

1909.
NEW ZEALAND.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

(ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE), FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1909.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 69 of "The Old-age Pensions Act, 1908."

The COMMISSIONER OF OLD-AGE PENSIONS to the Right Hon. the MINISTER OF FINANCE.
SIR,— Old-age Pensions Department, Wellington, 30th April, 1909.
I have the honour to submit herewith my report on the working of the Department during the financial year ended 31st March, 1909.

The principal event of the year was the passage through Parliament of an Amendment Act, which widened the scope of former Acts, and thereby added considerably to the number of pensioners. This Act received the Governor's assent on the 10th October, 1908.

The main features of this enactment are,—

- (1.) A provision giving Magistrates power to grant pensions to applicants immediately on their losing their employment who previously were ineligible for the best part of twelve months after ceasing work.
- (2.) The exemption of life-assurance policies and annuities as accumulated property under the Act.
- (3.) A reduction in the period of good behaviour before the granting of a pension from five years to twelve months.
- (4.) The elimination of a provision in the principal Act relating to residence which placed restrictions on the allowance of four years' absence from New Zealand.
- (5.) An increase from £300 to £650 in the value of property transferable to the Public Trustee in return for a pension.
- (6.) A provision for payment to the Mental Hospital Department of pensions granted to pensioners admitted to mental hospitals.
- (7.) An alteration in the due date of the first instalment of a pension, making it one month earlier than previously.
- (8.) A provision for the suspension of an order of forfeiture during the period a pensioner is being maintained in a charitable institution.

It may be mentioned that the former Acts above referred to were consolidated in one Act by Parliament early in the session of 1908.

PENSIONS IN FORCE.

A considerable increase in the number of participants in the scheme—the largest in any year since 1901—has taken place during the past year. On the 31st March last there were 14,396 pensioners on the books, including 691 members of the Native race. This represents an increase of 827 on the figures of the previous year, thus :—

New pensions granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,113
Deduct,—							
Deaths ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,112
Cancellations	..	..	..	..	..	..	174
						—	1,286
Net increase	..	..	..	..	..	..	827

Not only has the increase been in actual numbers, but also in the percentage of pensioners to the population eligible by age and residence. The following table indicates the rise and the previous fall :—

On 31st March		European Population eligible by Age and Residence.	European Pensioners.	Percentage.
1901	(Actual)	26,563	11,307	42
1906	"	37,367	11,915	31
1908	(Estimated)	39,336	12,912	32
1909	"	40,176	13,705	34

The percentage of pensioners to the population eligible by age only is 30 per cent. Last year it was 29 per cent.

These facts are worthy of attention when considering any future amendment of the Act.

11,340 pensioners, or 78 per cent. of the whole, draw the full pension of £26. Four draw the minimum pension of £1.

There are still on the roll 2,173 out of the 7,487 pensioners who were admitted in the first three months of the Act ten years ago.

There are 105 European pensioners of the age of ninety and over. Of this number 7 are ninety-five and over, and 2 are centenarians.

NEW CLAIMS.

The number of new claims lodged during the past year was 2,834. These, with the 640 awaiting investigation at the seventy-five agencies of the Department on the 31st March, 1908, made a total of 3,474 claims dealt with. They are accounted for as follows :—

Granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,113
Rejected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	498
Awaiting investigation on 31st March, 1909	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	863
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,474

The total claims lodged since the Act came into operation on the 1st January, 1899, now number 36,428. Of these, 27,730 have been granted, of which latter 51 per cent. are still on the pension-roll.

The new pensioners admitted during the year include 110 Natives. 1,916 of them, or 90 per cent., are of British extraction, including 52 whites born in New Zealand.

The percentage of new pensioners to the people who became eligible by age and residence each year, as with the percentage in the case of the total pensioners, shows an upward tendency, thus :—

Year ended 31st March	Europeans who became eligible by Age and Residence.	New European Pensioners.	Percentage.
1902	3,537	1,527	43
1906	5,900	1,948	33
1908	3,623	1,660	45
1909	3,720	2,003	53

Further particulars relating to the claims made and the new pensions granted appear in the appendix.

