

1920.
NEW ZEALAND.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1920.

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, 31st July, 1920.

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, 1920.

The following summaries show at a glance the position at the close of the year :—

PENSIONS IN FORCE AND ANNUAL VALUE AT 31ST MARCH, 1920.

—	Number of Pensions.	Statutory Pensions.	Allowances under Finance Act, 1917.	Total Pensions.	Average Pension.	
					Statutory.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£
War	34,571	1,869,366	..	1,869,366	54	54
Old-age	19,993	471,826	259,909	731,735	23	36
Widows'	3,444	185,968	..	185,968	54	54
Military	939	33,804	9,490	43,294	36	46
Miners'	415	23,543	..	23,543	56	56
Totals	59,362	2,584,507	269,399	2,853,906	..	..

GROSS PAYMENTS, YEAR 1919-20.

—					Statutory Pensions.	Allowances under Finance Act, 1917.	Total Pensions.
					£	£	£
War .. ..	..	..	..	..	1,812,419	..	1,812,419
Old-age .. ..	..	..	..	..	475,869	257,099	732,968
Widows' .. ..	..	..	..	..	136,815	..	136,815
Military (Maori War)	..	..	..	..	34,973	10,112	45,085
Miners' .. ..	..	..	..	..	16,652	..	16,652
Totals .. ..	..	..	..	..	2,476,728	267,211	2,743,939

Cost per head of European population, £2 6s. 9d.

PENSION LEGISLATION.

During the year legislation was embodied in the Finance Act, 1919, amending certain of the provisions relating to war, widows' (civil), and miners' pensions, providing for pensions in respect of the death and disablement of police officers, and extending the benefits of the War Pensions Acts to persons already in receipt of pensions payable in respect of service in the Boer War.

The War Pensions Amendment extended the rights of wives of disabled soldiers married in New Zealand to those married outside of New Zealand during the soldier's service, and to others married in New Zealand who, in the opinion of the War Pensions Board, should be regarded as deserving cases. The restriction in regard to further pension rights on the death of the soldier appearing in the 1917 Act, however, applies to these.

The civil widows' pension was increased to 7s. 6d. a week for the widow with children with an additional 7s. 6d. a week for each child. A limitation, however, was imposed that the income (including pension) of the pensioner must not exceed £1 5s. a week with 10s. a week added for each child. This had the immediate effect of increasing the annual appropriations under this particular head by approximately £70,000 per annum. The ten years' residence in New Zealand required in respect of children born out of New Zealand was reduced to three years, with the proviso that the father had died in New Zealand.

The pension payable under the Miner's Phthisis Act, 1915, was increased in the case of the married man from £1 a week to £1 10s. a week, and in the case of the single man from 15s. a week to £1 a week. Further, the provision limiting the period of payment for widows' pension to two years was repealed and a pension during widowhood was established. The effect of these increases was an immediate addition to the annual appropriations of, in round figures, £8,000 per annum.

In regard to the pensions payable in respect of the death and disablement of police officers, the total number of applications lodged under this head to date is nine. Of these four have been granted and five rejected, the annual charge being £331.

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
Year 1919-20	..	..	..	..	11,493	3,990
Totals	..	..	..	..	39,146	15,734

			Officers.	Men.	Total.
Total casualties by death (including missing) to 31st March, 1920	..	..	..	..	16,781
Total discharges from Forces to 31st March, 1920	..	..	4,354	76,448	80,802

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
Year 1919-20	15,183	872,627	57
	49,254	£3,161,960	£64

NOTE.—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, 1920.

Class of Pension.	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
		£	£
Soldiers (permanent)	2,130	126,510	59
Soldiers (temporary)	23,144	1,223,342	53
Dependants (temporary)	1,517	88,473*	58
Widows of soldiers	2,075	238,693†	115
Other dependants of deceased soldiers	5,705	192,347	34
Totals	34,571	1,869,366	54

* Including the pensions of 1,452 children.

† Including the pensions of 2,313 children.

Including the 3,765 children, the average of the grand total 38,336 pensions in force on the 31st March, 1920, is £49 per annum.

RETURN SHOWING NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN RECEIPT OF PENSIONS AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1920,
GROUPED IN FAMILIES.

