

1919.
NEW ZEALAND.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PENSIONS DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1919.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 70 of the Pensions Act, 1913.

The COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS to the Hon. the MINISTER OF PENSIONS.
SIR, Pensions Department, Wellington, 30th August, 1919.
I have the honour to furnish herewith, for the information of Parliament, the report of the Department relating to war, old-age, widows', military (Maori War), and miners' pensions for the year ended 31st March, 1919.
The following summaries show at a glance the position at the close of the year :—

PENSIONS IN FORCE AND ANNUAL VALUE AT 31ST MARCH, 1919.

	Number of Pensions.	Statutory Pensions.	Allowances under Finance Act, 1917.	Total Pensions.	Average Pension.	
					Statutory.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£
War	27,427	1,615,827	..	1,615,827	59	59
Old-age	19,872	473,574	258,336	731,910	23	36
Widows'	3,211	65,860	46,758	112,618	20	35
Military	1,040	37,440	10,374	47,814	36	45
Miners'	240	10,120	2,483	12,603	42	52
Totals	51,790	2,202,821	317,951	2,520,772	..	..

GROSS PAYMENTS, YEAR 1918-19.

	Statutory Pensions.	Allowances under Finance Act, 1917.	Total Pensions.
	£	£	£
War	1,199,755	..	1,199,755
Old-age	482,458	260,605	743,063
Widows'	44,715	36,058	80,773
Military	39,455	11,033	50,488
Miners'	10,721	2,555	13,276
Totals	1,777,104	310,251	2,087,355

Cost per head of European population, £1 17s. 1d.

WAR PENSIONS.

TOTAL CLAIMS LODGED TO DATE.

						From Soldiers.	From Dependants.		
From 1st September, 1915, to 31st March, 1916						798	681		
Year 1916-17						3,958	2,017		
Year 1917-18						8,148	3,754		
Year 1918-19						14,749	5,292		
Totals						27,653	11,744		
						Officers.	Men.	Total.	
Total casualties by death (including missing) to 31st March, 1919						773	15,840	16,613	
Total discharges from Forces to 31st March, 1919						1,517	34,020	35,537	

GROSS ANNUAL VALUE OF ALL PENSIONS GRANTED TO DATE.

					No.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
						£	£
From 1st September, 1915, to 31st March, 1916					1,214	56,488	46
Year 1916-17					5,316	285,707	53
Year 1917-18					10,587	780,057	73
Year 1918-19					16,954	1,167,081	68
Totals					34,071*	£2,289,333	£67

* The number of pensions granted as shown herein does not include children's pensions, the values of which, however, form part of the pensions payable to parents (or guardians), and are included in the annual values total.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL LIABILITY AT 31ST MARCH, 1919.

Class of Pension.						Number.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
							£	£
Soldiers (permanent)						1,316	69,669	52
Soldiers (temporary)						18,329	1,097,303	59
Dependants (temporary)						1,076	55,940*	51
Widows of soldiers						1,970	233,451†	118
Other dependants of disabled soldiers						4,736	159,464	33
Totals						27,427	1,615,827	59

* Including the pensions of 1,240 children. † Including the pensions of 2,209 children.

Including the 3,449 children, the average of the grand total of 30,876 pensions in force on the 31st March, 1919, is £52 per annum.

RETURN SHOWING NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN RECEIPT OF PENSIONS AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1919, GROUPED IN FAMILIES.

Number of Children in Family.						Disabled Soldiers.		Deceased Soldiers.	
						Number.	Total Children.	Number.	Total Children.
8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	16
7	..	..	..	..	..	2	14	3	21
6	..	..	..	..	..	6	36	13	78
5	..	..	..	..	..	29	145	20	100
4	..	..	..	..	..	51	204	62	248
3	..	..	..	..	..	85	255	130	390
2	..	..	..	..	..	156	312	301	602
1	..	..	..	..	..	274	274	754	754
Totals						..	1,240	..	2,209

There are 685 widows of soldiers in receipt of pensions who have no children.

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS, 1918-19.

