, 1946.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to £24,332, as against £31,661 for the previous year, a decrease of £7,329.

Statement showing for the Year ended 31st March, 1947, Duration of Unemployment for Males and Females according to Age-groups

Period of Unemployment.	Years 16 to 19.		Years 20 to 29.		Years 30 to 39.		Years 40 to 49.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Less than 4 weeks	6	3	58	8	77	6	60	1
4 weeks but less than 13 weeks	7	12	55	9	95	9	94	4
13 weeks but less than 26 weeks	5	3	8	7	24	4	47	3
26 weeks to 52 weeks (inclusive)	1	2	8	8	10	11	8	9
Totals	19	20	129	32	206	30	209	17

Period of Unemployment.	Years 50 to 59.		Years 60 and over.		Totals.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Less than 4 weeks	63	..	5	..	269	18	287
4 weeks but less than 13 weeks	119	3	22	..	392	37	429
13 weeks but less than 26 weeks	51	3	8	1	143	21	164
26 weeks to 52 weeks (inclusive)	25	5	4	1	56	36	92
Totals	258	11	39	2	860	112	972

The above schedule discloses that nearly 46 per cent. of male beneficiaries had periods of unemployment varying from four to thirteen weeks, while 31 per cent. were unemployed for periods of less than four weeks.

The largest group of female beneficiaries is covered by the 4-13 weeks group, being nearly 33 per cent. of females who received benefit.

In the age-grouping the largest number of persons is found in the group 50-59 years (inclusive) as regards males, while the largest group for females is 20-29 years (inclusive).

SICKNESS BENEFITS

The following figures show the number of sickness benefits dealt with during the years ended 31st March, 1946, and 31st March, 1947, respectively:—

	1945-46.			1946-47.		
	Males.	Females.	Totals.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Persons granted benefit	22,493	8,154	30,647	28,232	8,479	36,711
Number of applications declined	2,159	1,076	3,235	3,646	1,449	5,095
Number of persons whose applications were declined, but who were granted emergency benefits on grounds of hardship	111	331	442	246	434	680
Totals	24,763	9,561	34,324	32,124	10,362	42,486

During the year the number of sickness benefits granted totalled 36,711, an increase of approximately 20 per cent. over the previous year's grants. There were 4,273 grants current at 31st March, 1947, and expenditure for the year amounted to £853,328, an increase of £287,908 over the previous year.

The following table illustrates the sickness benefit experienced during the year :—

Statement showing for the Year ended 31st March, 1947, Duration of Sickness for Males and Females, according to Age-groups

Period of Sickness.	Years 16 to 19.		Years 20 to 29.		Years 30 to 39.		Years 40 to 49.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 4 weeks both inclusive	1,183	1,199	3,741	1,517	3,434	435	2,558	229
5 to 8 weeks both inclusive	653	698	1,895	1,019	1,849	300	1,546	190
9 to 12 weeks both inclusive	264	286	733	518	879	196	833	135
13 to 16 weeks both inclusive	110	152	366	325	483	115	448	99
17 to 20 weeks both inclusive	70	107	220	194	253	70	313	57
21 to 24 weeks both inclusive	38	66	129	148	182	71	213	51
25 to 28 weeks both inclusive	33	53	109	102	143	52	162	44
29 to 32 weeks both inclusive	20	16	74	81	98	31	131	22
33 to 36 weeks both inclusive	13	19	61	57	66	23	109	25
37 to 40 weeks both inclusive	11	14	32	36	39	26	82	8
41 to 44 weeks both inclusive	9	15	28	32	36	16	72	18
45 to 48 weeks both inclusive	11	9	19	33	28	12	50	15
49 to 52 weeks both inclusive	19	21	52	97	67	45	100	40
Totals	2,434	2,655	7,459	4,159	7,557	1,392	6,617	933