Number of Children in Family.						Disabled Soldiers.		Deceased Soldiers.	
						Number.	Total Children.	Number.	Total Children.
7	..	..	..	..	..	2	14	4	28
6	..	..	..	..	..	5	30	11	66
5	..	..	..	..	..	19	95	16	80
4	..	..	..	..	..	39	156	62	248
3	..	..	..	..	..	97	291	136	408
2	..	..	..	..	..	218	436	318	636
1	..	..	..	..	..	430	430	847	847
Totals .. .. .						..	1,452	..	2,313

There are 681 widows of soldiers in receipt of pensions who have no children.

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS, 1919-20.

	£	£
Paid through Post Office £1,773,624 (less outstandings £174) .. .. .	..	1,773,450
Less payments on account of—		
Commonwealth pensions	18,478	
Canadian pensions	1,920	
South African pensions	19	
Imperial Government to dependants of munition workers	35	
Police officers	14	
Boer War veterans	84	
		20,550
		1,752,900
Paid by High Commissioner in London .. .. .	..	58,447
Paid by Dominion of Canada .. .. .	..	474
Other foreign payments .. .. .	..	258
Lump sum payments .. .. .	..	340
		£1,812,419

NOTE.—Payments made by Commonwealth Government are not included in these figures, as the actual accounts had not come to hand at the end of the year.

SUMMARY OF TOTAL ACTUAL PAYMENTS TO 31ST MARCH, 1920.

	£
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
Year 1919-20	1,812,419
	£3,721,918

PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1920.

		Soldiers.		Wives of Soldiers.	Dependants.		Annual Liability.
		Permanent.	Temporary.	Temporary.	Widows.	Other Dependants.	
							£
Great Britain ..	..	67	225	32	208	646	60,267
Australia ..	..	24	231	14	67	152	25,912
Other countries ..	..	7	30	1	17	22	3,267
Totals ..	..	98	486	47*	292†	820	89,446

* Children of these, 34.

† Children of these, 232.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

				European.	Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1919	..	..	..	19,099	773	19,872
New pensions granted, 1919-20	..	..	..	2,161	128	2,289
Deaths during 1919-20	..	..	..	1,704	94	2,168
Cancellations, 1919-20	..	..	..	358	12	
Net increase	..	..	..	..	..	121
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1920	..	..	..	19,198	795	19,993

						Year 1919-20.
Total European population at 31st March, 1920	..	..	..	..	..	1,174,139
Total European pensioners, 65 and over, at 31st March, 1920	..	..	..	..	..	16,690
Female European pensioners, 60 to 64, at 31st March, 1920	..	..	..	..	..	2,508
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population	..	..	..	..	..	1.6
New claims lodged	..	..	..	..	..	3,029
New claims rejected	..	..	..	..	..	634
Annual liability at 31st March, 1920 (statutory pension)	..	..	..	..	..	£471,826
Annual liability at 31st March, 1920 (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	..	..	..	..	..	£731,735
Average pension (statutory)	..	..	..	..	..	£23 12s.
Average pension (total)	..	..	..	..	..	£36 12s.
Gross expenditure for year (statutory pension)	..	..	..	..	..	£475,869
Gross expenditure for year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	..	..	..	..	..	£732,968
Decrease on figures of previous year	..	..	..	..	..	£10,095
Cost per head of European population	..	..	..	..	..	12s. 6d.
Credit from National Endowment	..	..	..	..	..	£33,851
Refunds paid to Public Account	..	..	..	..	..	£645
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals	..	..	..	..	..	864
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these	..	..	..	..	..	£34,578
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals	..	..	..	..	..	79
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these	..	..	..	..	..	£2,970
Absolutely forfeited instalments	..	..	..	..	..	£3,301
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	..	..	..	..	..	£5,151
Total claims lodged to date	..	..	..	..	..	69,275
Total claims established	..	..	..	..	..	54,062
Total deaths	..	..	..	..	..	27,078
Total cancellations	..	..	..	..	..	6,991
Grand total paid since 1898	..	..	..	..	..	£7,928,788
Total credit from National Endowment	..	..	..	..	..	£269,020

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

				European.	Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1919	..	..	..	3,152	59	3,211
New pensions granted, 1919-20	..	..	..	671	96	767
Cancellations during 1919-20	..	..	..	522	12	534
Net increase	..	..	..	..	..	233
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1920	..	..	..	3,301	143	3,444
Total children in receipt of pensions at 31st March, 1920	..	..	..	..	..	8,314

