

(6) MINERS' BENEFITS

This class of benefit shows a decrease in the number of beneficiaries, there being 718 in force as at 31st March, against 736 for the previous year. During the year 45 new grants were made.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £105,416.

(7) MAORI WAR BENEFITS

There is now only one person receiving this benefit of £104 a year.

(8) RECIPROCAL AGE AND INVALIDS' BENEFITS

Under the Age and Invalids' Benefits (Reciprocity with Australia) Act, 1943, the Social Security Commission is empowered to make grants of age and invalids' benefits to persons living in the Dominion not being qualified to receive these benefits under the Social Security Act, 1938, but who immediately before taking up residence in New Zealand had been resident in Australia.

The number of applications received and dealt with for the period 1st April, 1946, to 31st March, 1947, was :—

—	Age.	Invalids.	Total.
Applications received and those outstanding at the beginning of the year	158	30	188
Applications granted	94	15	109
Applications rejected	31	10	41
Applications outstanding as at 31/3/47	33	5	38

The number of reciprocal benefits in force as at 31st March, 1947, was age, 158; invalids, 53; total, 211.

WEEKLY BENEFITS**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

The following figures show the number of applications for unemployment benefits dealt with during the years ended 31st March, 1946, and 31st March 1947, respectively.

—	1945-46.			1946-47.		
	Males.	Females.	Totals.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Persons granted benefit	1,149	85	1,234	790	51	841
Number of applications declined	402	746	1,148	503	840	1,343
Number of persons whose applications were declined, but who were granted emergency benefits on grounds of hardship	210	502	712	313	503	816
Totals	1,761	1,333	3,094	1,606	1,394	3,000

As at 31st March, 1947, there were 35 persons in receipt of unemployment benefit, a decrease of 170 over the figure as at 31st March, 1946.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to £24,332, as against £31,661 for the previous year, a decrease of £7,329.