ANNUAL PAYMENTS.

According as the number of pensioners increase, so also must the annual payments under the Act. The gross payments passed through the accounts for the past year totalled £336,759 16s. 2d., being a sum exceeding that paid in the previous year by £11,560 13s.

The increase last year on the preceding year's figures was also £11,000-odd, and it will no doubt appear strange that, although there has been little variation in this addition to the annual payment in the past two years, there was last year an increase of 827 pensioners, as against only 312 in the year 1907-8. This seeming disparity is explained by the fact that the increase of pensioners in the past year was more pronounced in the closing months of the year, due, no doubt, to the widening of the scope of the Act referred to in my opening remarks. The full effect of this latter increment in numbers on the annual payments has yet to be felt.

After deducting the sum of £227 14s. 7d., representing overpayments of pension refunded, the net charge against the Consolidated Fund is £336,532 1s. 7d.

The distribution of the amount in the various postal districts is indicated by the following table :—

Postal District.	Number of Payments.	Amount.	£	s.	d.
Auckland	34,071	69,644	9	7	
Blenheim	1,837	3,779	7	9	
Christchurch	27,218	55,903	6	0	
Dunedin	26,022	52,231	16	5	
Gisborne	1,212	2,281	10	9	
Greymouth	6,108	12,926	2	9	
Hokitika	6,294	13,271	17	9	
Invercargill	10,138	21,012	2	5	
Napier	5,912	11,951	13	5	
Nelson	3,436	6,956	16	1	
New Plymouth	2,975	5,993	8	0	
Oamaru	3,524	7,282	16	7	
Thames	6,079	12,731	11	4	
Timaru	5,961	11,982	14	11	
Wanganui	4,697	9,786	0	5	
Wellington	15,656	31,701	1	4	
Westport	3,493	7,376	5	6	
Total	164,633	£336,813	1	0	

NOTE.—These latter figures include a number of payments which were not passed through the accounts by reason of some slight informality.

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.

The amount paid for administering the Act in each year since the Act was passed is as follows :—

					£
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
" " 1907	...	...	...	...	5,250
" " 1908	...	...	...	...	5,766
" " 1909	...	...	...	...	9,098
Total	...	...	...	...	£44,088

The percentage of the total cost of administration to the total payments of £2,404,515 for pensions is 1·8 per cent.

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 "
" 1907, 326,084,	24	12	"	13,257 "
" 1908, 333,340,	24	11	"	13,569 "
" 1909, 353,343,	24	10	"	14,396 "

The accompanying table shows the number of pensions at each rate at the end of the year 1908-9.

Number of Pensions.	Rate. £	Liability. £	Number of Pensions.	Rate. £	Liability. £
11,340	26	294,840	77	12	924
403	25	10,075	68	11	748
420	24	10,080	58	10	580
290	23	6,670	51	9	459
225	22	4,950	58	8	464
260	21	5,460	16	7	112
187	20	3,740	37	6	222
163	19	3,097	29	5	145
204	18	3,672	20	4	80
108	17	1,836	18	3	54
102	16	1,632	10	2	20
90	15	1,350	4	1	4
75	14	1,050			
83	13	1,079			
			Total	14,396	£353,343

FORFEITED INSTALMENTS.

The instalments due last year and remaining unpaid on the 31st March amounted to £1,408 9s. 11d. £1,330 11s. 7d. of this amount represents absolutely forfeited instalments on which there is no further claim, the balance being instalments the payment of which is in abeyance.

The absolutely forfeited instalments in each month are,—

								Absolutely Forfeited Instalments.			
								£	s.	d.	
1908.											
April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103	16	8	
May..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102	13	4	
June	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	129	16	8	
July	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	123	5	0	
August	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	148	8	4	
September	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	1	8	
October	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	124	13	3	
November	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93	3	4	
December	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102	3	0	
1909.											
January	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	105	7	0	
February	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94	6	8	
March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	16	8	
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,330	11	7	

HOMES AND HOSPITALS.

