

## COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration for the past year stands at £4,758. The following table shows the cost in each year since the Act was passed :—

						Cost of Administration.
						£
Three months ended 31st March, 1899	...	...	...	...	...	510
Year ended 31st March, 1900	...	...	...	...	...	2,360
" " 1901	...	...	...	...	...	2,415
" " 1902	...	...	...	...	...	2,535
" " 1903	...	...	...	...	...	3,805
" " 1904	...	...	...	...	...	3,655
" " 1905	...	...	...	...	...	3,936
" " 1906	...	...	...	...	...	4,758
Total	...	...	...	...	...	£23,974

The percentage of the total cost of administering the Act to the gross payments of £1,428,372 above set out is, therefore, only 1.67 per cent.

The increase in last year's figures is, for the most part, due to the increase by £500 in the annual amount paid to the Post Office, and partly to the reorganization of the work of the Department in the chief centres of population, in each of which the Department now has its own officer investigating all claims for the pension.

## ANNUAL LIABILITY.

The liability at the end of each year since the Act came into force is as follows :—

£		£ s.			
At 31st March, 1899,	127,319,	or an average of	17 2	for	7,443 pensioners.
" 1900,	193,718,	"	17 3	"	11,285
" 1901,	211,965,	"	17 2	"	12,405
" 1902,	217,192,	"	17 0	"	12,776
" 1903,	211,594,	"	16 19	"	12,481
" 1904,	200,915,	"	16 17	"	11,926
" 1905,	199,081,	"	16 18	"	11,770
" 1906,	313,018,	"	24 17	"	12,582

The accompanying table shows the number of pensions at each rate at the end of the year just closed :—

Pensions.	£					Liability.
	£					£
10,398 at 26	...	...	...	...	...	270,348
301 " 25	...	...	...	...	...	7,525
287 " 24	...	...	...	...	...	6,888
199 " 23	...	...	...	...	...	4,577
167 " 22	...	...	...	...	...	3,674
200 " 21	...	...	...	...	...	4,200
156 " 20	...	...	...	...	...	3,120
130 " 19	...	...	...	...	...	2,470
166 " 18	...	...	...	...	...	2,988
70 " 17	...	...	...	...	...	1,190
69 " 16	...	...	...	...	...	1,104
73 " 15	...	...	...	...	...	1,095
62 " 14	...	...	...	...	...	868
49 " 13	...	...	...	...	...	637
41 " 12	...	...	...	...	...	492
55 " 11	...	...	...	...	...	605
47 " 10	...	...	...	...	...	470
25 " 9	...	...	...	...	...	225
22 " 8	...	...	...	...	...	176
26 " 7	...	...	...	...	...	182
15 " 6	...	...	...	...	...	90
11 " 5	...	...	...	...	...	55
4 " 4	...	...	...	...	...	16
5 " 3	...	...	...	...	...	15
4 " 2	...	...	...	...	...	8
0 " 1	...	...	...	...	...	0
Totals	12,582					£313,018

## CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The total amount paid to Charitable Aid and Hospital Boards throughout the colony during the past year amounted to £14,350 8s. 2d., the number of pensioners resident in the institutions controlled by these Boards on the 31st March being 616.

In the various homes visited by me during the year I found the pensioners to be well cared for and happy. Particularly was this the case in the Jubilee Home at Woolston, and the Tuarangi Home at