

SESSION II.
1923.
NEW ZEALAND.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1923.

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 June, 1923.

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 sundry pensions for the year ended 31st March, 1923.

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, 1922.		At 31st March, 1923.	
	Number.	Annual Value.	Number.	Annual Value.
War	29,091	£ 1,513,263	26,460	£ 1,349,857
Old-age	20,491	751,121	21,181	770,295
Widows'	3,343	207,029	3,411	195,747
Maori War	740	36,260	669	32,781
Miners'	506	31,505	544	33,826
Epidemic	683	54,994	569	43,120
Boer War* .. .. .	..	..	75	3,173
Sundry pensions and annuities*	5	446	90	7,638
Civil Service Act, 1908* .. .. .	..	..	88	22,954
Totals	54,859	2,594,618	53,087	2,459,391

GROSS PAYMENTS.

Class of Pension.	1921-22.	1922-23.
War	£ 1,726,174	£ 1,489,392
Old-age	743,620	755,324
Widows'	186,457	188,021
Maori War	37,737	34,004
Miners'	31,212	33,447
Epidemic	65,486	52,371
Boer War* .. .. .	..	3,058
Sundry pensions and annuities*	433	7,262
Civil Service Act, 1908* .. .. .	..	26,937
Totals	2,791,119	2,589,816
Cost per head of European population	£2 4s. 9d.	£2 0s. 9d.

* Transferred to Pensions Department from 1st April, 1923.

The following figures relate to the war and other pensions paid by the Department during the year on behalf of other Governments :—

Government.	Class of Pension.	Number at 31st March, 1923.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.	Payments, 1922-23.
			£	£	£
Great Britain	War	2,036	111,770	54	129,768
"	Army and civil ..	379	15,990	42	
Australia	War	580	26,906	46	26,857
India	Army and civil ..	85	17,638	207	19,137
South Africa	War	4	225	56	235
"	Civil	25	2,428	97	2,170
Canada	War	Nil	Nil	Nil	77
Crown colonies	Civil	34	6,823	200	7,790
	Totals	3,143	£181,780		£186,034

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Following the decision of the Government that there should be closer co-ordination between the pensioning and medical treatment of discharged soldiers, the Medical Branch of the Defence Department dealing with the medical treatment of discharged members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force was amalgamated with this Department as from the 1st July, 1922.

The following return shows the number of applications for treatment received from war pensioners since the date of the amalgamation, and the number receiving treatment at 31st March, 1923 :—

Medical District.	Number of Applications.	Receiving Treatment at 31st March, 1923.		
		In Patients.	Out Patients.	Total.
Auckland	703	117	363	480
Wellington	693	160	253	413
Christchurch	350	206	159	365
Dunedin	395	87	139	226
	2,141	570	914	1,484

The gross expenditure for the nine months following the date of amalgamation is as set out below. The amount is a charge against the vote " War Expenses " :—

	£
Salaries	3,969
Maintenance in hospitals and out-patient treatment	61,856
Artificial limbs, surgical appliances, and shelters for tubercular patients	3,511
Travelling expenses of patients	2,255
Expenses of Artificial Limbs Factory, Wellington	839
Funeral expenses	334
Medical fees	145
Freight and cartage	47
Telephones	33
Sundry	2
	£72,991

WAR PENSIONS.

TOTAL CLAIMS LODGED TO DATE.

	From Soldiers.	From Dependents.
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
Year 1921-22	367	891
Year 1922-23	198	635
Totals	40,792	19,138

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	2,207	163,713	66
Year 1921-22	945	63,685	67
Year 1922-23	625	43,867	70
Totals	53,031	3,433,225	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, 1923.

Class of Pension.	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
Soldiers (permanent)	5,686	£ 279,760	£ 49
Soldiers (temporary)	11,892	586,923	49
Dependants (temporary)	908	69,308	76
Widows of soldiers	1,969	210,569	107
Other dependants of deceased soldiers	6,005	203,297	34
Totals	26,460	1,349,857	51

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS.

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

	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£
Payments made in New Zealand	1,595,139	1,395,447
Payments made in London	64,772	60,878
Payments made in Australia	50,988	32,130
Payments made in Canada	2,876	116
Payments made in South Africa	367	107
Other foreign payments	316	338
Allotments paid after casualty	11,586	376
Other miscellaneous payments	130	..
Totals	<u>1,726,174</u>	<u>1,489,392</u>

Summary of Total Payments to the 31st March, 1923.

