

are practically unsaleable except at a great sacrifice, the office has been able to find funds for payment of estate and succession duty and for urgent purposes in necessitous cases. Advances have also been made in certain cases to beneficiaries against their interests in estates. The extent to which this provision has been availed of is indicated by the fact that at the 31st March, 1921, the total amount on loan from the Common Fund to estates and beneficiaries was £374,071. The rate of interest at present current on such advances is 6 per cent. The advantage of obtaining money on such favourable terms for the liquidation of indebtedness cannot be exaggerated, and the system has proved one of the most attractive features of the administration of estates by the Public Trustee.

COMPARATIVE TABLE INDICATING THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE DURING THE DECENNIAL PERIOD 1912-21.

Year ended 31st March.	Total Value of Estates in Office, including Unrealized Assets.	Funds at Credit of Estates and Accounts.	Interest credited to Estates.	Bonus granted to Estates.	Gross Income.	Net Profits.	Office Reserves.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1912 .. ..	9,493,959	5,070,305	172,907	..	64,873	25,919	120,243
1913 .. ..	11,268,311	5,799,446	202,439	..	72,067	27,551	151,011
1914 .. ..	12,282,883	6,366,707	230,062	..	82,517	29,222	212,901
1915 .. ..	13,580,936	7,096,420	256,806	..	88,296	32,508	250,213
1916 .. ..	13,598,744	7,082,288	281,700	25,000	103,763	46,108	302,369
1917 .. ..	15,065,583	8,058,886	287,818	27,000	129,008	58,862	295,234
1918 .. ..	17,153,031	9,004,057	317,633	30,000	162,614	68,602	345,871
1919 .. ..	19,242,347	10,065,027	352,783	33,100	194,452	70,156	393,377
1920 .. ..	20,860,686	11,911,290	420,526	38,000	240,463	78,246	418,640
1921 .. ..	22,364,319	13,918,906	537,890	..	244,090	10,691	437,414
Increase in preceding 12 months	1,503,633	2,007,616	117,364	..	3,621	*67,555	18,774

\* Decrease.

STAFF.

25. The following statement indicates the number of staff engaged in the work of the Department on the 31st March, 1920 and 1921, at the Head Office and at the District Offices :—

HEAD OFFICE.

On 31st March, 1920.				On 31st March, 1921.			
	Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.
Permanent ..	167	65	232	Permanent ..	152	61	213
Temporary ..	30	22	52	Temporary ..	27	9	36
			— 284				— 249

DISTRICT OFFICES.

On 31st March, 1920.				On 31st March, 1921.			
	Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.
Permanent ..	254	77	331	Permanent ..	323	75	398
Temporary ..	21	17	38	Temporary ..	13	18	31
			— 369				— 429
			653				678

PRINCIPAL STAFF CHANGES.

26. On the 28th February Mr. P. D. N. Verschaffelt relinquished his duties as Chief Accountant in order to take up the position of Assistant Public Service Commissioner. The vacancy occasioned by his transfer has been filled by the appoint-