

SESSION II.  
1921.  
NEW ZEALAND.

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
**PENSIONS DEPARTMENT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1921.

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 70 of the Pensions Act, 1913.*

The COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS to the Hon. the MINISTER OF PENSIONS.

SIR,—

Pensions Department, Wellington, 30th July, 1921.

I have the honour to furnish herewith, for the information of Parliament, the report of the Department relating to war, old-age, widows', Maori War, miners', epidemic, and police pensions for the year ended 31st March, 1921.

The following comparative statements relate to the annual value and gross payments of all pensions administered by this Department for the past two years:—

PENSIONS IN FORCE, AND ANNUAL VALUE.

Class of Pension.	At 31st March, 1920.		At 31st March, 1921.	
	Number.	Annual Value.	Number.	Annual Value.
		£		£
War .. .. .	34,571	1,869,366	31,764	1,748,865
Old-age .. .. .	19,993	731,735	19,837	737,378
Widows' .. .. .	3,444	185,968	3,421	198,767
Maori War .. .. .	939	43,294	811	39,739
Miners' .. .. .	415	23,543	474	29,686
Epidemic .. .. .	..	..	849	71,486
Police .. .. .	3	215	5	390
Totals .. .. .	59,365	2,854,121	57,161	2,826,311

GROSS PAYMENTS.

Class of Pension.	1919-20.	1920-21.
	£	£
War .. .. .	1,812,419	1,886,952
Old-age .. .. .	732,968	731,343
Widows' .. .. .	136,815	187,430
Maori War .. .. .	45,085	40,213
Miners' .. .. .	16,652	26,972
Epidemic .. .. .	..	72,456
Police .. .. .	93	436
Totals .. .. .	2,744,032	2,945,802
Cost per head of European population .. .. .	£2 6s. 9d.	£2 8s. 11d.

## PENSION LEGISLATION.

During the year legislation was embodied in the Finance Act, 1920, amending certain of the provisions relating to war, old-age, Maori War, and miners' pensions.

The War Pensions Amendment provided for the setting-up of an Appeal Board, on purely medical grounds, to deal with appeals by soldiers who are not satisfied with the amount of pension allowed them, and others refused a pension by the Pensions Board on the grounds that death or disablement was not held to be due to or aggravated by war service. The Appeal Board has already been constituted, and has dealt with a number of appeals lodged throughout the Dominion.

An increased expenditure of £50,000 per annum was authorized to be expended on totally disabled soldiers; and the War Pensions Board has disbursed this amount between soldiers in hospital, totally blinded soldiers, soldiers with double amputations, and those totally disabled and in receipt of full pensions.

The old-age-pension bonus of £13 per annum, provided purely as a war measure, was incorporated in the statutory pension, and the rights of pensioners to various exemptions under the Act were extended.

Miners' pensions payable under the Miner's Phthisis Act, 1915, were increased, in the case of married men and widowers with children under the age of fourteen years to £1 15s. a week, and in the case of unmarried men to £1 5s. a week. A further special concession made in respect of miners' pensions is that no instalment shall be forfeited in respect of any period of absence from New Zealand which does not exceed two years.

Military pensions payable to veterans of the Maori War have been increased from £36 to £49 per annum. This means that those pensioners who were unable to qualify for the bonus granted as a war measure, on account of excessive income, now receive the full amount without restriction. As in the case of miners' pensions, those in receipt of the Maori War pension are also permitted to be absent from New Zealand for a period not exceeding two years without forfeiting instalments.

Special provision was made in the Appropriation Act, 1920, exempting the cost-of-living bonus payable to superannuated Civil servants from being taken into account in calculating the amount of pension payable to old-age and widow pensioners.

WAR PENSIONS.  
TOTAL CLAIMS LODGED TO DATE.