						Year 1919-20.
New claims lodged	..	..	..	..	..	934
New claims rejected	..	..	..	..	..	177
Annual liability at close of year	..	..	..	..	..	£185,968
Average pension	..	..	..	..	..	£54
Gross expenditure for year	..	..	..	..	..	£136,815
Increase on figures of previous year	..	..	..	..	..	£55,963
Cost per head of European population	..	..	..	..	..	2s. 4d.
Refunds paid to Public Account	..	..	..	..	..	£76
Absolutely forfeited instalments	..	..	..	..	..	£1,709
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	..	..	..	..	..	£1,778
Average of total family of pensioners	..	..	..	..	..	3.6
Average of family under fourteen years	..	..	..	..	..	2.4
Total claims lodged to date	..	..	..	..	..	6,993
Total claims established	..	..	..	..	..	5,817
Total number of children benefited	..	..	..	..	..	14,350
Total deaths	..	..	..	..	..	100
Total guardians appointed	..	..	..	..	..	53
Total cancellations	..	..	..	..	..	2,326
Grand total paid to date	..	..	..	..	..	£432,686

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
1919-20	..	..	..	..	..	..	767	1,870
		Totals	..	..	..	..	5,817	14,350

MILITARY PENSIONS.

	European.	Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1919	787	253	1,040
Deaths during 1919-20	77	29	106
New pensions granted, 1919-20	1	4	5
Net decrease	—
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1920	711	228	939
<hr/>			
			Year 1919-20.
New claims lodged	6
Number of pensioners previously in receipt of old-age pensions	213
Number of pensioners not in receipt of war bonus	209
Annual liability at close of year (statutory pension)	£33,804
Annual liability at close of year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£43,294
Average pension (statutory)	£36
Average pension (total)	£46
Gross expenditure for year (statutory pension)	£34,973
Gross expenditure for year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£45,085
Cost per head of European population	9d.
Decrease on figures of previous year	£5,403
Pensioners in homes and hospitals	39
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these	£2,065
Absolutely forfeited instalments	£588
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£264
Total claims lodged to date	1,874
Total claims established	1,691
Total deaths	750
Total cancellations	2
Grand total paid to date	£320,998

MINERS' PENSIONS.

MINERS' PENSIONS.							Total
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1919	..	..	..	..	..	..	240
New pensions granted, 1919-20	..	..	..	..	..	237	
Deaths during 1919-20	..	..	..	..	23		
Cancellations, 1919-20..	..	..	..	..	39	62	
Net increase	..	..	..	..	..	—	175
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1920	..	..	..	..	..	..	415
							Year 1919-20.
New claims lodged	..	..	..	..	..	..	243
New claims rejected	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Annual liability at close of year	..	..	..	..	..	..	£23,543
Average pension	..	..	..	..	..	..	£56 15s.
Gross expenditure for year	..	..	..	..	..	..	£16,652
Increase on figures of previous year	..	..	..	..	..	..	£3,376
Cost per head of European population	..	..	..	..	..	..	3½d.
Credit to vote from gold duty	..	..	..	..	..	..	£3,965
Absolutely forfeited instalments	..	..	..	..	..	..	£135
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	..	..	..	..	..	..	£132
Total claims lodged to date	..	..	..	..	..	..	769
Total claims established	..	..	..	..	..	..	683
Total claims rejected	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
Total deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	133
Total cancellations	..	..	..	..	..	..	135
Total amount paid to date	..	..	..	..	..	£52,778	
Total credit from gold duty	..	..	..	..	..	£19,784	
Total amount paid on account of funeral expenses	..	..	..	..	..	£1,209	

NUMBER OF PENSIONS AT EACH RATE AT 31ST MARCH, 1920.

							Annual Value.
							£
130 at £78 per annum	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,140
67 at £52 per annum	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,484
218 at £45 10s. per annum	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,919
415							<u>£23,543</u>

AGES (IN GROUPS) OF PENSIONERS AT 31ST MARCH, 1920.

