

1903.
NEW ZEALAND.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS:

STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1903.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 62 of "The Old-age Pensions Act, 1898."

The REGISTRAR of OLD-AGE PENSIONS to the Right Hon. the COLONIAL TREASURER.

SIR,— Old-age Pensions Department, Wellington, 13th July, 1903.

I have the honour to furnish the following report for the financial year ended 31st March, 1903, containing particulars required for presentation to Parliament in terms of section 62 of "The Old-age Pensions Act, 1898."

On the 31st March, 1902, the number of pensions on the books was 12,776, representing a liability of £217,192—an average per pension of £17. Of this number, 1,055 were Maoris.

The number of pensions in force on the 31st March, 1903, was 12,481, representing a liability of £211,594—an average per pension of £16 19s. Of this number, 892 were Maoris.

During the financial year just ended the number of new pensions granted was 1,386, including 62 Maoris. Five pensions, cancelled in the previous year, were reinstated.

The total number of pensions voided during the year was 1,686, made up as follows: Deaths, 1,064; renewals not applied for, 278; renewals refused, 198; cancellations, 146. Maoris are represented in these figures by 103 deaths, 79 renewals not applied for, 38 renewals refused, and 11 cancellations.

The total payments on account of pensions during the year amounted to £210,140 16s. 6d. Refunds direct to the Public Account of pension overpaid totalled £984 11s. 1d., leaving the net charge against the Act as £209,156 5s. 5d. A further refund of pension overpaid, totalling £55, was also obtained in stamps.

The total amount of instalments for the year unpaid on the 31st March was £1,667 10s. 2d. Of this amount, £1,577 16s. 10d. represents absolutely forfeited instalments, the balance of £89 13s. 4d. being instalments the payment of which is in abeyance.

During the year just ended numerous Court cases have revealed the fact that pensions have been obtained by fraud and misrepresentation in the past. No matter how careful the investigating Magistrate may have been, it is clear that some persons did not truthfully state their financial position, the result being that pensions were granted to some who were not entitled to receive them, and others have been drawing a larger amount of pension than the law allowed. To prevent this practice, it became absolutely necessary to adopt a new system of examination, and to make new regulations, which latter became law in February last. All applicants for a pension have now to fill in the answers to a set of questions on a new claim form, and to come before the Deputy-Registrar if physically fit to do so. The Deputy-Registrar then verifies the answers given by a set of inquiry forms provided for the purpose, and when this has been done to the satisfaction of that officer the applicant appears, as required by the Act, before the Stipendiary Magistrate, who may grant or reject the claim according to the evidence. All pensioners already on the books are being given the opportunity, when they come up for renewal this year, to answer a similar set of questions, the answers to which are verified as in the case of a new claim. Under this system no extra hardship is suffered if the applicant is justly entitled to a pension. It should be always borne in mind that where there is a large sum of public money to be had by application, the greatest care must be given to all claims. If due attention were not paid to this searching examination, the amount payable under the Act would quickly assume large proportions.

By reason of the new method adopted, extra work of a most important character has been cast upon the Head Office, as well as upon the various Deputy-Registrars. The machinery is doing all that is required of it, and is working satisfactorily.

It is gratifying to find the pension looked upon, as the Legislature intended it should be, as a right, and not a charity.

HOMES, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

During the year various institutions and homes where pensioners reside were visited, and the inmates were found to be well housed and cared for by the governing authorities. The pensioners were quite content, and had no complaints to make about their treatment.

MAORI PENSIONERS.

The investigation of Maori pension-claims is one that demands the most careful attention of investigating Magistrates.

It is thought that it would be to the advantage of the aged Natives if Magistrates availed themselves more fully of the power contained in section 10 of the Amendment Act of 1901, which reads as follows: “(1.) Where, on the application by a Maori for a pension or a renewal certificate, it would, in the opinion of the Magistrate, be more advantageous to the applicant to receive an allowance out of the moneys appropriated for Native purposes under ‘The Civil List Act, 1863,’ he may, in lieu of granting a pension, report the circumstances of the case to the Native Minister, with such recommendation as he thinks fit to make.” If this were done, Government officers could see that necessary food and clothing were supplied direct to them.