—	From Soldiers.	From Dependants.
From 1st September, 1915, to 31st March, 1916 .. .. .	798	681
Year 1916-17 .. .. .	3,958	2,017
Year 1917-18 .. .. .	8,148	3,754
Year 1918-19 .. .. .	14,749	5,292
Year 1919-20 .. .. .	11,493	3,990
Year 1920-21 .. .. .	1,081	1,878
Totals .. .. .	40,227	17,612

GROSS ANNUAL VALUE OF ALL PENSIONS GRANTED TO DATE.

—	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
From 1st September, 1915, to 31st March, 1916 ..	1,214	£ 56,488	£ 46
Year 1916-17 .. .. .	5,316	285,707	53
Year 1917-18 .. .. .	10,587	780,057	73
Year 1918-19 .. .. .	16,954	1,167,081	68
Year 1919-20 .. .. .	15,183	872,627	57
Year 1920-21 .. .. .	2,457	163,713	66
Totals .. .. .	51,711	3,325,673	64

NOTE.—The number of pensions granted as shown herein does not include children's pensions, the values of which, however, form part of the pensions payable to parents (or guardians), and are included in the annual-values total.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL LIABILITY AT THE 31st MARCH, 1921.

Class of Pension.	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
Soldiers (permanent) .. .. .	3,215	£ 183,032	£ 57
Soldiers (temporary) .. .. .	19,133	1,044,821	55
Dependants (temporary) .. .. .	1,371	91,149	66
Widows of soldiers .. .. .	2,034	226,932	112
Other dependants of deceased soldiers .. .. .	6,011	202,931	34
Totals .. .. .	31,764	1,748,865	55

## SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS.

The payments for war pensions show a slight increase during the year, the figures compared with those of the previous year being as follows:—

	1919-20.	1920-21.
	£	£
Payments made in New Zealand .. ..	1,752,900	1,754,382
Payments made in London .. ..	58,447	72,994
Payments made in Australia .. ..	..	30,849
Payments made in Canada .. ..	474	..
Other foreign payments .. ..	258	252
Allotments paid after casualty .. ..	..	28,475
Lump-sum payments .. ..	340	..
<b>Totals .. ..</b>	<b>£1,812,419</b>	<b>£1,886,952</b>

The absence of figures relating to payments of New Zealand pensions in Canada is due to the non-receipt within the financial year of returns from the Canadian Government. These, however, have since been received.

*Summary of Total Actual Payments to the 31st March, 1921.*

	£
From 1st September, 1915, to 31st March, 1916 .. ..	13,910
Year 1916-17 .. ..	180,389
Year 1917-18 .. ..	515,445
Year 1918-19 .. ..	1,199,755
Year 1919-20 .. ..	1,812,419
Year 1920-21 .. ..	1,886,952
	<b>£5,608,870</b>

## PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AS AT THE 31ST MARCH, 1921.

	Soldiers.		Wives of Soldiers.	Dependants.		Annual Liability.
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Temporary.	Widows.	Other Dependants.	
Great Britain .. ..	77	210	18	196	718	£ 60,793
Australia .. ..	37	227	12	73	168	27,565
Other countries .. ..	5	23	3	5	18	2,967
<b>Totals .. ..</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>91,325</b>

## OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

	European.	Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1920 .. ..	19,198	795	19,993
New pensions granted, 1920-21 .. ..	2,006	146	2,152
Deaths during 1920-21 .. ..	1,782	98	2,308
Cancellations 1920-21 .. ..	423	5	
Net decrease .. ..	..	..	156
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1921 .. ..	18,999	838	19,837
			Year 1920-21.
Total European population at the 31st March, 1921 .. ..	..	..	1,204,722
Total European pensioners, sixty-five and over, at the 31st March, 1921 .. ..	..	..	16,121
Female European pensioners, sixty to sixty-four, at the 31st March, 1921 .. ..	..	..	2,878
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population .. ..	..	..	1.6
New claims lodged .. ..	..	..	2,760
New claims rejected .. ..	..	..	617
Annual liability at the 31st March, 1921 .. ..	..	..	£737,378
Average pension .. ..	..	..	£37 3s.
Gross expenditure for year .. ..	..	..	£731,343
Decrease on figures of previous year .. ..	..	..	£1,625
Cost per head of European population .. ..	..	..	12s. 2d.
Credit from national endowment .. ..	..	..	£30,134
Refunds paid to Public Account .. ..	..	..	£1,313

Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals .. .. .	940
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these .. .. .	£36,824
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals .. .. .	90
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these .. .. .	£3,124
Absolutely forfeited instalments .. .. .	£3,806
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid .. .. .	£4,919
Total claims lodged to date .. .. .	72,035
Total claims established .. .. .	56,214
Total deaths .. .. .	28,958
Total cancellations .. .. .	7,419
Grand total paid since 1898 .. .. .	£8,660,131
Total credit from national endowment .. .. .	£299,154

## WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

	European.	Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1920 .. .. .	3,301	143	3,444
New pensions granted, 1920-21 .. .. .	587	40	627
Cancellations, 1920-21 .. .. .	621	29	650
Net decrease .. .. .	..	..	23
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1921 .. .. .	3,267	154	3,421
Total children in receipt of pensions at the 31st March, 1921 .. .. .	..	..	7,802

	Year 1920-21.
New claims lodged .. .. .	719
New claims rejected .. .. .	123
Annual liability at close of year .. .. .	£198,767
Average pension .. .. .	£58 2s.
Gross expenditure for year .. .. .	£187,430
Increase on figures of previous year .. .. .	£50,615
Cost per head of European population .. .. .	3s. 1d.
Refunds paid to Public Account .. .. .	£301 10s.
Absolutely forfeited instalments .. .. .	£1,197
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid .. .. .	£2,206
Average of total family of pensioners .. .. .	3.6
Average of family under fourteen years .. .. .	2.4
Total claims lodged to date .. .. .	7,712
Total claims established .. .. .	6,444
Total number of children benefited .. .. .	15,974
Total deaths .. .. .	117
Total guardians appointed .. .. .	69
Total cancellations .. .. .	2,976
Grand total paid to date .. .. .	£620,116

## TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON WHOSE ACCOUNT PENSION GRANTED.

	Number of Pensioners.	Children under Fourteen.
1911-12 .. .. .	791	1,923
1912-13 .. .. .	657	1,604
1913-14 .. .. .	421	1,090
1914-15 .. .. .	458	1,158
1915-16 .. .. .	444	1,180
1916-17 .. .. .	421	1,075
1917-18 .. .. .	509	1,198
1918-19 .. .. .	1,349	3,252
1919-20 .. .. .	767	1,870
1920-21 .. .. .	627	1,624
Totals .. .. .	6,444	15,974

## MAORI WAR PENSIONS.

	European.	Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1920 .. .. .	711	228	939
Deaths during 1920-21 .. .. .	89	41	130
New pensions granted, 1920-21 .. .. .	1	1	2
Net decrease .. .. .	..	..	128
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1921 .. .. .	623	188	811

	Year 1920-21.
New claims lodged .. .. .	5
Number of pensioners previously in receipt of old-age pensions .. .. .	216
Annual liability at close of year .. .. .	£39,739
Average pension .. .. .	£49
Gross expenditure for year .. .. .	£40,213
Cost per head of European population .. .. .	8d.
Refunds paid to Public Account .. .. .	£1 16s.
Decrease on figures of previous year .. .. .	£4,872
Pensioners in homes and hospitals .. .. .	42
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these .. .. .	£1,959
Absolutely forfeited instalments .. .. .	£471
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid .. .. .	£300
Total claims lodged to date .. .. .	1,879
Total claims established .. .. .	1,693
Total deaths .. .. .	880
Total cancellations .. .. .	2
Grand total paid to date .. .. .	£361,211

