

STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS HELD UNDER THE WAR REGULATIONS AND THE TREATY OF PEACE ORDER,
1920—*continued*.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	4,097	16	9	271,597	18	7
<i>Debit Balances—continued.</i>						
(15.) Sundry debit balances representing claims admitted to the German Clearing Office in certain cases where the debtors have been unable to make immediate settlement of the amounts due but are paying by instalments				356	7	6
The collection of these balances is receiving careful attention in order to prevent or minimise any loss to New Zealand funds.						
(16.) (a.) Claims paid in respect of the proceeds of British property liquidated in Germany	1,358	14	3			
(b.) Payments on account of compensation awarded by the Anglo-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal in respect of British property liquidated in Germany		92	5	0		
				1,450	19	3
					5,905	3
						6
Balance, being net amount held by Public Trustee in his capacity as Custodian of Enemy Property and Controller of the New Zealand Clearing Office and held in the common fund of the Public Trust Office					£265,692	15
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PART II.—SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS BY OR AGAINST BRITISH NATIONALS RESIDENT
IN NEW ZEALAND.

36. *Establishment of the New Zealand Clearing Office.*—In exercise of the power contained in Article 296 of the Treaty of Versailles the New Zealand Government decided in 1920 to establish a Clearing Office for the settlement of debts between British nationals resident in New Zealand and German nationals resident in Germany. By the Treaty of Peace Order, 1920, the Public Trustee was appointed Controller of the New Zealand Clearing Office. Although the Treaties of Peace with the other former enemy States contained similar provisions, it was decided that the comparatively few claims involved did not warrant the heavy cost of setting up the elaborate procedure in connection with the clearing scheme. Debts owing by British nationals resident in New Zealand to Austrian, Hungarian, or Bulgarian nationals, nevertheless, constitute property which may be retained and liquidated by the New Zealand Government under the terms of the respective Treaties. British nationals in New Zealand to whom debts are due by Austrian, Hungarian, or Bulgarian nationals are entitled to collect such amounts from the debtors direct.

LONDON AGENT OF THE NEW ZEALAND CLEARING OFFICE.

37. During the year the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London has continued to act as the Agent for the New Zealand Clearing Office in connection with the settlement of claims lodged by or against the British branches of New Zealand firms. All correspondence with the German Clearing Office and the other former enemy authorities is received or transmitted by the High Commissioner through the British Central Clearing Office, London. In most cases where problems exhibiting novel features are disclosed in the letters received from the German Clearing Office the High Commissioner has referred the correspondence to the Controller of the Central Clearing Office, London, or to the British Custodian of Enemy Property for advice regarding the validity of the German contentions and for information as to what action would be taken in connection with similar cases in the United Kingdom.

38. I desire to acknowledge the great assistance which has been freely and willingly given by the Controller of the Central Clearing Office, the British Custodian of Enemy Property, and their officers in placing at the disposal of the High Commissioner and this Office their extensive and profound knowledge of all matters pertaining to the economic clauses of the Treaties of Peace. Where applicable this information has been conveyed to the New Zealand nationals concerned, who have expressed their appreciation and thanks for the way in which their interests are being protected. The manner in which the High Commissioner and his staff have discharged the onerous and perplexing duties entrusted to them in regard to this work has been entirely satisfactory to both the Central Clearing Office and to this Office.

TOTAL OF CLAIMS RECEIVED FOR SETTLEMENT THROUGH THE NEW ZEALAND CLEARING OFFICE.

39. The following table shows the total amount of the claims by or against German nationals or the German Government received for settlement through the New Zealand Clearing Office to the