	£	£
Paid through Post Office £1,174,614 (less outstandings £24) .. ..	..	1,174,590
Less payments on account of Commonwealth pensions	14,316	
Less payments on account of Canadian pensions	636	
Less payments on account of Imperial Government to dependants of munition workers	183	
		15,135
		1,159,455
Paid by High Commissioner in London .. ..	..	28,623
Other foreign payments .. ..	..	295
Paid by Commonwealth Government .. ..	..	10,870
Paid by Dominion of Canada .. ..	..	192
Lump sums paid .. ..	..	200
Allotments paid after casualty (subsequently charged to war pensions) .. ..	..	120
		<u>£1,199,755</u>

SUMMARY OF TOTAL ACTUAL PAYMENTS TO 31st MARCH, 1919.

	£
From 1st September, 1915, to 31st March, 1916	13,910
Year 1916-17	180,389
Year 1917-18	515,445
Year 1918-19	1,199,755
	<u>£1,909,499</u>

OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

	European.	Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1918	19,187	773	19,960
Deaths during 1918-19	1,886	127	2,323
Cancellations, 1918-19	297	13	
New pensions granted, 1918-19	2,095	140	2,235
Net decrease	88
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1919	19,099	773	19,872
Year 1918-19.			
Total European population at 31st March, 1919	1,124,630
Total European pensioners, 65 and over, at 31st March, 1919	16,685
Female European pensioners, 60 to 64, at 31st March, 1919	2,414
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population	1.6
New claims lodged	2,774
New claims rejected	601
Annual liability at 31st March, 1919 (statutory pension)	£473,574
Annual liability at 31st March, 1919 (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£731,910
Average pension (statutory)	£23
Average pension (total)	£36
Gross expenditure for year (statutory pension)	£482,458
Gross expenditure for year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£743,063
Increase on figures of previous year	£99,886
Cost per head of European population	13s. 3d.
Credit from National Endowment	£32,647
Refunds paid to Public Account	£1,060
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals	874
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these	£31,432
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals	83
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these	£3,554
Absolutely forfeited instalments	£2,997
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£4,281
Total claims lodged to date	66,246	
Total claims established	51,773	
Total deaths	25,280	
Total cancellations	6,621	
Grand total paid since 1898	£7,195,820	
Total credit from National Endowment	£235,168	

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

	European.	Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1918	2,143	49	2,192
New pensions granted, 1918-19	1,332	17	1,349
Cancellations during 1918-19	323	7	330
Net increase .. ..	..	..	1,019
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1919	3,152	59	3,211
Total children in receipt of pensions at 31st March, 1919 .. ..	..	..	7,793

WIDOWS' PENSIONS—*continued*

	Year 1918-19.
New claims lodged	1,597
New claims rejected	142
Annual liability at close of year (statutory pension)	£65,860
Annual liability at close of year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£112,618
Average pension (statutory)	£20
Average pension (total)	£35
Gross expenditure for year (statutory pension)	£44,715
Gross expenditure for year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£80,773
Increase on figures of previous year	£22,821
Cost per head of European population	1s. 5d.
Refunds paid to Public Account	£102
Absolutely forfeited instalments	£406
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£739
Average of total family of pensioners	3.4
Average of family under fourteen	2.4
Total claims lodged to date	6,059
Total claims established	5,050
Total number of children benefited	12,480
Total deaths	73
Total guardians appointed	44
Total cancellations	1,810
Grand total paid to date	£295,871

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON WHOSE ACCOUNT PENSION GRANTED.

	Number of Pensioners.	Children under Fourteen.
1911-12	791	1,923
1912-13	657	1,604
1913-14	421	1,090
1914-15	458	1,158
1915-16	444	1,180
1916-17	421	1,075
1917-18	509	1,198
1918-19	1,349	3,252
Totals	5,050	12,480

NOTE.—The influenza epidemic which ravaged the Dominion towards the end of the calendar year is responsible for a greatly increased expenditure in widows' pensions. During the last four months of the financial year the number of claims lodged and pensions granted totalled 1,046 and 963 respectively, the numbers for the corresponding period of the previous year being 200 and 185.

MILITARY PENSIONS.