							Miners.	Miners' Widows.
20-30	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
31-40	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	19
41-50	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	51
51-60	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	71
61-70	..	..	..	..	..	..	74	50
71-75	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	6
Over 76	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	4
							<u>214</u>	<u>201</u>
							415	

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

							£
Salaries	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,345
Contribution to Post Office	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,488
Grant to Mrs. J. Williamson on account of death of husband as member of crew of mine-sweeper "Simplon"	..	..	..	..	..	..	200
Honoraria of members of War Pensions Board	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,135
Light, firing, and water	..	..	..	..	..	..	125
Medical fees (war pensions)	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,684
Office fittings and requisites, including printing and stationery	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,763
Postage, telegrams, and rent of boxes	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,923
Proportion of rent of High Commissioner's Office, London	..	..	..	..	..	..	200
Proportion of salaries, High Commissioner's Staff	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Telephones	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Travelling-expenses	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,333
Overtime	..	..	..	..	..	..	820
Advertising	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Allowances to officers	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Cartage	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Sundry payments	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
							<u>£55,342</u>
Number of officers on staff at 31st March, 1920	..	..	..	..	..	..	172
Percentage of cost of administration to total expenditure for year (£2,743,939)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.02

APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE AT EACH RATE ON 31ST MARCH, 1920.

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 Dependants.
301-312 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
278-300 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
251-275 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..
241-250 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
231-240 .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	20	..
221-230 .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	19	..
211-220 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
201-210 .. ..	..	11	..	8	..	62	..
191-200 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	22	..
181-190 .. ..	..	..	..	..	5	112	..
171-180 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..
161-170 .. ..	..	..	..	3	1	85	..
151-160 .. ..	..	33	..	198	29	203	..
141-150 .. ..	..	..	..	1	1	14	..
131-140 .. ..	..	2	..	4	3	67	..
121-130 .. ..	..	..	..	18	43	444	..
111-120 .. ..	..	1	..	19	9	62	4
101-110 .. ..	..	70	..	2,290	88	17	9
96-100 .. ..	..	5	..	3	22	1	6
90-95 .. ..	..	52	..	217	6	9	3
88 .. ..	..	22	..	..	..	10	1
84 .. ..	..	5	..	1	6	..	..
83 .. ..	..	334	..	..	..	37	4
82 .. ..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..
81 .. ..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
80 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	38	4
78 .. ..	..	233	..	3,012	267	523	152
72 .. ..	..	21	..	1	..	..	1
71 .. ..	..	13	..	..	1	..	..
67 .. ..	..	9	..	2	9	..	..
65 .. ..	..	98	..	506	24	7	62
62 .. ..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..
58 .. ..	..	25	..	7	104	..	29
55 .. ..	..	4	..	..	5	..	2
52 .. ..	..	455	..	5,745	274	42	400
48 .. ..	..	..	..	..	4	..	1
45 .. ..	..	35	..	6	24	..	5
44 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
41 .. ..	..	6	..	..	5	1	40
40 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
39 .. ..	..	226	..	5,424	239	41	1,520
32 .. ..	..	44	..	1	17	..	10
31 .. ..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..
29 .. ..	..	..	..	..	13	..	..
26 .. ..	..	353	..	5,646	222	194	3,283
20 .. ..	..	15	..	1	..	..	14
19 .. ..	..	28	..	21	59	..	36
18 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
15 .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5
13 .. ..	..	15	..	6	32	2	42
12 .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
11 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
10 .. ..	..	1	..	1	..	..	9
8 .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
6 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Totals .. ..	..	2,130	..	23,144	1,517	2,075	5,705

GENERAL.

TABLE II.—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
1920	..	..	..	2,289	1,798	370	19,993	121	..
Totals	..	..	..	54,062	27,078	6,991	..	..	..
<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	..
1920	..	..	..	767	18	516	3,444	233	..
Totals	..	..	..	5,817	47	2,326	..	..	..
<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
1920	..	..	..	5	106	..	939	..	101
Totals	..	..	..	1,691	750	2	..	..	..
<i>Miners'.</i>									
1916	..	..	..	120	..	..	120	..	..
1917	..	..	..	153	35	..	238	118	..
1918	..	..	..	91	34	25	270	32	..
1919	..	..	..	82	41	71	240	..	30
1920	..	..	..	237	23	39	415	175	..
Totals	..	..	..	683	133	135	..	..	..
<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	..
1920	15,183	291	8,738	34,571	7,144	..
Totals	49,254	953	14,720

G. C. FACHE,
Commissioner of Pensions.

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