The amount paid to the controlling bodies of the various homes and hospitals in New Zealand during the past year totalled £17,973 10s. 10d. Full details in regard to these payments, which do not carry a Government subsidy, are set out in the appendix.

The decrease in the annual expenditure on outdoor relief since the Old-age Pensions Act came into force in 1898 is indicated by the following table:—

Year ended				European Population.	Annual Cost of Outdoor Relief. £	Cost per Head of Population. s. d.
31st March, 1899	...	...	...	746,676	50,850	1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 1900	...	...	...	758,617	41,790	1 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 1901	...	...	...	772,719	42,181	1 1
" 1902	...	...	...	789,994	38,934	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$
" 1903	...	...	...	814,842	43,421	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
" 1904	...	...	...	833,954	42,618	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 1905	...	...	...	864,971	40,799	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 1906	...	...	...	889,968	39,547	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 1907	...	...	...	913,873	38,305	0 10
" 1908	...	...	...	937,587	33,998	0 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
" 1909	...	...	...	968,313	37,537	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$

GENERAL.

The usual assistance has been rendered by the Department to applicants in securing the necessary evidence of age. Of the total number of applicants during the year—i.e., 2,834—no less than 812 were unable to prove their ages; and, as a result of the inquiries made by Head Office in these cases, 498 were enabled to get their pensions, while 157 were found to be short of the pension age. In 92 cases no evidence could be traced, and in the remaining 65 replies from outside the Dominion are still awaited.

Now that the Old-age Pensions Department is about to become incorporated with the Post and Telegraph Department, this will be my last report on the working of the scheme, and when the time comes for me to hand over the administration to my successor, it will be with the feeling that I have done my duty alike to the State, to the old-age pensioners, and to myself.

J. EMAN SMITH, Commissioner.

APPENDIX.

TABLES EMBODIED IN APPENDIX.

- Table 1. Number and annual value of pensions (in districts).
" 2. Pensions in North and South Islands.
" 3. Claims received (in districts), and how disposed of.
" 4. Nationalities of pensioners admitted during the year 1908-9.
" 5. Sex and conjugal condition of pensioners admitted during the year 1908-9.
" 6. Ages of pensioners admitted during the year 1908-9.
" 7. Percentage of pensions granted in each year now in force.
" 8. Pensions in force and payments in each year.
" 9. New grants, deaths, and cancellations in each year.
" 10. Amounts paid to homes and hospitals.

TABLE 1.—NUMBER and ANNUAL VALUE of PENSIONS granted to Europeans and Maoris in Force on the 31st March, 1909.