	European.	Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1918	875	278	1,153
Deaths during 1918-19	90	35	125
New pensions granted, 1918-19	2	10	12
Net decrease .. .. .	..	..	113
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1919	787	253	1,040

	Year 1918-19.
New claims lodged	8
Number of pensioners previously in receipt of old-age pensions	249
Number of pensioners not in receipt of war bonus	242
Annual liability at close of year (statutory pension)	£37,440
Annual liability at close of year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£47,814
Average pension (statutory)	£36
Average pension (total)	£45
Gross expenditure for year (statutory pension)	£39,455
Gross expenditure for year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£50,488
Cost per head of European population	11d.
Decrease on figures of previous year	£246
Pensioners in homes and hospitals	41
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these	£2,358
Absolutely forfeited instalments	£320
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£94
Total claims lodged to date	1,868
Total claims established	1,686
Total deaths	644
Total cancellations	2
Grand total paid to date	£275,913

MINERS' PENSIONS.

	Total.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1918	270
Deaths during 1918-19	41
Cancellations, 1918-19	71
New pensions granted, 1918-19	82
Net decrease	—
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1919	240
Year 1918-19.	
New claims lodged	99
New claims rejected	7
Number of pensioners not in receipt of war bonus	49
Annual liability at close of year (statutory pension)	£10,120
Annual liability at close of year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£12,603
Average pension (statutory)	£42
Average pension (total)	£52
Gross expenditure for year (statutory pension)	£10,721
Gross expenditure for year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£13,276
Increase on figures of previous year	£1
Cost per head of European population	2½d.
Credit to vote from gold duty	£4,416
Absolutely forfeited instalments	£95
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£94
Refunds paid to Public Account	£10
Total claims lodged to date	526
Total claims established	446
Total claims rejected	58
Total deaths	110
Total cancellations	96
Total amount paid to date	£36,126
Total credit from gold duty	£15,819
Total amount paid on account of funeral expenses	£1,034

NUMBER OF PENSIONS AT EACH RATE GRANTED SINCE COMMENCEMENT.

	Annual Value.
	£
179 at £52 per annum	9,308
88 at £39 per annum	3,432
178 at £32 10s. per annum	5,785
1 at £50 per annum	50
446	£18,575

AGES (IN GROUPS) OF PENSIONERS AT 31ST MARCH, 1919.

	Miners.	Widows.
31-40	3	7
41-50	24	23
51-60	33	29
61-70	53	20
71-75	22	3
Over 76	20	3
	155	85
	240	

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

	£
Salaries	13,512
Contribution to Post Office	5,000
Fees for certificates of age	6
Honoraria of members of War Pensions Board	523
Interpreters' fees	1
Light, firing, and water	91
Medical fees	7,047
Office requisites	236
Postage and telegrams	2,450
Printing and stationery	1,860
Telephones	82
Travelling-expenses	830
Contingencies	891
Allowances to officers temporarily performing higher duties	140
Proportion of rent of High Commissioner's Office, London	200
War bonus	1,168
	£34,037
Number of officers on staff at 31st March, 1919	175
Percentage of cost of administration to total expenditure for year (£2,087,355)	1.63

ROLL OF HONOUR.

LIST OF OFFICERS WITH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Morgan, G. O., killed in action (Gallipoli), 11th May, 1915.	
Robertson, A. W., killed in action (France), 22nd June, 1916.	
McBride, D. J., killed in action (France), 7th June, 1917.	
Keddell, P. A., wounded (France), 2nd October, 1916.	
Fortune, G. A., wounded (France), 1918.	
Hodge, L. K. (invalided), 1919.	
Murphy, B. E.	Dunn, C.
Parfitt, A. H.	Harris, H.
Fulton, E. W.	McEldowney, E. J. (did not leave New Zealand).
Smythe, R. P.	McKinnon, L. (did not leave New Zealand).
Smith, H. D.	McLean, W. H. (did not leave New Zealand).
Waters, B. F.	Boyes, J. H. (did not leave New Zealand).
Cunningham, P.	

APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE AT EACH RATE ON 31ST MARCH, 1919.