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
Year 1921-22	1,726,174
Year 1922-23	1,489,392
	<u>£8,824,436</u>

PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AS AT THE 31ST MARCH, 1923.

	Soldiers.		Wives of Soldiers.	Dependants.		Annual Liability.
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Temporary.	Widows.	Other Dependants.	
Great Britain ..	99	267	17	184	719	£ 61,637
Australia ..	56	302	9	73	185	32,609
Other countries ..	9	21	1	2	10	2,311
Totals ..	164	590	27	259	914	96,557

OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1922	European.	Maori.	Total.
New pensions granted, 1922-23	19,587	904	20,491
Deaths during 1922-23	2,533	248	2,781
Cancellations 1922-23	1,673	90	2,091
Net increase	312	16	690
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1923	20,135	1,046	21,181
			Year 1922-23.
Total European population at the 31st March, 1923			1,271,750
Total European pensioners, sixty-five and over, at the 31st March, 1923			15,641
Female European pensioners, sixty to sixty-four, at the 31st March, 1923			4,494
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population			1.6
New claims lodged			3,435
New claims rejected			714
Annual liability at the 31st March, 1923			£770,295
Average pension			£36 7s.
Gross expenditure for year			£755,324
Increase on figures of previous year			£11,704
Cost per head of European population			11s. 11d.
Credit from national endowment			£28,547
Refunds paid to Public Account			£1,627
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals			974
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these			£39,210
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals			90
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these			£3,259
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1923			£2,593
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid			£3,906
Total claims lodged to date			78,748
Total claims established			61,548
Total deaths			32,299
Total cancellations			8,068
Grand total paid since 1898			£10,159,075
Total credit from national endowment			£358,445

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1922	European.	Maori.	Total.
New pensions granted, 1922-23	3,189	154	3,343
Cancellations, 1922-23	570	46	616
Net increase	522	26	548
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1923	3,237	174	3,411
Total children in receipt of pensions at the 31st March, 1923			9,693
			Year 1922-23.
New claims lodged			794
New claims rejected			116
Number of children on whose account pensions granted			1,532
Annual liability at close of year			£195,747
Average pension			£57 7s.
Gross expenditure for year			£188,021
Increase on figures of previous year			£1,564
Cost per head of European population			2s. 11d.
Refunds paid to Public Account			£133
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1923			£810

WIDOWS' PENSIONS—*continued.*

					Total.
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£1,833
Average of total family of pensioners .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4.06
Average of family under fourteen years .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2.48
Total claims lodged to date .. .. .	..	..	..	..	9,147
Total claims established .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7,583
Total number of children benefited .. .. .	..	..	..	..	18,822
Total deaths .. .. .	..	..	..	..	161
Total guardians appointed .. .. .	..	..	..	..	91
Total cancellations .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4,102
Grand total paid to date .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£994,594

MAORI WAR PENSIONS.

	European.		Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1922	564	176	740
Deaths during 1922-23	56	15	
Cancellations, 1922-23	1	..	72
New pensions granted, 1922-23	1	..	1
Net decrease	—
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1923	508	161	669
	Year 1922-23.			
New claims lodged	1
Number of pensioners previously in receipt of old-age pensions	218
Annual liability at close of year	£32,781
Average pension	£49
Gross expenditure for year	£34,004
Cost per head of European population	6d.
Decrease on figures of previous year	£3,733
Pensioners in homes and hospitals	35
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these	£1,816
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1923	£239
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£155
Total claims lodged to date	1,881
Total claims established	1,695
Total deaths	1,023
Total cancellations	3
Grand total paid to date	£432,952

MINERS' PENSIONS.

					Total.
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1922 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	506
New pensions granted, 1922-23 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	96
Deaths during 1922-23 .. .. .	..	..	..	52	58
Cancellations, 1922-23 .. .. .	..	..	..	6	
Net increase .. .. .	..	..	..	..	—
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1923 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	544
	Year 1922-23.				
New claims lodged .. .. .	..	..	..	..	114
New claims rejected .. .. .	..	..	..	..	18
Annual liability at close of year .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£33,826
Average pension .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£62 4s.
Gross expenditure for year .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£33,447
Increase on figures of previous year .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£2,235
Cost per head of European population .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6d.
Credit to vote from gold duty .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£2,611
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1923 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£159
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£241
Total claims lodged to date .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1,101
Total claims established .. .. .	..	..	..	..	964
Total claims rejected .. .. .	..	..	..	..	121
Total deaths .. .. .	..	..	..	..	266
Total cancellations .. .. .	..	..	..	..	154
Total amount paid to date .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£144,409
Total credit from gold duty .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£27,206
Total amount paid on account of funeral expenses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£2,629

NUMBER OF PENSIONS AT EACH RATE AT THE 31ST MARCH, 1923.