District.	Number.		Annual Value.	District.	Number.		Annual Value.
	Europeans.	Maoris.			Europeans	Maoris.	
Auckland ..	1,500	11	£ 36,929	Otaki ..	64	6	1,638
Coromandel ..	94	25	3,002	Pahiatua ..	55	..	1,135
Dargaville ..	84	17	2,532	Palmerston North ..	203	3	5,028
Hamilton ..	268	44	7,532	Nelson ..	216	..	5,177
Helensville ..	50	5	1,392	Motueka ..	81	..	1,952
Kaitaia ..	18	57	1,913	Blenheim ..	153	1	3,821
Mangonui ..	14	17	768	Havelock ..	7	..	180
Maungaturoto ..	36	1	916	Christchurch ..	1,703	2	41,662
Otahuhu ..	99	3	2,502	Akaroa ..	35	4	1,009
Raglan ..	15	18	821	Amberley ..	14	..	341
Rawene ..	25	64	2,148	Ashburton ..	273	..	6,823
Rotorua ..	15	50	1,651	Culverden ..	8	..	204
Russell ..	60	81	3,410	Kaipoi ..	333	7	8,487
Taupo ..	5	13	468	Kaikoura ..	16	3	460
Warkworth ..	75	7	1,806	Timaru ..	213	..	5,079
Whangarei ..	139	7	3,641	Fairlie ..	17	..	407
Whangaroa ..	18	26	1,070	Geraldine ..	174	6	4,293
Thames ..	273	8	7,106	Waimate ..	132	1	3,224
Opotiki ..	20	21	1,048	Greymouth ..	448	..	11,452
Paeroa ..	81	13	2,343	Reefton ..	135	..	3,425
Tauranga ..	32	38	1,687	Hokitika ..	508	..	12,867
Te Aroha ..	54	2	1,384	Westport ..	242	1	6,169
Whakatane ..	7	24	794	Oamaru ..	293	2	7,318
Gisborne ..	69	16	1,946	Dunedin ..	1,392	1	33,145
Port Awanui ..	6	12	370	Balclutha ..	139	2	3,503
Napier ..	329	..	8,088	Clyde ..	119	..	3,051
Dannevirke ..	133	1	3,234	Lawrence ..	193	..	4,860
Waipawa ..	59	1	1,446	Milton ..	150	1	3,600
Wairoa ..	10	15	521	Naseby ..	116	..	2,882
New Plymouth ..	203	12	5,197	Palmerston South ..	55	..	1,310
Stratford ..	40	1	1,035	Waikouaiti ..	53	4	1,298
Wanganui ..	200	1	5,035	Invercargill ..	504	4	12,534
Hawera ..	86	1	2,122	Gore ..	144	..	3,660
Marton ..	99	1	2,477	Queenstown ..	104	..	2,622
Patea ..	36	..	910	Riverton ..	136	16	3,811
Wellington ..	704	6	17,588	Chatham Islands ..	6	3	210
Feilding ..	104	3	2,660				
Carterton ..	85	1	2,146	Totals ..	13,705	691	£353,343
Masterton ..	126	1	3,068				

TABLE 2.—PENSIONS IN FORCE at the 31st March, 1909, in North and South Islands.

	Europeans.		Maoris.		Liability.	
In North Island	5,593	..	633	..	152,507
In South Island	8,112	..	58	..	200,836
		13,705		691		£353,343

TABLE 3.—CLAIMS RECEIVED (in Districts), and how disposed of.

District.	Total Number of Claims received since Act came into Force.	Claims awaiting Investiga- tion on 31st Mar., 1908.	For Financial Year ending 31st March, 1909.			Claims awaiting Investiga- tion on 31st Mar., 1909.
			Claims received.	Claims esta- blished.	Claims rejected.	
Auckland ...	3,737	31	359	244	88	58
Coromandel ...	352	11	27	14	...	24
Dargaville ...	309	4	30	16	6	12
Hamilton ...	634	19	84	60	19	24
Helensville ...	454	...	13	7	...	6
Kaitaia ...	113	20	19	18	4	17
Mangonui ...	187	4	9	9	1	3
Maungaturoto ...	105	1	4	4	1	...
Otahuhu ...	800	6	14	5	3	12
Raglan ...	232	9	7	3	1	12
Rawene ...	316	13	7	12	...	8
Rotorua ...	253	2	32	17	11	6
Russell ...	368	5	14	11	2	6
Taupo ...	111	7	2	2	...	7
Warkworth ...	238	2	9	5	4	2
Whangarei ...	476	6	21	14	6	7
Whangaroa ...	128	8	5	7	3	3
Thames ...	699	27	62	54	6	29
Opotiki ...	102	11	6	10	2	5
Paeroa ...	262	26	28	19	4	31
Tauranga ...	335	24	24	19	10	19
Te Aroha ...	106	8	13	13	...	8
Whakatane ...	117	8	1	1	1	7
Gisborne ...	351	15	18	12	4	17
Port Awanui ...	286	...	3	...	...	3
Napier ...	806	47	96	93	32	18
Dannevirke ...	422	10	23	13	3	17
Waipawa ...	95	1	11	6	...	6
Wairoa ...	262	...	3	2	1	...
New Plymouth ...	624	4	31	22	1	12
Stratford ...	117	4	8	5	1	6
Wanganui ...	543	19	21	25	4	11
Hawera ...	241	9	22	17	2	12
Marton ...	298	5	27	21	5	6
Patea ...	93	...	10	7	1	2
Wellington ...	1,644	9	167	118	47	11
Feilding ...	251	5	26	16	7	8
Carterton ...	266	4	38	12	10	20
Masterton ...	347	8	44	27	12	13
Otaki ...	163	7	9	10	3	3
Pahiatua ...	132	1	18	11	5	3
Palmerston North ...	483	...	41	35	5	1
Nelson ...	660	12	34	30	4	12
Motueka ...	202	9	12	12	4	5
Blenheim ...	410	6	20	20	1	5
Havelock ...	27	...	1	1	...	...
Christchurch ...	3,449	32	306	258	25	55
Akaroa ...	127	2	6	4	1	3
Amberley ...	22	1	2	2	1	...
Ashburton ...	566	4	53	47	1	9
Culverden ...	24	...	3	1	...	2
Kaipoi ...	700	3	43	37	2	7
Kaikoura ...	59	1	4	3	1	1
Timaru ...	425	3	38	33	4	4
Fairlie ...	31	3	5	7	1	...
Geraldine ...	381	10	31	22	5	14
Waimate ...	259	7	28	22	3	10
Greymouth ...	1,003	10	54	46	6	12
Reefton ...	370	1	29	15	5	10
Hokitika ...	1,249	20	78	57	9	32
Westport ...	641	8	35	21	6	16
Oamaru ...	662	7	55	29	8	25
Carried forward ...	29,125	539	2,243	1,683	402	697

