EPIDEMIC PENSIONS.

The allowances provided by vote of Parliament to relieve distress arising out of the influenza epidemic of November, 1918, formerly controlled by the Public Health Department through the various Hospital Boards, were taken over by this Department as from the 1st April, 1920. As in the case of pensions, these allowances are being paid monthly per medium of the various post-offices throughout the Dominion.

		Total.
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1920		939
New pensions granted, 1920–21	27	
Cancellations, 1920–21	117	
Net decrease	—	90
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1921		849

	Year 1920–21.
New claims lodged	40
New claims rejected	13
Annual liability at close of year	£71,486
Average pension	£83
Gross expenditure for year	£72,456
Absolutely forfeited instalments	£107
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£341

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

	£
Salaries	35,173
Cost-of-living bonus	275
Contribution to Post Office (nine months only)	7,955
Grant to Mrs. O. K. Philips on account of death of husband as member of crew of transport "Tahiti"	199
Grant to Mrs. Mary Young in lieu of old-age pension	15
Honoraria of members of War Pensions Board	2,454
Light, firing, and water	98
Medical fees (war pensions)	12,292
Office fittings and requisites, including printing and stationery	2,540
Postage, telegrams, and rent of boxes	3,319
Proportion of salaries, High Commissioner's staff	145
Telephones	131
Travelling-expenses	1,737
Overtime	317
Advertising	17
Fees for certificates of age	7
Interpreter's fee	1
Cartage	2
Commission on money-orders and rate of exchange	193
Charges on postal drafts through High Commissioner, London	62
Loading on life-insurance premiums on account of impaired health	90
Payment of instalments of war pensions collected by unauthorized persons	67
Sundry payments	66
	£67,155

Number of officers on staff at the 31st March, 1921	173
Percentage of cost of administration to total expenditure for year (£2,945,802)	2·27