Rate (nearest £1).	Soldiers (Permanent).	Soldiers (Temporary).	Wives and Parents on Account of Disablement.	On Account of Death.	
				Widows (including Child- ren's Pensions).	Parents and other Dependents.
£ £					
301-312 .. ..	..	..	..	3	..
278-300 .. ..	..	..	..	9	..
251-275 .. ..	..	..	..	14	..
241-250 .. ..	..	..	..	7	..
231-240 .. ..	..	..	..	21	..
221-230 .. ..	..	..	..	18	..
211-220 .. ..	..	1	..	4	..
201-210 .. ..	..	1	1	59	..
191-200 .. ..	..	1	..	24	..
181-190 .. ..	..	3	3	110	..
171-180 .. ..	..	..	..	8	..
161-170 .. ..	..	2	..	75	..
151-160	6	8	10	205	..
141-150	2	1	1	14	..
131-140 .. ..	..	1	1	66	..
121-130	1	7	16	437	..
111-120 .. ..	..	12	12	62	2
101-110	14	997	38	13	3
96-100	1	4	14	2	5
90-95	19	175	19	7	2
88	9	..	..	8	..
84	4	1	3	..	1
83	139	..	..	34	4
82	2	..	..	..	..
81 .. ..	..	..	4	..	..
80 .. ..	..	..	..	40	6
78	130	7,110	117	529	122
72	16	..	..	..	..
71	12	..	2	..	..
68 .. ..	..	..	3	..	..
67	5	1	2	..	1
65	65	555	33	7	49
58	19	6	89	..	20
55	1	1	6	..	1
52	345	3,787	149	28	342
48 .. ..	..	..	11	..	1
45	22	3	15	..	4
44 .. ..	..	..	..	..	5
41	1	..	1	1	30
40 .. ..	..	..	..	..	35
39	179	2,830	216	27	1,282
32	25	2	18	..	8
31	4	1	..	..	1
29 .. ..	..	..	9	..	..
26	261	2,799	205	137	2,717
20	7	1	..	..	8
19	15	10	46	..	33
18 .. ..	..	..	..	..	6
15 .. ..	..	..	..	..	7
13	9	8	32	1	29
12 and under ..	3	1	..	..	12
Totals	1,316	18,329	1,076	1,970	4,736

TABLE II.—DISSECTION OF WAR PENSIONS CANCELLED, YEAR 1918–19.

Reason for Cancellation.	Soldiers' Pensions.	Dependants' Pensions.	
		On Account of Dis- ablement.	On Account of Death.
Pensioner dead	411	18	102
Soldier no longer incapacitated ..	2,200	1,128	..
Soldier re-enlisted	25	1	..
Soldier since dead .. ..	..	9	..
Surrendered	1	..	..
No application for renewal	119	4	..
No longer dependant .. ..	..	10	8
No longer required	159	11	..
Not collecting	12	2	2
Conviction for crime	5	..	5
Child of age .. ..	..	..	3
Remarried .. ..	..	..	23
Soldier alive .. ..	..	..	8
Pension duplication .. ..	..	..	3
Habits	5	1	..
Totals	2,937	1,184	154
		4,275	

The number of previously cancelled pensions reinstated during the year was 251.

TABLE III.—DISSECTION OF REJECTED WAR-PENSION CLAIMS (SOLDIERS), YEAR 1918–19.

Reason for Rejection.	Oversea Cases.	New Zealand Cases.	Totals.
Demobilized	59	6	65
Not under Act	1	..	1
Re-enlisted	1	..	1
Withdrawn by applicant	13	..	13
Not discharged from Forces	11	1	12
Deceased since claim lodged	7	..	7
No incapacity from military service ..	554	92	646
Totals	646	99	745

TABLE IV.—DISSECTION OF REJECTED WAR-PENSION CLAIMS (DEPENDANTS), YEAR 1918–19.

