

The total revenue from the endowment lands credited to old-age pensions is £36,901 2s. 3d. as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1910	20,142	12	7
1911	16,758	9	8
	£36,901	2	3

A comparative statement, showing the variation in the annual payments year by year, is embodied in Table IX of the appendix.

The grand total now paid in pensions since 1898 has reached the sum of £3,150,404.

The distribution of last year's payments in the various parts of the Dominion is indicated in the following table, which is immediately followed by a table showing the cost per head of the population (exclusive of Maoris) in each year since the Act came into operation:—

Postal District.	Number.	Amount.		
		£	s.	d.
Auckland	39,219	79,770	18	7
Thames	6,608	13,722	2	6
Gisborne	1,429	2,761	16	8
Napier	6,972	14,333	18	2
New Plymouth	3,343	6,745	9	3
Wanganui	5,858	12,255	1	5
Wellington	19,646	40,211	8	7
Nelson	3,742	7,796	10	6
Blenheim	2,252	4,634	13	4
Christchurch	31,044	63,893	14	9
Timaru	7,333	14,985	10	5
Greymouth	6,349	13,280	1	2
Hokitika	6,473	13,742	15	3
Westport	3,373	7,031	4	9
Oamaru	3,737	7,700	15	11
Dunedin	27,965	56,867	15	6
Invercargill	11,516	23,658	13	11
Totals	186,857	£383,392	10	8

	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 (at £18 and £26)	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
" " 1910 "	332,496	987,480	7 4
" " 1911 "	383,393	1,008,407	7 7
Total	£3,150,404		

RECOVERIES.

The amount recovered and paid to the credit of the Public Account during the year totalled £653 2s. 8d., a somewhat larger sum than that obtained for several years. Included in this total are sums collected, among other sources, from the executors of the estates of deceased pensioners; and the figures only go to show that, however careful the administration may be in obtaining for the information of Magistrates the fullest particulars possible regarding the financial position of applicants, there are loopholes whereby those people, who feel that to resort to subterfuge to defraud the State is not altogether dishonourable, can and do defeat the objects of the Act. Happily, the proportion of these is small compared to the ever-increasing army of those whose circumstances during early and middle life have been barely flourishing enough to allow of provision being made for a rainy day, and who find the 10s. a week provided by the State as a reward for their labours a real benefit in their declining days. With the knowledge that any transgression will sooner or later be brought to account, this class of pensioner can be expected to disappear altogether. As examples of the cases detected during the past year by the system of check in operation in the Department, the following may be mentioned:—

(a.) Bank account of £400 not disclosed, and not traced when pension applied for by reason of being in another name. Refund of £65 obtained from husband and wife.

(b.) Land. £234. not disclosed over a period of eight years. Refund of £105 obtained when land sold.