TABLE 3.—CLAIMS RECEIVED (in Districts), and how disposed of—*continued*.

District.	Total Number of Claims received since Act came into Force.	Claims awaiting Investiga- tion on 31st Mar., 1908.	For Financial Year ending 31st March, 1909.			Claims awaiting Investiga- tion on 31st Mar., 1909.
			Claims received.	Claims esta- blished.	Claims rejected.	
Brought forward ...	29,125	539	2,243	1,683	402	697
Dunedin ...	3,023	23	301	203	61	60
Balclutha ...	323	9	21	19	5	6
Clyde ...	277	8	14	11	2	9
Lawrence ...	454	4	24	21	2	5
Milton ...	306	3	35	32	3	3
Naseby ...	247	10	12	14	2	6
Palmerston South ...	134	4	10	3	1	10
Waikouaiti ...	80	3	4	5	2	...
Invercargill ...	1,433	16	99	65	9	41
Gore ...	55	12	18	17	8	5
Queenstown ...	258	4	17	16	...	5
Riverton ...	361	5	33	21	1	16
Chatham Islands ...	14	...	3	3	...	...
Port Chalmers (agency closed) ...	338	...	...	...	...	...
	36,428	640	2,834	2,113	498	863

TABLE 4.—ORIGINAL NATIONALITIES of PENSIONERS to whom new Pensions were granted during the Financial Year ended the 31st March, 1909.

	Number.		Number.		Number.
British (English) ...	946	British (Cape-Colonist) ...	1	Bohemian ...	2
" (Irish) ...	460	" (Norfolk-Islander) ...	1	Polish ...	2
" (Scotch) ...	385	" (South-Australian) ...	1	Portuguese ...	2
" (New-Zealander) ...	52	German ...	26	Swiss ...	2
" (Welsh) ...	20	Danish ...	15	Finn ...	1
" (Tasmanian) ...	15	Swedish ...	12	Greek ...	1
" (New South Wales) ...	13	Norwegian ...	6	Russian ...	1
" (Victorian) ...	7	French ...	4	Maoris ...	110
" (Canadian) ...	6	Italian ...	4		
" (Channel-Islander) ...	5	American ...	3	Total ...	2,113
" (Nova-Scotian) ...	3	Austrian ...	3		
" (Barbadoes colonist) ...	1	Prussian ...	3		

These pensioners are now all British subjects, as required by law.

TABLE 5.—SEX and CONJUGAL CONDITION of PENSIONERS who were admitted during the Year ended the 31st March, 1909.