	Annual Valuc.
	£
157 at £91 per annum	14,287
99 at £65 per annum	6,435
288 at £45 10s. per annum	13,104
<hr/> 544	<hr/> £33,826

EPIDEMIC PENSIONS.						Total.
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1922	..	..	..	..	..	683
Cancellations, 1922-23—Net decrease	..	..	..	..	..	114
Pensions in force at the 31st March, 1923	..	..	..	..	..	569
Year 1922-23.						
Annual liability at close of year	..	..	..	..	£43,120	
Average pension	..	..	..	..	£75 16s.	
Gross expenditure for year	..	..	..	..	£52,371	
Decrease on figures of previous year	..	..	..	..	£13,115	
Cost per head of European population	..	..	..	..	10d.	
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1923	..	..	..	..	£159	
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	..	..	..	..	£120	
COST OF ADMINISTRATION.						£
Salaries	..	..	..	..	22,004	
Temporary assistance	..	..	..	..	7,327	
Advertising	..	..	..	..	26	
Exchange and commission on money-orders, &c.	..	..	..	..	505	
Fees for certificates of age	..	..	..	..	3	
Fuel, light, power, and water	..	..	..	..	57	
Interpreters' fees	..	..	..	..	1	
Medical fees	..	..	..	..	7,346	
Office-cleaning	..	..	..	..	33	
Office fittings and requisites, including printing and stationery	..	..	..	..	1,856	
Contribution to Post Office for payment of pensions	..	..	..	..	16,668	
Postage, telegrams, and rent of boxes	..	..	..	..	3,462	
Rent of offices	..	..	..	..	15	
Telephones	..	..	..	..	146	
Travelling-expenses	..	..	..	..	5,069	
Repairs to typewriters and office fittings	..	..	..	..	50	
Cartage	..	..	..	..	7	
Sundry payments	..	..	..	..	9	
<u>£64,584</u>						
Number of officers on staff at 31st March, 1923	..	..	..	..	..	155
Percentage of cost of administration to total payments for year (£2,848,841)	..	..	..	..	..	2.2

APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE AT EACH RATE ON THE 31ST MARCH, 1923.

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	..	..	..	3	..
234-260	24	9	1	27	..
201-233	7	3	9	62	..
191-200	6	16	..	24	..
181-190	53	789	25	89	..
171-180	1	2	..	8	..
161-170	..	3	..	77	..
151-160	11	52	4	177	..
141-150	3	25	47	17	..
131-140	7	7	6	65	..
121-130	52	256	11	380	..
111-120	25	2	6	66	4
101-110	60	119	124	30	6
91-100	104	101	26	7	7
81- 90	424	2	13	69	9
71- 80	444	445	229	461	177
61- 70	249	356	28	3	59
51- 60	975	1,254	188	71	463
41- 50	209	154	19	1	53
31- 40	1,039	1,943	73	45	1,669
21- 30	1,538	6,028	83	283	3,467
6- 20	455	326	16	4	91
Totals	5,686	11,892	908	1,969	6,005

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	2,152	1,880	428	19,837	..	156
1922	2,553	1,578	321	20,491	654	..
1923	2,781	1,763	328	21,181	690	..
Totals	61,548	32,299	8,068	..	..	..
<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	8	642	3,421	..	23
1922	523	3	598	3,343	..	78
1923	616	12	536	3,411	68	..
Totals	7,583	70	4,102	..	..	..
<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
1922	1	72	..	740	..	71
1923	1	71	1	669	..	71
Totals	1,695	1,023	3	..	..	..

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>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	..
1922	..	..	..	78	38	8	506	32	..
1923	..	..	..	96	52	6	544	38	..
Totals	..	..	..	964	266	154	..	..	..
<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
1922	..	..	..	945	369	3,249	29,091	..	2,673
1923	..	..	..	625	358	2,898	26,460	..	2,631
Totals	..	..	..	53,031	2,038	24,533	..	..	..
<i>Epidemic.</i>									
Number of pensions taken over from Public Health Department on 1st April, 1920				939	..	..	..	..	..
1921	..	..	..	27	..	117	849	..	90
1922	6	..	172	683	..	166
1923	114	569	..	114
Totals	972	..	403

G. C. FACHE,
Commissioner of Pensions.

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