

1927.
NEW ZEALAND.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1927.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 90 of the Pensions Act, 1926.

THE COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS to the Hon. the MINISTER OF PENSIONS.

SIR,—

Pensions Department, Wellington, 31st May, 1927.

I have the honour to furnish herewith, for the information of Parliament, the report of the Department relating to war, old-age, widows', Maori War, miners', epidemic, blind, and sundry pensions for the year ended 31st March, 1927.

The following comparative statement relates to the annual value and gross payments of all pensions administered by the Department for the past two years :—

PENSIONS IN FORCE : ANNUAL VALUE AND TOTAL PAYMENTS.

Class of Pension.	As at 31st March, 1926.			As at 31st March, 1927.		
	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1925-26.	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1926-27.
		£	£		£	£
War	20,716	1,122,843	1,185,161	20,625	1,126,206	1,128,988
Old-age	22,905	981,886	903,577	23,751	995,353	982,356
Widows'	3,833	301,121	286,450	3,970	305,586	301,861
Maori War	444	21,756	23,067	374	18,326	19,458
Miners'	640	40,462	40,239	668	41,951	41,940
Epidemic	313	11,802	14,522	259	9,016	10,951
Blind	196	9,396	8,053	232	11,090	10,338
Roer War	60	2,445	2,902	64	2,689	2,624
Special annuities	102	9,292	8,752	113	11,410	10,054
Civil Service Act, 1908	55	15,278	16,855	50	13,929	14,659
Totals	49,264	2,516,281	2,489,578	50,106	2,535,556	2,523,229

Cost per head of European population : 1925-26, £1 16s. 9d. ; 1926-27, £1 16s. 9d.

The following figures relate to the war and other pensions paid by the Department during the year on behalf of other Governments :—

Government.	Class of Pension.	Number at 31st March, 1927.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.	Payments, 1926-27.
			£	£	£
Great Britain	War	1,917	109,409	57	163,372
"	Army and civil	651	36,900	57	
Australia	War	564	23,779	42	26,094
India	Army and civil	82	20,382	249	26,398
South Africa	War	2	252	126	299
"	Civil	25	2,697	108	2,550
Crown Colonies	"	29	7,131	246	7,607
Canada	War	2	484	242	488
Totals .. .. .	.. .. .	3,272	201,034	..	226,808

LEGISLATION.

Family Allowances Act.

Under the Family Allowances Act, 1926, which came into force on the 1st April, 1927, provision is made, on application by a father of three or more children under fifteen years of age, for an allowance in respect of each child in excess of two at the rate of 2s. weekly, but so that the average weekly income from all sources of the family of the applicant, including any allowance under the Act, does not exceed £4, plus 2s. for each child in excess of two.

“Family” includes the applicant and his wife (if living with him) and their children under fifteen years of age as defined in the next paragraph.

“Child” means a child under the age of fifteen years, and includes a stepchild, a child legally adopted by the applicant or his wife, and a child, not being a member of the applicant’s family but being maintained by him, who the Minister decides shall be regarded as a member of the family; but does not include an illegitimate child, a child who is not maintained as a member of the family, a child in respect of whom a pension out of public moneys is payable under the Pensions Act, 1926, the War Pensions Act, 1915, or other enactment, a child of an alien or a child of an Asiatic, whether naturalized or not or whether a British subject by birth or not.

An allowance already payable may be continued after the age of fifteen years in any case where the Minister of Pensions is satisfied that any child is by reason of physical or mental defect totally incapacitated from earning a living. Except in exceptional cases to be determined by the Commissioner of Pensions, all allowances under the Act shall be paid to the wife of the applicant and must be applied towards the maintenance or education of the children. An allowance is not payable unless the applicant, and also his wife (if the allowance is to be paid to her), have been permanently residing in New Zealand for one year, and unless the children in respect of whom the allowance is payable have also been residing in New Zealand for not less than one year or have been born in New Zealand. For the purpose of computing the average weekly income of the family under the Act, there shall be taken into account all moneys or money’s worth received within the period of one year immediately preceding the date of the application from all sources by any member of the family, and also interest at the rate of 5 per cent. (or such higher rate as may be actually received) on the value of any real or personal property of any member of the family, except that property on which the family resides or furniture and personal effects in the possession of the family is exempted from this computation.