Sex.	Single.	Married.	Widowed.	Totals.
Males ...	281	646	317	1,244
Females ...	27	389	453	869
Totals ...	308	1,035	770	2,113

TABLE 6.—AGES of PENSIONERS admitted during the Year ended the 31st March, 1909.

	Number.		Number.		Number.
At age 65 ...	582	At age 75 ...	59	At age 85 ...	1
" 66 ...	271	" 76 ...	45	" 86 ...	5
" 67 ...	186	" 77 ...	39	" 87 ...	1
" 68 ...	202	" 78 ...	31	" 88 ...	5
" 69 ...	123	" 79 ...	30	" 89 ...	2
" 70 ...	116	" 80 ...	19	" 90 ...	2
" 71 ...	111	" 81 ...	10	" 92 ...	1
" 72 ...	93	" 82 ...	12	" 106 ...	1
" 73 ...	73	" 83 ...	11		
" 74 ...	75	" 84 ...	7	Total ...	2,113

TABLE 7.—NUMBER of PENSIONS GRANTED in each Financial Year, together with the NUMBERS of such PENSIONS IN FORCE on the 31st March, 1909.

				Pensions granted in each Year.	Number of such Pensions still in Force, on 31st March 1909.	Percentage of Pensions in Force to Pensions granted.
Year ended 31st March, 1899	...	...	...	7,487	2,173	29
" " 1900	...	...	...	4,699	1,513	32
" " 1901	...	...	...	2,227	916	41
" " 1902	...	...	...	1,694	779	45
" " 1903	...	...	...	1,391	750	53
" " 1904	...	...	...	1,063	674	63
" " 1905	...	...	...	1,210	834	68
" " 1906	...	...	...	2,075	1,523	73
" " 1907	...	...	...	2,031	1,655	81
" " 1908	...	...	...	1,740	1,525	87
" " 1909	...	...	...	2,113	2,054	97
Totals	...	...	...	27,730	14,396	

TABLE 8.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of PENSIONS IN FORCE, and PAYMENTS MADE in each Financial Year since the Act came into Operation.

Date.	Number of Pensions in Force.	Payments to End of Financial Year.	Expenditure.		Pensions.	
			Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
At 31st March, 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
" 1904	11,926	203,164	...	6,976	...	555
" 1905	11,770	195,475	...	7,689	...	156
" 1906	12,582	254,367	58,892	...	812	...
" 1907	13,257	314,184	59,817	...	675	...
" 1908	13,569	325,199	11,015	...	312	...
" 1909	14,396	336,760	11,561	...	827	...
Total ...	...	£2,404,515	...	...	...	...

TABLE 9.—NUMBER of PENSIONS GRANTED since the Act came into Operation, with NUMBER of DEATHS and CANCELLATIONS, and NUMBER IN FORCE at End of each Year.

Year ending 31st March.			Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancellations.	In Force at End of Year.	Liability each Year.
1899...	...	...	7,487	38	6	7,443	£ 127,319
1900..	...	...	4,699	786	71	11,285	193,718
1901...	...	...	2,227	815	292	12,405	211,965
1902...	...	...	1,694	935	388	12,776	217,192
1903...	...	...	1,391	1,064	622	12,481	211,594
1904...	...	...	1,063	928	690	11,926	200,915
1905...	...	...	1,210	890	476	11,770	199,081
1906...	...	...	2,075	1,038	225	12,582	313,018
1907...	...	...	2,031	1,097	259	13,257	326,084
1908...	...	...	1,740	1,189	239	13,569	333,340
1909...	...	...	2,113	1,112	174	14,396	353,343
Totals...	...	...	27,730	9,892	3,442	...	...

TABLE 10.—NUMBER of OLD-AGE PENSIONERS maintained in HOMES and HOSPITALS throughout the Dominion on the 31st March, 1909, together with the Amounts paid to such Institutions during the Year.