Period of Sickness.	Years 50 to 59.		Years 60 and over.		Totals.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1 to 4 weeks both inclusive	1,635	148	646	27	13,197	3,555	16,752
5 to 8 weeks both inclusive	1,102	129	509	23	7,554	2,359	9,913
9 to 12 weeks both inclusive	691	107	338	15	3,738	1,257	4,995
13 to 16 weeks both inclusive	450	60	191	15	2,048	766	2,814
17 to 20 weeks both inclusive	307	41	149	13	1,312	482	1,794
21 to 24 weeks both inclusive	251	24	129	6	942	366	1,308
25 to 28 weeks both inclusive	171	31	92	4	710	286	996
29 to 32 weeks both inclusive	183	30	65	6	571	186	757
33 to 36 weeks both inclusive	91	8	38	4	378	136	514
37 to 40 weeks both inclusive	88	11	26	..	278	95	373
41 to 44 weeks both inclusive	70	11	19	..	234	92	326
45 to 48 weeks both inclusive	61	8	14	1	183	78	261
49 to 52 weeks both inclusive	183	32	31	4	452	239	691
Totals	5,283	640	2,247	118	31,597	9,897	41,494

The above schedule discloses that the predominance of sickness among male beneficiaries is found in the 30-39 years age-group and among females on the 20-29 years age-group.

The largest group of beneficiaries is covered by the 1-4 weeks group comprising 42 per cent. of the male beneficiaries and 36 per cent. of the female beneficiaries.

The average duration of sickness over all groups is $9\frac{3}{8}$ weeks for males and $9\frac{9}{10}$ weeks for females.

The Sickness beneficiaries who have been in receipt of benefit during the whole year represent sick persons with continuing incapacity but insufficiently so to warrant the granting of Invalids' benefits.

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.

The main provisions of these amendments provided for the payment of a mother's allowance of 30s. a week to wives and widows of ex-members of the Forces and Mercantile Marine and stabilizes the rate of pension for each child at 10s. a week.

During the year the Department received 14,619 applications for pensions. Of these, 9,531 were lodged by ex-servicemen in respect of their own disabilities, the balance of 5,088 being made up of claims by dependants, applications for economic pensions, and war veterans' allowances.

The following is a summary of the disabilities from which ex-service personnel were suffering at the time of application for pension :—

Class of Disability or Disease.	Type of Service.		
	Overseas.	New Zealand.	Total.
(1) Infections and infestations	280	17	297
(2) Nervous system	1,101	149	1,250
(3) Eye, ear, and nose	1,510	222	1,732
(4) Circulatory and blood systems	322	125	447
(5) Metabolism	61	19	80
(6) Lungs	723	144	867
(7) Breast	2	2	4
(8) Digestive system	758	134	892
(9) Generative system	70	21	91
(10) Gunshot wounds and accidental injuries to bones, joints, and soft tissues	2,329	360	2,689
(11) Skin	509	88	597
(12) Alveolar tissue	15	3	18
(13) Tumours and neoplastic growths	34	10	44
(14) Malformations	28	15	43
(15) Amputations	147	7	154
(16) Urinary tract	117	13	130
(17) Sundry minor disabilities	148	48	196
	8,154	1,377	9,531

The War Pensions Boards dealt with 85,209 cases during the year ended 31st March, 1947, made up as follows :—

(1) Claims for pension on account of disablement	8,223
(2) Claims for economic pension	3,409
(3) Claims for dependants' pensions	1,722
(4) Cases submitted for renewal and review	52,166
(5) Cases submitted for reconsideration and reinstatement	6,256
(6) Cases where the question of entitlement was considered in respect of personnel discharged from the Forces on medical grounds, but who did not lodge claims for pension	4,567
(7) Claims for war veterans' allowances	2,600
(8) Sundry claims and reviews	1,213
(9) Cases adjourned for further consideration and decision	5,053

85,209

During the past year there has been a considerable drop in the number of applications for disablement pensions, this being accounted for by the fewer discharges of unfit personnel from the Forces. While there should from now on be a sharp drop in fresh applications, which this year numbered 9,531, as against 19,306 for the previous year, many applications for reinstatement of former grants and review of existing grants continue to come to hand, and the War Pensions Boards have in consequence been required to consider almost as many disablement cases as formerly.