## MINERS' PENSIONS.

	Total.
Pensioners in force at the 31st March, 1920 .. .. .	415
New pensions granted, 1920-21 .. .. .	107
Deaths during 1920-21 .. .. .	43
Cancellations, 1920-21 .. .. .	5
Net increase .. .. .	—
Pensioners in force at the 31st March, 1921 .. .. .	474

  

	Year 1920-21.
New claims lodged .. .. .	111
New claims rejected .. .. .	10
Annual liability at close of year .. .. .	£29,686
Average pension .. .. .	£62 12s.
Gross expenditure for year .. .. .	£26,972
Increase on figures of previous year .. .. .	£10,320
Cost per head of European population .. .. .	5½d.
Credit to vote from gold duty .. .. .	£2,503
Absolutely forfeited instalments .. .. .	£333
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid .. .. .	£327
Total claims lodged to date .. .. .	880
Total claims established .. .. .	790
Total claims rejected .. .. .	76
Total deaths .. .. .	176
Total cancellations .. .. .	140
Total amount paid to date .. .. .	£79,750
Total credit from gold duty .. .. .	£22,287
Total amount paid on account of funeral expenses .. .. .	£1,688

## NUMBER OF PENSIONS AT EACH RATE AT THE 31ST MARCH, 1921.

	Annual Value.		
	£	s.	d.
145 at £91 per annum .. .. .	13,195	0	0
78 at £65 per annum .. .. .	5,070	0	0
251 at £45 10s. per annum .. .. .	11,420	10	0
474 .. .. .	£29,685	10	0

## AGES (IN GROUPS) OF PENSIONERS AT THE 31ST MARCH, 1921.

	Miners.	Miners' Widows.
20-30 .. .. .	2	2
31-40 .. .. .	8	12
41-50 .. .. .	29	73
51-60 .. .. .	50	80
61-70 .. .. .	77	58
71-75 .. .. .	32	20
Over 76 .. .. .	25	6
	223	251

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## APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE AT EACH RATE ON THE 31ST MARCH, 1921.

Rate (nearest £1).	Soldiers (Permanent).	Soldiers (Temporary).	Wives and Parents (on Account of Disablement).	On Account of Death.	
				Widows (including Child- ren's Pensions).	Parents and other Dependants
£ £					
261-300 .. ..	..	..	..	9	..
234-260 .. ..	22	17	2	28	..
201-233 .. ..	3	6	15	79	..
191-200 .. ..	1	13	..	26	..
181-190 .. ..	62	1,226	21	105	..
171-180 .. ..	..	..	..	9	..
161-170 .. ..	..	4	..	82	..
151-160 .. ..	10	38	6	195	1
141-150 .. ..	3	19	50	15	1
131-140 .. ..	5	38	3	62	..
121-130 .. ..	59	719	5	411	..
111-120 .. ..	15	4	7	67	6
101-110 .. ..	38	128	126	21	5
91-100 .. ..	78	112	19	10	8
81- 90 .. ..	357	..	21	40	6
71- 80 .. ..	325	1,231	291	531	169
61- 70 .. ..	152	547	26	8	63
51- 60 .. ..	654	4,079	370	48	467
41- 50 .. ..	89	3	32	..	53
31- 40 .. ..	508	4,123	147	46	1,641
21- 30 .. ..	667	6,782	181	239	3,476
6- 20 .. ..	167	44	49	3	115
Totals .. ..	3,215	19,133	1,371	2,034	6,011

## GENERAL.

TABLE II.—PENSIONS GRANTED, DEATHS, AND CANCELLATIONS IN EACH YEAR, WITH NUMBER IN FORCE AND ANNUAL VARIATION.