In consequence of the advanced age or physical disability of some of the Maori pensioners, they are not capable of protecting themselves from the younger branches, who, it is feared, spend the aged pensioners’ money.

The Civil List vote would require to be increased to meet the increased expenditure under this head, which, however, would be more than compensated for by the decrease in the charge upon the Consolidated Fund on account of payment of pensions.

Tables are attached as under: (1.) Number and annual value of pensions granted to Europeans and Maoris in force on the 31st March, 1903. (2.) Sexes of pensioners on the rolls at 31st March, 1903. (3.) Pensions in force on 31st March, 1903, in North and South Islands. (4.) Number of pensions granted in each financial year, together with the number of such pensions in force on 31st March, 1903. (5.) Ages of European pensioners on the rolls at 31st March, 1903. (6.) Ages of European pensioners who died during the year ended 31st March, 1903. (7.) Number of pensions granted since the Act came into operation, together with the number of voids each year, and number in force at end of each year. (8.) Comparative statement of pensions in force, and payments made in each financial year since the Act came into operation. (9.) Cost of administration for the financial year ended 31st March, 1903. (10.) Number of old-age pensioners in charitable institutions on 31st March, 1903.

J. EMAN SMITH,

Registrar, Old-age Pensions.

TABLE I.—NUMBER and ANNUAL VALUE of PENSIONS granted to Europeans and Maoris in Force on the 31st March, 1903.

	Number.		Annual Value.			Number.		Annual Value.
	Europeans.	Maoris.				Europeans.	Maoris.	
			£ s.					£ s.
Auckland	974	8	16,556 0	Masterton	87	1	1,483 0	
Coromandel	86	37	2,183 0	Otaki	51	13	1,089 0	
Dargaville	64	..	1,114 0	Pahiatua	32	..	504 0	
Hamilton	149	11	2,659 0	Palmerston North ..	162	7	2,852 0	
Helensville	240	6	4,252 0	Nelson	267	4	4,864 0	
Kaitaia	17	44	1,013 0	Motueka	80	..	1,291 0	
Mangonui	10	19	489 0	Blenheim	163	3	2,747 0	
Maungaturoto ..	39	..	598 0	Havelock	8	..	135 0	
Otahuhu	222	13	3,738 0	Christchurch ..	1,208	6	20,384 0	
Raglan	9	50	1,009 0	Akaroa	41	7	808 0	
Rawene	14	87	1,678 0	Amberley	9	..	158 0	
Rotorua	6	51	1,019 0	Ashburton	195	..	3,340 0	
Russell	61	96	2,581 0	Culverden	4	..	63 0	
Taupo .. ..	..	33	573 0	Kaipoi	274	6	4,628 0
Warkworth	68	2	1,086 0	Kaikoura	22	2	402 0	
Whangarei	138	3	2,405 0	Timaru	146	..	2,504 0	
Whangaroa	15	28	745 0	Fairlie	6	..	100 0	
Thames	247	11	4,413 0	Geraldine	126	7	2,227 0	
Opotiki	13	24	642 0	Waimate	102	2	1,711 0	
Paeroa	55	6	1,065 0	Greymouth	473	..	8,173 0	
Tauranga	32	43	1,293 0	Reefton	156	..	2,748 0	
Te Aroha	35	1	624 0	Hokitika	496	2	8,771 0	
Whakatane	8	65	1,312 0	Westport	232	4	4,130 0	
Gisborne	62	34	1,603 0	Oamaru	236	3	4,151 0	
Port Awanui	5	16	378 0	Dunedin	963	1	16,403 0	
Napier	269	2	4,589 0	Balclutha	138	..	2,864 0	
Dannevirke	146	1	2,447 0	Clyde	100	..	1,776 0	
Waipawa	23	..	401 0	Lawrence	206	..	3,487 0	
Wairoa	9	54	975 0	Milton	131	..	2,157 0	
New Plymouth ..	185	20	3,429 0	Naseby	98	..	1,694 0	
Stratford	30	..	494 0	Palmerston South ..	60	..	994 0	
Wanganui	193	16	3,587 0	Port Chalmers	177	6	2,970 0	
Hawera	59	4	1,116 0	Invercargill	605	1	10,197 0	
Marton	77	10	1,476 0	Queenstown	112	..	1,944 0	
Patea	20	3	403 0	Riverton	131	5	2,363 0	
Wellington	534	4	9,382 0	Chatham Islands ..	4	1	90 0	
Feilding	92	7	1,653 10					
Greytown	82	2	1,412 0	Totals	11,589	892	£211,594 10	