Pensions for the Members of the New Zealand Defence or Naval Forces.

Legislation was also embodied in the Finance Act, 1926, making provision for pensions in respect of death or disablement of members of the New Zealand Defence Force or the New Zealand Naval Force at the same rates payable under the War Pensions Act, 1915, where such death or disablement occurs by reason of misadventure suffered in the performance of a member’s duties.

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

	£
Salaries (including medical officers)	32,666
Contribution to Post Office for payment of pensions	13,623
Medical fees	6,053
Travelling-expenses of officers and pensioners	3,445
War Pensions Appeal Board (all expenses)	3,656
War Pensions Board (salaries)	2,475
Printing, stationery, and advertising	2,152
Postage and telegrams	2,106
Rent of offices	1,069
Office fittings and requisites	270
Exchange and commission	125
Telephones	237
Overtime	171
Fuel, light, cleaning, and water	120
Sundry repairs and cartage	22
Fees and legal expenses	22
	<hr/>
	£68,212

Number of officers on 31st March, 1927, 159.

Percentage of cost of administration to total payment (£2,750,037), 2·48.

WAR PENSIONS.

TOTAL CLAIMS LODGED AND ANNUAL VALUE OF ALL PENSIONS GRANTED TO DATE.

Year.	Claims lodged.		Pensions granted.		
	Soldiers.	Dependants.	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
1915-16	798	681	1,214	£ 56,488	£ 46
1916-17	3,958	2,017	5,316	285,707	53
1917-18	8,148	3,754	10,587	780,057	73
1918-19	14,749	5,292	16,954	1,167,081	68
1919-20	11,493	3,990	15,183	872,627	57
1920-21	1,081	1,878	2,207	163,713	66
1921-22	367	891	945	63,685	67
1922-23	198	635	625	43,867	70
1923-24	160	550	551	40,836	74
1924-25	197	505	432	31,241	72
1925-26	161	379	353	26,046	74
1926-27	218	378	350	26,369	75
Totals	41,528	20,950	54,717	3,557,717	65

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

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL LIABILITY AT 31ST MARCH, 1927.

Class of Pension.	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
Soldiers (permanent)	8,646	..	£ 418,333	£ 48
Soldiers (temporary)	3,717	15	252,024	68
Dependants of disabled soldiers	798	1,529	68,405	86
Widows (without children)	623	..	54,954	88
Widows (with children)	744	1,148	115,300	155
Other dependants of deceased soldiers—				
Parents	5,346	17	189,435	35
Other adult dependants	149	29	5,910	39
Guardians of children	602	812	21,845	36
Totals, &c.	20,625	3,550	1,126,206	55

NUMBER OF WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE AT EACH RATE ON 31ST MARCH, 1927.

Rate (nearest £1).	Soldiers (Permanent).	Soldiers (Temporary).	Wives and Parents (on Account of Disablement).	On account of Death.				
				Widows.		Other Dependants.		
				With Children.	Without Children.	Parents.	Guardians of Children.	Others.
£								
301-350	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
261-300	3	3	..	4	..	..	..	..
234-260	29	1	5	13	..	..	..	..
201-233	19	4	9	46	..	..	..	..
191-200	1	6	2	21	1	..	..	..
181-190	123	347	15	94	1	1	1	..
171-180	19	4	2	2	5	..	..	..
161-170	76	98	4	63	1	..	..	1
151-160	38	79	51	165	..	..	..	1
141-150	30	64	..	2	16	..	..	..
131-140	35	10	12	53	1	..	..	..
121-130	94	168	64	257	24	14	2	4
111-120	37	19	18	..	65	7	1	..
101-110	110	125	127	14	15	9	7	2
91-100	317	55	30	..	7	43	..	..
81- 90	317	6	14	..	35	11	..	1
71- 80	360	138	120	8	449	173	37	4
61- 70	294	128	38	..	..	84	2	2
51- 60	1,203	382	148	..	1	428	103	26
41- 50	331	183	22	..	..	103	..	..
31- 40	1,503	518	39	1	1	1,476	47	16
21- 30	2,588	1,171	60	1	..	2,933	394	88
6- 20	1,117	204	18	..	1	64	8	4
Totals	8,646	3,717	798	744	623	5,346	602	149

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS.