As far as it has been possible, the War Pensions Boards have visited various centres in New Zealand and have been able to see some hundreds of ex-servicemen in person. This has proved a valuable contact and at the same time has enabled the Boards to interview local ex-servicemen's organizations and hear representations from them.

The Boards plan to make their visits to centres more frequent than in the past, and by this means an increasing number of ex-servicemen will have the opportunity of appearing before the Boards in person, while the Boards will also maintain close contact with the representatives of ex-servicemen in the districts.

In the period under review close liaison with the Rehabilitation Department in matters pertaining to the welfare of ex-servicemen has been maintained, and also with the Disabled Servicemen's Re-establishment League. Endeavour is made to assist both organizations with all possible details which would assist the early and permanent rehabilitation of the disabled servicemen.

Much has already been accomplished along these lines, but there are still numbers of ex-servicemen who require guidance into channels of occupation best suited for their particular disabilities. The Department's medical officers are keen to assist and advise on any problems arising from the training and education of the disabled servicemen, and this aspect of the work has been given a great deal of attention in the past year.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

The inauguration of part-time district medical officers attached to the Department to assist and advise locally on problems of treatment has proved of great value, and the Department wishes to record its appreciation of the consideration given by such officers to the cases which have come before them. Many visits are made to these local medical officers, and immediate direction to necessary treatment has resulted.

An extension of the service to amputees in respect of treatment and the fitting of artificial limbs has recently been arranged by the appointment of part-time orthopædists at Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin, where facilities for fitting and repair of artificial limbs exist. By this means it is hoped to improve the service given to amputees so that expert advice may be speedily given and acted on for the benefit of the amputee. All fittings and major repairs affecting the fitting and set-up of limbs will be recommended or supervised by the orthopædist. Necessary treatment for disabilities suffered by amputees will also be directed by the medical officer attached to these centres.

The service to amputees at the Disabled Servicemen's Training Centres continues to give satisfaction, and many amputees have received considerable help from supervision by the Department's orthopædists, who regularly attend at the centres.

During the year 306 new limbs have been fitted, while it is hoped to fit even more during the coming year, and so provide more amputees with duplicate limbs.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

The costs for the year in respect of the administration of war pensions and allowances totalled £94,665.

In addition, the medical treatment of war pensioners (including the cost of treatment of pensioners resident in overseas countries) amounted to £60,550.

Railway concessions to ex-members of the Forces pensioned for total and permanent disablement and those with locomotor disabilities on permanent pensions in excess of 50 per cent. cost £5,085.

The loading paid on life-insurance policies of war pensioners, due to war service disabilities, amounted to £308.

Medical fees and the travelling-expenses of pensioners cost £49,445.

DISSECTION OF WAR PENSIONS CURRENT AS AT 31st MARCH, 1947

Class of Pension.	War, 1914-18.			War, 1939-45.			Totals.		
	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.
			£			£			£
Ex-member of Forces—									
Permanent	14,139	..	1,348,534	5,014	..	264,140	19,153	..	1,612,674
Temporary	526	..	57,611	21,020	..	1,295,834	21,546	..	1,353,445
Dependants of disabled ex-members	2,732	1,786	209,411	1,114	805	86,015	3,846	2,591	295,426
Widows	2,239	280	330,030	2,106	1,614	485,895	4,345	1,894	815,925
Other dependants of deceased members	445	82	22,456	774	537	41,747	1,219	619	64,203
Totals	20,081	2,148	1,968,042	30,028	2,956	2,173,631	50,109	5,104	4,141,673

N.B.—Mother's allowance of 30s. a week was paid during the year to 2,819 wives and widows of disabled or deceased ex-servicemen.