TABLE II.—SEXES of PENSIONERS on the Rolls at 31st March, 1903.

	Europeans.		Maoris.				Europeans.		Maoris.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.			Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Auckland ..	456	518	4	4	Masterton ..	50	37	1	..	..
Coromandel ..	63	23	21	16	Otaki ..	36	15	5	..	8
Dargaville ..	49	15	..	..	Pahiatua ..	18	14	..	..	..
Hamilton ..	85	64	5	6	Palmerston North ..	101	61	5	..	2
Helensville ..	170	70	4	2	Nelson ..	142	125	3	..	1
Kaitaia ..	15	2	25	19	Motueka ..	47	33	..	..	..
Mangonui ..	7	3	5	14	Blenheim ..	94	69	2	..	1
Maungaturoto ..	21	18	..	..	Havelock ..	6	2	..	..	..
Otahuhu ..	113	109	8	5	Christchurch ..	598	610	2	..	4
Raglan ..	5	4	26	24	Akaroa ..	27	14	5	..	2
Rawene ..	11	3	48	39	Amberley ..	9	..	..	..	..
Rotorua ..	5	1	23	28	Ashburton ..	139	56	..	..	..
Russell ..	45	16	54	42	Culverden ..	2	2	..	..	..
Taupo ..	..	..	11	22	Kaipoi ..	153	121	4	..	2
Warkworth ..	40	28	..	2	Kaikoura ..	17	5	2	..	..
Whangarei ..	92	46	2	1	Timaru ..	80	66	..	..	..
Whangaroa ..	11	4	15	13	Fairlie ..	4	2	..	..	..
Thames ..	146	101	8	3	Geraldine ..	71	55	4	..	3
Opotiki ..	8	5	11	13	Waimate ..	64	38	1	..	1
Paeroa ..	38	17	4	2	Greymouth ..	399	74	..	..	..
Tauranga ..	21	11	14	29	Reefton ..	140	16	..	..	..
Te Aroha ..	22	13	1	..	Hokitika ..	388	108	2	..	..
Whakatane ..	6	2	28	37	Westport ..	177	55	3	..	1
Gisborne ..	45	17	19	15	Oamaru ..	146	90	2	..	1
Port Awanui ..	5	..	4	12	Dunedin ..	495	468	..	..	1
Napier ..	170	99	2	..	Balclutha ..	83	55	..	..	..
Dannevirke ..	81	65	1	..	Clyde ..	81	19	..	..	..
Waipawa ..	16	7	..	..	Lawrence ..	146	60	..	..	..
Wairoa ..	7	2	35	19	Milton ..	72	59	..	..	..
New Plymouth ..	107	78	11	9	Naseby ..	76	22	..	..	..
Stratford ..	16	14	..	..	Palmerston South ..	34	26	..	..	..
Wanganui ..	118	75	12	4	Port Chalmers ..	87	90	3	..	3
Hawera ..	33	26	4	..	Invercargill ..	377	228	1	..	..
Marton ..	53	24	5	5	Queenstown ..	82	30	..	..	..
Patea ..	15	5	3	..	Riverton ..	95	36	2	..	3
Wellington ..	254	280	2	2	Chatham Islands ..	2	2	1	..	..
Feilding ..	62	30	5	2						
Greytown ..	46	36	..	2	Totals ..	6,995	4,594	468	..	424

TABLE III.—PENSIONS IN FORCE on 31st March, 1903, in North and South Islands.