Reason for Rejection.	Wife.	Widow.	Mother.	Father.	Stepmother.	Grandfather.	Guardian of Child.	Brother.	Sister.	Daughter over 16.	Aunt.	Uncle.	Dependant living as Wife.	Totals.
Income and property .. ..	..	..	24	19	..	..	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	50
No evidence of dependency .. ..	..	..	126	127	1	2	7	3	60	3	1	1	..	331
Death of soldier not due to service ..	..	11	7	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Disability of soldier not due to service ..	..	34	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Soldier not incapacitated	185	..	15	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	203
Section 15 of 1916 Act (habits) .. ..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
No contract to marry	72	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
Soldier not a member of New Zealand Forces ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Soldier not discharged	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Withdrawn by applicant .. ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Applicant deceased	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Soldier prisoner of war	14	..	23	3	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	43
Totals	311	15	198	154	2	2	9	3	68	4	1	1	2	770

GENERAL.

TABLE V.—PENSIONS GRANTED, DEATHS, AND CANCELLATIONS IN EACH YEAR, WITH NUMBER IN FORCE AND ANNUAL VARIATION.

Year ending 31st March.				Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancellations.	In Force at End of Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Old-age.</i>									
1899	..	..	..	7,487	38	6	7,443	..	..
1900	..	..	..	4,699	786	71	11,285	3,842	..
1901	..	..	..	2,227	815	292	12,406	1,120	..
1902	..	..	..	1,694	935	388	12,776	371	..
1903	..	..	..	1,391	1,064	622	12,481	..	295
1904	..	..	..	1,063	928	690	11,926	..	555
1905	..	..	..	1,210	890	476	11,770	..	156
1906	..	..	..	2,075	1,038	225	12,582	812	..
1907	..	..	..	2,031	1,097	259	13,257	675	..
1908	..	..	..	1,740	1,189	239	13,569	312	..
1909	..	..	..	2,113	1,112	174	14,396	827	..
1910	..	..	..	2,304	1,169	211	15,320	924	..
1911	..	..	..	2,399	1,423	276	16,020	700	..
1912	..	..	..	2,318	1,469	220	16,649	629	..
1913	..	..	..	2,072	1,569	643	16,509	..	140
1914	..	..	..	3,320	1,479	300	18,050	1,541	..
1915	..	..	..	3,158	1,582	274	19,352	1,302	..
1916	..	..	..	2,268	1,539	277	19,804	452	..
1917	..	..	..	1,823	1,610	320	19,697	..	107
1918	..	..	..	2,146	1,535	348	19,960	263	..
1919	..	..	..	2,235	2,013	310	19,872	..	88
Totals	..	..	..	51,773	25,280	6,621	..	..	..
<i>Widows'.</i>									
1912	..	..	..	791	..	3	788	..	..
1913	..	..	..	657	3	129	1,313	525	..
1914	..	..	..	421	1	193	1,540	227	..
1915	..	..	..	458	2	208	1,788	248	..
1916	..	..	..	444	4	338	1,890	102	..
1917	..	..	..	421	2	285	2,024	134	..
1918	..	..	..	509	6	335	2,192	168	..
1919	..	..	..	1,349	11	319	3,211	1,019	..
Totals	..	..	..	5,050	29	1,810	..	..	..
<i>Military.</i>									
1913	..	..	..	577	9	..	568	..	..
1914	..	..	..	747	74	1	1,240	672	..
1915	..	..	..	256	108	..	1,388	148	..
1916	..	..	..	60	124	1	1,323	..	65
1917	..	..	..	10	101	..	1,232	..	91
1918	..	..	..	24	103	..	1,153	..	79
1919	..	..	..	12	125	..	1,040	..	113
Totals	..	..	..	1,686	644	2	..	..	..
<i>Miners'.</i>									
1916	..	..	..	120	..	..	120	..	..
1917	..	..	..	153	35	..	238	118	..
1918	..	..	..	91	34	25	270	32	..
1919	..	..	..	82	41	71	240	..	30
Totals	..	..	..	446	110	96	..	..	..
<i>War.</i>									
1916	..	..	..	1,214	1	22	1,191	..	..
1917	..	..	..	5,316	44	1,294	5,169	3,978	..
1918	..	..	..	10,587	86	1,173	14,497	9,328	..
1919	16,954	531	3,493	27,427	12,930	..
Totals	34,071	662	5,982

G. C. FACHE,
Commissioner of Pensions.

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