

After deducting the sum of £581 0s. 4d., representing refund of pensions overpaid, and making allowance for a limited number of payments held up on account of some informality, the net charge against the Consolidated Fund for the year stands at £405,672, to which has been applied a credit of £18,709 11s. 6d., being revenue from the national-endowment lands.

The total amount credited to old-age pensions from the endowment-lands revenue to date is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
1910 ... ..	20,142	12	7
1911 ... ..	16,758	9	8
1912 ... ..	18,709	11	6
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	£55,610	13	9

This amount just exceeds by a few pounds the total cost of administering the Act since its inception.

The grand total paid in pensions since the Act came into operation now stands at £3,556,660.

The distribution of last year's payments in the various parts of the Dominion is indicated in the table following, to which has been added a column showing the distribution over the whole period of the Act :—

Postal District.	Number of Payments during Year.	Amount paid during Year.			Amount paid since Act passed.
		£	s.	d.	£
Auckland ... ..	41,091	85,157	11	3	742,500
Thames ... ..	6,684	14,111	3	11	137,300
Gisborne ... ..	1,490	2,973	4	11	28,800
Napier ... ..	7,448	15,534	8	3	128,400
New Plymouth ... ..	3,572	7,309	15	1	66,400
Wanganui ... ..	6,485	13,688	12	0	107,400
Wellington ... ..	20,928	43,435	18	6	336,300
Nelson ... ..	3,827	8,100	7	1	82,600
Blenheim ... ..	2,368	4,971	15	2	43,100
Christchurch ... ..	32,591	68,159	10	1	560,600
Timaru ... ..	7,730	16,285	9	8	121,800
Greymouth ... ..	6,304	13,392	9	8	143,600
Hokitika ... ..	6,292	13,384	4	5	143,500
Westport ... ..	3,261	6,929	17	7	79,100
Oamaru ... ..	3,822	7,990	3	1	71,500
Dunedin ... ..	28,864	59,996	10	0	540,300
Invercargill ... ..	11,866	24,834	15	8	223,400
Totals ... ..	194,623	£406,255	16	4	£3,556,600

The total payments and the cost per head of the population in each year are as follows :—

	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	1,008,468	7	7
" " 1912 "	406,256	1,031,500	7	10
Total ... ..	£3,556,660			

#### RECOVERIES.

The amount recovered and paid to the Public Account during the year totalled £581 0s. 4d., included in which are two sums of £69 and another of £61 recovered from the estates of deceased pensioners.

The total refunded since the scheme was brought into operation now stands at £7,840.

#### COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost under this head during the year amounted to £4,381 15s. 11d., the details being as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries ... ..	3,819	6	1
Lodging-allowances ... ..	50	6	8
Non-permanent Postmasters, for paying pensions ... ..	256	4	0
Fees for certificates of age ... ..	31	4	3
Interpreters' fees ... ..	3	4	6
Travelling-expenses ... ..	71	10	5
Miscellaneous ... ..	150	0	0
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	£4,381	15	11