

The percentage of the total cost of administering the Act since it came into operation to the gross payments of £2,067,755 is 1.69 per cent.

ANNUAL LIABILITY.

The liability at the end of each year since the Act came into force is as follows :—

	£	£	s.	
At 31st March, 1899,	127,319,	or an average of	17 2	for 7,443 pensioners.
" 1900,	193,718,	"	17 3	" 11,285
" 1901,	211,965,	"	17 2	" 12,405
" 1902,	217,192,	"	17 0	" 12,776
" 1903,	211,594,	"	16 19	" 12,481
" 1904,	200,915,	"	16 17	" 11,926
" 1905,	199,081,	"	16 18	" 11,770
" 1906,	313,018,	"	24 17	" 12,582
" 1907,	326,084,	"	24 12	" 13,257
" 1908,	333,340,	"	24 11	" 13,569

The increase for the past year is £7,256, as against £13,066 for the previous year.

The accompanying table shows the number of pensions at each rate at the end of the year just closed :—

Number of Pensions.	Rate. £	Liability. £	Number of Pensions.	Rate. £	Liability. £
10,774	26	280,124	67	12	804
351	25	8,775	57	11	627
368	24	8,832	62	10	620
274	23	6,302	51	9	459
205	22	4,510	48	8	384
223	21	4,683	28	7	196
168	20	3,360	30	6	180
151	19	2,869	24	5	120
186	18	3,348	12	4	48
107	17	1,819	14	3	42
85	16	1,360	7	2	14
121	15	1,815	5	1	5
81	14	1,134			
70	13	910			
			Totals	13,569	£333,340

FORFEITED INSTALMENTS.

The instalments due last year and unpaid on the 31st March amounted to £1,256 11s. 8d. £1,199 6s. 8d. of this amount represents absolutely forfeited instalments on which there is no further claim, and the balance of £57 5s. represents instalments the payment of which is in abeyance.

The absolutely forfeited instalments in each month are,—

	Absolutely Forfeited Instalments.		
	£	s.	d.
1907.			
April	75	11	8
May	101	6	8
June	85	13	4
July	96	1	8
August	98	0	0
September	124	18	4
October	121	18	4
November	130	0	0
December	116	5	0
1908.			
January	85	18	4
February	85	3	4
March	78	10	0
	£1,199	6	8

Of the £79 10s., the payment of which was in abeyance on the 31st March, 1907, £60 16s. 8d. was absolutely forfeited.

HOMES AND HOSPITALS.

During the year the total amount paid to the controlling bodies of the various homes and hospitals throughout the Dominion was £16,991 19s. 2d., the number of pensioners resident in such institutions on the 31st March being 645. Of this number 626 represent pensioners who prefer to permanently reside in Homes, the remaining 19 being hospital patients receiving treatment. A return setting out the amount paid to each institution, and the number of pensioners resident therein, is embodied in the Appendix.