The payments for war pensions show a decrease during the year, the figures compared with those of the previous years being as follows :—

Period ending 31st March,	Payments made in						Total.
	London.	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa.	Foreign Countries.	New Zealand.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916 ..	..	..	..	..	..	13,910	13,910
1917 ..	3,454	152	..	..	213	176,570	180,389
1918 ..	12,567	2,925	..	..	294	499,659	515,445
1919 ..	28,623	10,870	192	..	295	1,159,775	1,199,755
1920 ..	58,447	..	474	..	258	1,753,240	1,812,419
1921 ..	72,994	30,849	..	..	252	1,782,857	1,886,952
1922 ..	64,772	50,988	2,876	367	316	1,606,855	1,726,174
1923 ..	60,878	32,130	116	107	338	1,395,823	1,489,392
1924 ..	59,064	33,625	2,229	397	732	1,219,513	1,315,560
1925 ..	57,329	41,138	2,296	154	320	1,143,246	1,244,483
1926 ..	76,585	39,473	2,591	..	265	1,066,247	1,185,161
1927 ..	50,479	26,621	214	272	492	1,050,910	1,128,988
Totals ..£	545,192	268,771	10,988	1,297	3,775	12,868,605	13,698,628

WAR PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1927.

	Soldiers.		Wives and Parents of Soldiers.	Dependants.		Annual Liability.
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Temporary.	Widows.	Other Dependants.	
						£
Great Britain ..	167	152	18	148	703	60,502
Australia ..	179	202	11	56	177	34,169
Other countries ..	25	34	..	6	38	4,254
Totals ..	371	388	29	210	918	98,925

APPEALS.

Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1926 ..	..	..	..	93
Appeals lodged during 1926-27 ..	..	..	..	383
				476
Appeals dismissed during 1926-27 ..	..	..	..	150
Appeals upheld during 1926-27 ..	..	..	..	177
Appeals withdrawn and struck out 1926-27 ..	..	..	..	16
Appeals not under Act, 1926-27 ..	..	..	..	1
Pensions made permanent, 1926-27 ..	..	..	..	3
				347
Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1927 ..	..	..	..	129

Summary since Creation of Appeal Board.

	To 31st March, 1926.	1926-27.	Total.
Appeals dismissed ..	830	150	980
Appeals upheld ..	500	177	677
Appeals withdrawn and struck out ..	58	16	74
Appeals not under Act ..	6	1	7
Pensions made permanent ..	5	3	8
Totals ..	1,399	347	1,746
Total appeals lodged ..	1,492	383	1,875

ECONOMIC PENSIONS PAYABLE AT 31ST MARCH, 1927.

Class.	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Annual Grant.
		£	£
Soldiers with permanent pensions	342	23,890	70
Soldiers with temporary pensions	805	54,456	68
Widows with children	97	2,763	28
Widows without children	28	947	34
Widowed mothers	178	5,159	29
Totals	1,450	87,215	60

Medical treatment of war pensioners during 1926-27 cost £86,311.

Railway concessions to war pensioners with disabilities in excess of 50 per cent. cost £2,375 during the year.

The loading paid on life-insurance policies of war pensioners due to war service disability amounted to £236 for the year.

Temporary war pensions to soldiers decreased by 457, while permanent pensions to soldiers were increased by 452 during the year.

The 353 deaths among war pensioners are made up as follows: Soldiers, 131; widows of soldiers, 5; other dependants, 217.