ECONOMIC PENSIONS PAYABLE AT 31st MARCH, 1947, IN SUPPLEMENTATION OF STATUTORY WAR PENSIONS

Class of Pension.	War, 1914-18.			War, 1939-45.			Totals.		
	Number.	Annual Value.		Number.	Annual Value.		Number.	Annual Value.	
		£			£			£	
Ex-member with permanent pension	3,540	311,460		177	15,653		3,717	327,113	
Ex-member with temporary pension	116	10,008		1,765	153,636		1,881	163,704	
Widows	1,125	58,064		1,003	51,994		2,128	110,058	
Widowed mothers	35	1,700		81	3,634		116	5,334	
Totals	4,816	381,292		3,026	224,917		7,842	606,209	

PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AT 31ST MARCH, 1947

Class of Pension.						War, 1914-18.	War, 1939-45.	Total.
Ex-members of Forces—								
Permanent						860	66	926
Temporary						9	236	245
Wives and parents of ex-members : Temporary dependants of members						95	9	104
Widows						218	142	360
Other dependants						165	16	181
Totals						1,347	469	1,816

SUMMARY OF PENSION PAYMENTS

	Payments made in						Total.
	London.	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa.	Foreign Countries.	New Zealand.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total payments to 31st March, 1946	1,548,415	1,124,023	71,531	13,975	17,297	43,946,471	46,721,712
Payments, 1946-47 ..	92,675	43,346	8,164	930	1,502	3,972,496	4,119,113
Total payments to 31st March, 1947	1,641,090	1,167,369	79,695	14,905	18,799	47,918,967	*50,840,825

* Includes £6,760,482 in respect of war pensions in connection with the 1939-45 war and £3,369 to members of the Emergency Reserve Corps.

WAR PENSIONS APPEAL BOARD

The following summarizes the operations of the War Pensions Appeal Board during the year with respect to appeals under war pensions and related legislation :—

	War, 1914-18.	War, 1939-45.	War Pensions and Allowances (Mercantile Marine) Act, 1940.	War Veterans.	Totals.
Appeals outstanding at 31st March, 1946	28	383	411
Appeals lodged, 1946-47	136	1,509	6	9	1,660
Total to be dealt with	164	1,892	6	9	2,071
Appeals upheld, 1946-47	34	597	3	3	637
Appeals dismissed, 1946-47	78	731	3	1	813
Appeals withdrawn or struck out, 1946-47	15	217	..	1	233
Total disposed of	127	1,545	6	5	1,683
Appeals outstanding at 31st March, 1947	37	347	..	4	388
Percentage upheld	26·7	38·6	50·0	60·0	37·8

SUMMARY

BENEFITS AND PENSIONS IN FORCE AND TOTAL PAYMENTS

Class.	As at 31st March, 1946.			As at 31st March, 1947.		
	Number in Force.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1945—46.	Number in Force.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1946—47.
		£	£		£	£
Universal superannuation ..	56,181	1,264,073	1,185,508	57,992	1,449,800	1,349,689
Age	110,060	11,589,318	9,817,615	115,287	12,450,996	11,881,119
Widows'	11,507	1,153,001	1,043,593	13,133	1,700,724	1,529,010
Orphans'	400	21,540	24,178	397	21,378	22,905
Family	42,637	3,935,395	2,611,759	230,021	12,746,760	12,680,778
Invalids'	12,164	1,411,024	1,183,537	12,466	1,333,862	1,328,485
Miners'	736	101,182	88,359	718	101,956	105,416
Maori War	1	104	101	1	104	104
Unemployment	205	..	31,661	35	..	24,332
Sickness	5,416	..	565,420	4,273	..	853,328
Emergency	2,094	..	121,959	1,845	..	134,288
War, 1914—18	20,460	2,015,934	1,997,390	20,081	1,968,042	2,036,825
War, 1939—45	26,926	1,923,166	1,662,227	30,028	2,173,632	2,080,952
War veterans' allowances ..	2,029	292,482	275,029	2,277	345,172	346,694
Boer War (Defence Act, 1909)	46	3,564	3,547	42	3,248	3,502
Mercantile Marine pensions ..	26	2,857	1,879	27	2,132	2,985
Emergency Reserve Corps ..	11	1,286	1,351	10	1,338	1,336
Sundry pensions and annuities	162	16,960	17,560	305	21,551	21,651
Civil Service Act, 1908 .. .	3	1,400	1,260	2	932	1,352
War and other pensions paid on behalf of the Governments of Great Britain, Australia, India, Canada, South Africa, and Crown Colonies	3,121	260,045	301,548	3,156	299,112	414,354
Totals	294,185	23,993,331	20,935,481	492,096	34,620,739	34,819,105

COST OF ADMINISTRATION

Excluding expenditure of £23,030 on capital items, administration costs for the year amounted to £775,828, including £94,665 in respect of the administration of war pensions and allowances. This represents 2·23 per cent. on total payments.

