

The following table shows the gross amount paid since the Act came into force, together with the cost per head of the population (exclusive of Maoris) in each year :—

	Gross Payments on Account of Pensions. £	Population at End of Year.	Cost per Head of Population. s. d.
Three months ended 31st March, 1899 (at £18)	3,124	746,676	0 1
Year ended 31st March, 1900 (at £18)	157,342	758,617	4 1
" " 1901 "	197,292	772,719	5 1
" " 1902 "	207,468	789,994	5 3
" " 1903 "	210,140	814,842	5 2
" " 1904 "	203,164	838,954	4 10
" " 1905 "	195,475	864,971	4 6
" " 1906* "	254,367	889,968	5 8
" " 1907 (at £26)	314,184	913,873	6 10
" " 1908 "	325,199	937,587	6 11
" " 1909 "	336,760	968,313	6 11
Total ...	2,404,515		

* Five months at £18; seven months at £26.

RECOVERIES.

Overpaid pensions refunded and paid to the credit of the Public Account during the year totalled £227 14s. 7d.

The following table shows the overpayments recovered in each year since the Act came into operation :—

	£	s.	d.
Three months ended 31st March, 1899	Nil.		
Year ended 31st March, 1900	25	15	0
" " 1901	63	18	4
" " 1902	127	1	11
" " 1903	1,039	11	1
" " 1904	2,349	14	7
" " 1905	1,526	10	9
" " 1906	405	11	0
" " 1907	357	16	8
" " 1908	163	0	8
" " 1909	227	14	7
Total	£6,286	14	7

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration during the past year was £9,098 2s. 2d., the details being as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	4,251	11	2
Other charges,—			
Clerical assistance..	10	0	0
Contribution to Post Office for paying pensions	3,990	0	0
Fees for certificates of age, &c.	14	16	10
Freight and cartage	3	18	5
Interpreters' fees ..	28	3	0
Light, firing, and water	10	14	9
Office-cleaning	38	18	3
Office requisites	11	5	5
Payment to E. Abbenseth	3	10	0
Postage, telegrams, &c.	507	6	1
Telephones	54	0	0
Travelling-expenses of Commissioner, Stipendiary Magistrates, 75 Registrars, and police constables	157	7	9
Travelling-expenses of pensioners	1	5	0
Contingencies	15	5	6
	£9,098	2	2

It will be noted that no less than £4,497 of these charges was paid to the Postal Department, £3,990 as a contribution to pay pensions, and £507 for postages. By deducting this sum from the total, it will be found that the actual cost of administration in salaries, travelling-expenses, and incidentals is reduced to £4,601, being only 1·3 per cent. of the total paid away in pensions during the year.

The travelling-expenses have, as in former years, been kept at a low figure, the expenditure under this head, embracing the expenses of the Commissioner, Magistrates, Registrars, and the police, being only £157.