Year ended 31st March.	Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancellations.	In Force at End of Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
		<i>Old-age.</i>				
1899 .. ..	7,487	38	6	7,443	..	..
1900 .. ..	4,699	786	71	11,285	3,842	..
1901 .. ..	2,227	815	292	12,406	1,120	..
1902 .. ..	1,694	935	388	12,776	371	..
1903 .. ..	1,391	1,064	622	12,481	..	295
1904 .. ..	1,063	928	690	11,926	..	555
1905 .. ..	1,210	890	476	11,770	..	156
1906 .. ..	2,075	1,038	225	12,582	812	..
1907 .. ..	2,031	1,097	259	13,257	675	..
1908 .. ..	1,740	1,189	239	13,569	312	..
1909 .. ..	2,113	1,112	174	14,396	827	..
1910 .. ..	2,304	1,169	211	15,320	924	..
1911 .. ..	2,399	1,423	276	16,020	700	..
1912 .. ..	2,318	1,469	220	16,649	629	..
1913 .. ..	2,072	1,569	643	16,509	..	140
1914 .. ..	3,320	1,479	300	18,050	1,541	..
1915 .. ..	3,158	1,582	274	19,352	1,302	..
1916 .. ..	2,268	1,539	277	19,804	452	..
1917 .. ..	1,823	1,610	320	19,697	..	107
1918 .. ..	2,146	1,535	348	19,960	263	..
1919 .. ..	2,235	2,013	310	19,872	..	88
1920 .. ..	2,289	1,798	370	19,993	121	..
1921 .. ..	2,182	1,880	428	19,837	..	156
Totals .. ..	56,214	28,958	7,419	..	..	..

TABLE II.—PENSIONS GRANTED, DEATHS, AND CANCELLATIONS IN EACH YEAR, ETC.—*continued.*

Year ended 31st March.				Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancellations.	In Force at End of Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Widows'.</i>									
1912	..	..	..	791	..	3	788	..	..
1913	..	..	..	657	3	129	1,313	525	..
1914	..	..	..	421	1	193	1,540	227	..
1915	..	..	..	458	2	208	1,788	248	..
1916	..	..	..	444	4	338	1,890	102	..
1917	..	..	..	421	2	285	2,024	134	..
1918	..	..	..	509	6	335	2,192	168	..
1919	..	..	..	1,349	11	319	3,211	1,019	..
1920	..	..	..	767	18	516	3,444	233	..
1921	..	..	..	627	24	626	3,421	..	23
<b>Totals</b>	..	..	..	6,444	71	2,952	..	..	..
<i>Maori War.</i>									
1913	..	..	..	577	9	..	568	..	..
1914	..	..	..	747	74	1	1,240	672	..
1915	..	..	..	256	108	..	1,388	148	..
1916	..	..	..	60	124	1	1,323	..	65
1917	..	..	..	10	101	..	1,232	..	91
1918	..	..	..	24	103	..	1,153	..	79
1919	..	..	..	12	125	..	1,040	..	113
1920	..	..	..	5	106	..	939	..	101
1921	..	..	..	2	130	..	811	..	128
<b>Totals</b>	..	..	..	1,693	880	2	..	..	..
<i>Miners'.</i>									
1916	..	..	..	120	..	..	120	..	..
1917	..	..	..	153	35	..	238	118	..
1918	..	..	..	91	34	25	270	32	..
1919	..	..	..	82	41	71	240	..	30
1920	..	..	..	237	23	39	415	175	..
1921	..	..	..	107	43	5	474	59	..
<b>Totals</b>	..	..	..	790	176	140	..	..	..
<i>War.</i>									
1916	..	..	..	1,214	1	22	1,191	..	..
1917	..	..	..	5,316	44	1,294	5,169	3,978	..
1918	..	..	..	10,587	86	1,173	14,497	9,328	..
1919	..	..	..	16,954	531	3,493	27,427	12,930	..
1920	..	..	..	15,183	291	7,748	34,571	7,144	..
1921	..	..	..	2,207	358	4,656	31,764	..	2,807
<b>Totals</b>	..	..	..	51,461	1,311	18,386	..	..	..

G. C. FACHE,  
Commissioner of Pensions.

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