Controlling Body.		Institution.	Payments, Year 1908-9.	Number of Pensioners being main- tained 31st March, 1909.	Amount handed to Pensioners after Deduction of Maintenance.
Location.	Name.				
Whangarei ..	North of Auckland Charitable Aid Board ..	Old Men's Home ..	£ s. d. 161 19 1	7	4s. per month.
Auckland ..	Auckland Charitable Aid Board ..	Costley Home ..	1,789 10 11	83	6s. 6d. per month.
" ..	Little Sisters of the Poor ..	Home ..	689 18 10	26	8s.
" ..	Veterans' Home ..	" ..	946 2 9	39	2s. 6d. per week.
Thames ..	Thames and Coromandel Charitable Aid Board ..	Old Men's Home ..	362 17 9	17	5s. per month.
Hamilton ..	Waikato Charitable Aid Board ..	" ..	201 10 0	8	4s.
Gisborne ..	Cook District Charitable Aid Board ..	" ..	127 6 2	5	1s. per week.
Napier ..	Hawke's Bay United Charitable Aid Board ..	Old People's Home ..	702 12 6	29	10s. 4d. per month.
New Plymouth ..	Taranaki District Charitable Aid Board ..	Old Men's Home ..	479 6 6	15	10s.
Wanganui ..	Patea and Wanganui Charitable Aid Board ..	Jubilee Home ..	163 17 7	7	5s.
Palmerston N. ..	Palmerston North Charitable Aid Board ..	No institution ..	109 9 9	4	Nil.
Masterton ..	North Wairarapa Benevolent Society ..	Solway Home ..	10 16 8	1	"
Wellington ..	Benevolent Institution Contributors ..	Ohio Home ..	559 17 6	20	1s. 6d. per week.
" ..	Society for Relief of Aged Needy ..	Home ..	714 14 1	29	7s. 7d. per month.
" ..	Sisters of Compassion ..	Home for Incurables ..	250 0 9	10	5s. per month.
Blenheim ..	Wairau Charitable Aid Board ..	Old Men's Home ..	104 0 0	5	1s. per week.
Picton ..	Picton Charitable Aid Board ..	Hospital ..	88 15 3	3	6s. per month.
Nelson ..	Nelson Charitable Aid Board ..	Old People's Home ..	754 8 4	28	2s. per week.
Westport ..	Buller Charitable Aid Board ..	Hospital ..	454 10 8	20	2s.
Charleston ..	Charleston Hospital Trustees ..	" ..	173 16 5	7	11s. 4d. per month.
Reefton ..	Reefton Hospital Trustees ..	" ..	217 17 9	9	5s.
Greymouth ..	Greymouth Hospital Trustees ..	" ..	754 6 11	28	10s.
Hokitika ..	Westland Hospital Trustees ..	" ..	602 4 2	19	7s. 6d.
Ross ..	Westland Charitable Aid Board ..	" ..	149 10 0	7	13s. 4d.
Kumara ..	Kumara Hospital Trustees ..	" ..	451 17 1	11	13s. 4d.
Christchurch ..	North Canterbury and Ashburton Charitable Aid Board ..	Jubilee Home ..	841 6 7	35	1s. per week.
" ..	Ditto ..	Old Men's Home, Ashburton ..	910 5 2	35	1s.
" ..	Samaritan Home Trustees ..	Samaritan Home ..	105 6 8	5	4s. per month.
" ..	Nazareth House ..	Home ..	392 13 1	17	5s.
Timaru ..	South Canterbury Charitable Aid Board ..	Old Men's Home ..	409 0 8	18	1s. 6d. per week.
Oamaru ..	North Otago Benevolent Society ..	" ..	387 16 8	16	8s. 8d. per month.
Dunedin ..	Otago Benevolent Society ..	Benevolent Institution ..	2,102 15 9	81	13s. 4d.
" ..	Home for Aged and Poor ..	Home ..	361 13 4	16	13s. 4d.
Invercargill ..	Southland Charitable Aid Board ..	{ Bowmont Street Home Lorne Farm ..	777 7 8	{ 14 16	{ 4s. 6d. 8s. 6d.
HOSPITAL PATIENTS ONLY ..			17,809 13 0	690	
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