SECTION III.—GENERAL

WAR SERVICEMEN'S DEPENDANTS' ALLOWANCES

Under section 11 of the Social Security Amendment Act, 1943, the Social Security Commission is able to increase age, widows', and invalids' benefits by an amount not exceeding £26 a year to parents of deceased members of the Forces and of the New Zealand Mercantile Marine. As at 31st March, 1947, there were 1,521 of these allowances in force.

REHABILITATION ALLOWANCES

The Social Security Commission, acting on behalf of the Rehabilitation Department, continued to make available, where necessary, to demobilized ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen rehabilitation allowances following the cessation of Service pay to facilitate their reabsorption into civilian occupations. As would be expected, the number of allowances granted during the past financial year has been considerably

reduced as a result of the tapering-off of the number of Service personnel demobilized. During the year grants were made in 368 cases—to 363 ex-servicemen and 5 ex-servicewomen.

During the period 1st April, 1946, to 31st March, 1947, £8,244 was paid by way of this allowance—£8,047 to ex-servicemen and £197 to ex-servicewomen—a total reduction in expenditure of £6,885 on the previous year's figures.

DEMobilIZATION ALLOWANCES

To provide for the maintenance of unfit discharged Service personnel who require continuation of medical treatment, or medical after-care, and who are unable to resume civilian employment by reason of their incapacity, the payment of a temporary allowance, termed a "demobilization allowance," is in operation. During the year applications were received from 99 ex-servicemen and 9 ex-servicewomen. Grants were made to 56 ex-servicemen and 6 ex-servicewomen. The amount paid out by way of demobilization allowances was £5,209 for the year. There were 18 allowances current at 31st March, 1947.

IMPERIAL AND OTHER OVERSEAS PENSIONS

Much additional work has been thrown on the Department during the past year as a result of the repatriation and rehabilitation of ex-servicemen who served in units of the Empire Forces other than the New Zealand Forces.

Numerous paying authorities overseas have sought the assistance of this Department in order to pay retiring pay, release leave, and other privilege payments, while payment of gratuities for such authorities is now being undertaken. Because of the varying rates and nature of payments and allowances which involve questions of conversion of currencies and exchange, the task has involved considerable accounting work and correspondence with overseas authorities, but the Department has been pleased to undertake the work and so assist ex-servicemen and their dependants who, in many cases, have taken up permanent residence in New Zealand.

In many other cases the Department has been the channel for making temporary grants while ex-servicemen of other than New Zealand Forces have been in New Zealand. Arrangements have been made to deal with payment of allowances to Polish ex-servicemen when these take up residence in the Dominion.

Altogether sixty different classes of payments are handled by the branch of the Department handling the payments for the United Kingdom and other Governments.

STAFF

The effective strength of the officers employed in the Department increased from 1,353 at 31st March, 1946, to 1,427 at 31st March, 1947. The increase is accounted for mainly through extra staff being required to handle the large number of family benefits now in operation, and also due to further officers being demobilized from the Armed Forces; 46 officers are still absent on military service and 70 on special leave without pay and 7 on loan to other Departments.

Opportunity is taken to record appreciation of the excellent service rendered, during a difficult year, by the staff of the Head Office and district offices of the Department. Members of the staff generally have applied themselves unsparingly to their duties, notwithstanding that long hours and constantly varying problems have been the rule.

C. DUNN, Acting-Chairman
E. PEARCE, Acting-Commissioner } Social Security Commission.

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