North Island	...	...	...	...	...	European.	Maori.
South Island	...	...	...	...	...	4,620	832
						6,969	60
						11,589	892

TABLE IV.—NUMBER of PENSIONS GRANTED in each Financial Year, together with the NUMBER of such PENSIONS IN FORCE on 31st March, 1903.

Year ended 31st March.						Pensions granted in each Year.	Number of such Pensions still in Force on 31st March, 1903.
1899	...	...	...	...	...	7,487	4,834
1900	...	...	...	...	...	4,699	3,089
1901	...	...	...	...	...	2,227	1,744
1902	...	...	...	...	...	1,694	1,472
1903	...	...	...	...	...	1,386	1,342
						17,493	12,481

TABLE V.—AGES of EUROPEAN PENSIONERS on the Rolls at 31st March, 1903.

	Number.		Number.		Number.
At age 65	492	At age 78	320	At age 91	12
" 66	707	" 79	261	" 92	12
" 67	876	" 80	237	" 93	3
" 68	1,114	" 81	164	" 94	1
" 69	1,355	" 82	174	" 95	1
" 70	1,197	" 83	176	" 96	1
" 71	825	" 84	83	" 97	1
" 72	921	" 85	54	" 98	1
" 73	642	" 86	52	" 99	1
" 74	541	" 87	56	" 100	1
" 75	471	" 88	28	" 101	1
" 76	421	" 89	22		
" 77	347	" 90	18		11,589

TABLE VI.—AGES of EUROPEAN PENSIONERS who died during the Year ended 31st March, 1903.

	Number.		Number.		Number.
At age 65	16	At age 77	50	At age 89	7
" 66	29	" 78	29	" 90	7
" 67	51	" 79	32	" 91	5
" 68	65	" 80	26	" 92	3
" 69	84	" 81	32	" 93	0
" 70	73	" 82	35	" 94	4
" 71	50	" 83	31	" 95	1
" 72	65	" 84	17	" 96	3
" 73	61	" 85	16	" 97	2
" 74	52	" 86	9	" 98	1
" 75	45	" 87	11		
" 76	43	" 88	6		961

TABLE VII.—NUMBER of PENSIONS GRANTED since the Act came into Operation, NUMBER of VOIDS, and NUMBER IN FORCE at End of each Year.

Year ended 31st March.	Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Renewals not applied for.	Renewals refused.	Cancelled.	In Force at End of Year.
1899	7,487	38	...	...	6	7,443
1900	4,699	786	6	37	28	11,285
1901	2,227	815	65	202	25	12,405
1902	1,694	935	182	152	54	12,776
1903	*1,391	1,064	278	198	146	12,481
Totals ...	17,498	3,638	531	589	259	...

*Including 5 cancellations of the previous year reinstated.

TABLE VIII.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of PENSIONS IN FORCE, and PAYMENTS MADE in each Financial Year since Act came into Operation.

Date.	Number of Pensions in Force.	Payments to End of Financial Year.	Annual Increase in Expenditure.	Increase in Number of Pensions.	Decrease in Number of Pensions.
At March 31, 1899	7,443	£3,124	...	...	...
" 1900	11,285	£157,342	£154,218	3,842	...
" 1901	12,405	£197,292	£39,950	1,120	...
" 1902	12,776	£207,468	£10,176	371	...
" 1903	12,481	£210,140	*£2,672	...	295

*Gross increase in expenditure during the financial year 1902-3..	..	..	£
Less—(1.) Refunds to Public Account by Court proceedings	..	£934	2,672
(2.) Refunds by way of fine	..	55	
(3.) Instalments due in 1901-2 paid in 1902-3	..	629	
			<u>1,668</u>
Net increase in expenditure ..	..	..	<u>£1,004</u>

TABLE IX.—COST of ADMINISTRATION for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1903.

