

The instalments not collected within the time allowed by law, but subsequently specially authorized and paid during the year, numbered 93, the amount involved being £279.

The amount paid for the maintenance of military pensioners to the controlling authorities of the various homes and hospitals during the year was £1,708, including £135 for hospital patients. The number of pensioners in these institutions at the close of the year was 49, including 4 in hospitals.

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The total cost under this head for the year was £9,880, being less by £1,711 than the amount paid in the preceding year, which, however, included a special payment of £1,849. The details are as follows:—

	£
Salaries	5,112
Contribution to Post Office for paying pensions	3,000
Postage and telegrams	664
Printing and stationery	687
Travelling-expenses	209
Telephones	79
Office requisites	47
Office cleaning	13
Light and firing	12
Fees for certificates of age	6
Contingencies	51
Total	£9,880

The percentage of this cost to the gross amount paid in pensions during the year is 1.82 per cent.

The gross cost of administering the Department since its creation in 1898 now amounts to £82,295. This is 1.64 per cent. of the gross amount paid to date under the three heads, totalling £5,013,528, as follows:—

	£
Old-age pensions	4,850,011
Widows' pensions	82,773
Military	80,744
Total	£5,013,528

PENSIONS IN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The latest figures available relating to the working of the Commonwealth Act are for the year ended 30th June, 1914, from which the following have been extracted:—

	Old-age Pensions.	Invalid Pensions.
Number of pensions in force	87,780	16,865
Increase for year	4,837	3,126
Claims dealt with	15,144	6,540
Claims rejected	1,464	1,222
Claims established	12,967	4,935
Total pensions granted	123,141	21,631
Total claims rejected	10,910	4,934
Total deaths of pensioners	30,882	3,796
Liability	£2,212,392	£430,456
	£	
Payments for year (old-age and invalid)	2,593,501	
Cost of administration (old-age and invalid)	46,946	

The latest figures received from the Old Country indicate that on the 28th March, 1913, the number of pensions in force there was as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Total.
England	229,644	397,109	626,753
Wales	15,774	26,119	41,893
Scotland and Ireland	118,393	180,882	299,275
Total for United Kingdom	363,811	604,110	967,921

The estimates presented to the House of Commons in March, 1914, provided a vote of £13,141,000 for old-age pensions.

GENERAL.

I do not deem this report complete without reference to the great war in which the Empire is involved. I am proud to think that the staff of the Department, limited as it is to twenty-nine members, has provided its quota to the Expeditionary Forces, in the persons of—

B. E. Murphy (Samoan Force)	From Wellington office.
G. O. Morgan (Main Expeditionary Force)	Christchurch office.
A. H. Parfitt (Third Reinforcements)	Invercargill office.
A. W. Robertson (Sixth Reinforcements)	Head Office.
E. W. Fulton (No. 2 Base Hospital)	Wellington office.