Salaries—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Head Office	621	6	11			
Deputy Registrars	278	10	10			
				899	17	9
Other charges—						
Clerical assistance	1,730	5	1			
Contribution to Post Office to pay salaries of Officers employed on Old-age Pensions work	500	0	0			
Travelling-expenses of Registrar, Stipendiary Magistrates, Deputy Registrars, Police Constables, Interpreters' fees, &c.	384	6	9			
Contingencies	244	13	9			
Rent of offices	46	6	8			
				2,905	12	3
Total				£3,805	10	0

TABLE X.—NUMBER of OLD-AGE PENSIONERS maintained by CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS throughout the Colony on 31st March, 1903.

Controlling Body.		Institution.	Number of Pensioners.	Amount handed to Pensioners after Deduction of Maintenance.
Location.	Name.			
Whangarei ..	North of Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Old Men's Home ..	10	2s. 6d. per month.
Auckland ..	Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Costley Home ..	57	1s. per week.
" ..	Little Sisters of the Poor ..	Home ..	21	Nil.
Thames ..	Thames and Coromandel Charitable Aid Board	Old Men's Home ..	8	4s. per month.
Hamilton ..	Waikato Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Old Men's Home ..	9	4s. "
Gisborne ..	Cook District Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Old Men's Home ..	3	1s. per week.
Napier ..	Hawke's Bay United Charitable Aid Board	Old People's Home ..	30	4s. 4d. per month.
" ..	Napier Charitable Aid Board ..	" ..	1	" ..
New Plymouth	Taranaki District Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Old Men's Home ..	4	8s. 4d. per month.
Wanganui ..	Patea and Wanganui Charitable Aid Board	Jubilee Home ..	18	5s. per month.
Palmerston N.	Palmerston North Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	" ..	2	" ..
Wellington ..	Benevolent Institution Contributors ..	Ohio Home ..	15	4s. per month.
" ..	Society for Relief of Aged Needy ..	Home for Aged Needy ..	27	6s. 2d. "
" ..	Wellington Hospital Trustees ..	Hospital ..	2	" ..
" ..	Sisters of Compassion ..	Home for Incurables ..	9	4s. 2d. per month (average).
Picton ..	Picton Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Hospital ..	6	4s. per month.
Nelson ..	Nelson Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Old People's Home ..	30	4s. "
Blenheim ..	Wairau Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Hospital ..	6	1s. per week.
" ..	" ..	Old Men's Home ..	6	5s. per month.
Reefton ..	Reefton Hospital Trustees ..	Hospital ..	14	6s. "
Westport ..	Buller Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Hospital ..	3	6s. "
Charleston ..	Charleston Hospital Trustees ..	Hospital ..	33	6s. "
Greymouth ..	Greymouth Hospital Trustees ..	Hospital ..	15	5s. "
Hokitika ..	Westland Hospital Trustees ..	Hospital ..	6	5s. "
" ..	Westland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Hospital, Ross ..	1	" ..
" ..	Hokitika Benevolent Institution [Board	" ..	8	5s. per month.
Kumara ..	Kumara Hospital Trustees ..	Hospital ..	22	Nil.
Christchurch ..	North Canterbury and Ashburton Charitable Aid Board	Jubilee Home, Christchurch	29	" ..
" ..	Ditto ..	Old Men's Home, Ashburton	1	" ..
" ..	North Canterbury Hospital Board ..	Hospital ..	3	" ..
" ..	Samaritan Home Trustees ..	Samaritan Home ..	8	1s. per week.
Timaru ..	South Canterbury Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	Old Men's Home ..	13	6s. per month.
Oamaru ..	North Otago Benevolent Society ..	Hospital ..	1	" ..
Cromwell ..	Cromwell Hospital Trustees ..	Benevolent Institution ..	92	4s. per month.
Dunedin ..	Otago Benevolent Institution ..	Bowmont Street Home ..	40	4s. 6d. per month.
Invercargill ..	Southland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board	" ..	1	8s. 6d. "
" ..	Ditto ..	Lorne Farm ..	"	" ..
" ..	Southland Hospital Trustees ..	Hospital ..	"	" ..
Total ..			554	

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