	Old-age.	Widows'.	Maori War.	Miners'.	Blind.	Epidemic.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1926	22,905	3,833	444	640	196	313
New pensions granted, 1926-27	3,302	705	..	84	46	..
Deaths during 1926-27	2,049	6	70	51	6	2
Cancellations during 1926-27	407	562	..	5	4	52
Net increase or decrease	+846	+137	-70	+28	+36	-54
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1927	23,751	3,970	374	668	232	259
Total children in receipt of pension, 31st March, 1927 .. .. .	..	8,917	..	..	..	..
Total European pensioners sixty-five years and over at 31st March, 1927	19,284	..	..	..	..	..
Total female European pensioners sixty years to sixty-four years at 31st March, 1927	3,014	..	..	..	..	..
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population	1.62	..	..	..	..	..
New claims lodged	4,411	867	..	116	50	..
New claims rejected	1,182	166	..	28	13	..
Number of children on whose account pension granted .. .. .	..	1,725	..	..	..	..
Number of pensioners in receipt of old-age pension .. .. .	..	..	91	..	..	..
Annual liability at 31st March, 1927	£995,353	£305,586	£18,326	£41,951	£11,090	£9,016
Average pension	£41 18s.	£76 19s.	£49	£62 16s.	£47 16s.	£34 16s.
Gross expenditure for year 1926-27	£982,356	£301,861	£19,458	£41,940	£10,338	£10,951
Increase or decrease on figures of previous year	+£78,779	+£15,411	-£3,609	+£1,701	+£2,285	-£3,571
Cost per head of European population	14s. 3d.	4s. 4d.	3.4d.	7.3d.	1.8d.	1.9d.
Credit from national endowment	£37,948	..	..	..	..	..
Credit from gold duty .. .. .	..	..	..	£2,482	..	..
Refunds paid to Public Account	£2,955	£709	..	..	..	..
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals	1,034	..	14	2	59	..
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these	£49,001	..	£662	£129	£3,017	..
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals	114	..	..	..	..	..
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these	£4,459	..	..	..	..	..
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1927	£6,583	£2,495	£142	£247	£49	£60
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£4,575	£2,156	£86	£161	£145	£47
Average of total family of pensioners .. .. .	..	4.34	..	..	..	..
Average of family under fifteen years .. .. .	..	2.25	..	..	..	..
Total claims lodged to date	93,621	12,266	1,889	1,583	328	..
Total claims established	73,153	10,304	1,697	1,343	252	972
Total claims rejected and outstanding	20,468	1,962	192	240	76	..
Total number of children benefited .. .. .	..	25,434	..	..	..	..
Total deaths	39,692	92	1,318	485	15	10
Total guardians appointed .. .. .	..	160	..	..	..	..
Total cancellations	9,707	6,242	5	190	5	703
Grand total paid to date	£13,619,766	£2,022,011	£532,675	£301,178	£19,427	£427,518
Total credit from gold duty .. .. .	..	..	..	£38,214	..	..
Total amount paid on account funeral expenses .. .. .	..	..	..	£4,352	..	..
Total credit from national endowment	£504,412	..	..	..	..	..

Total European population at 31st March, 1927, 1,373,746.

APPENDIX.

TABLE I.—NATURE OF DISABILITIES FOR WHICH WAR PENSIONS WERE GRANTED TO
31st MARCH, 1927.

				Permanent.	Temporary.	Total.	Per Centage.
Wounds—							
Upper extremity	..	..	..	2,153	112	2,265	
Lower extremity	..	..	..	2,265	203	2,468	
Head and neck	..	..	..	691	78	769	
Thorax	..	..	..	357	73	430	
Abdomen	..	..	..	121	13	134	
				5,587	479	6,066	49.1
Fractures (not due to wounds)—							
Upper extremity	..	..	..	62	4	66	
Lower extremity	..	..	..	58	6	64	
				120	10	130	1.1
Amputations—							
Upper extremity	..	..	..	*244	..	244	
Lower extremity	..	..	..	564	8	572	
Double ..	..	..	..	29	..	29	
				837	8	845	6.8
Special senses—							
Ocular—							
Totally blind	..	..	..	17	1	18	
Loss of one eye	..	..	..	288	3	291	
Other disabilities of eye	..	..	..	147	17	164	
				452	21	473	3.8
Auditory				291	35	326	
Nasal	..	..	..	10	10	20	
				301	45	346	2.8
Respiratory system—							
Pulmonary tuberculosis	..	..	..	93	1,115	1,208	9.8
Other diseases	..	..	..	210	646	856	6.9
				303	1,761	2,064	..
Circulatory system				152	231	383	3.1
Nervous system—							
Organic disease (including mental diseases)	..	..	..	15	50	73	0.6
Functional disease	..	..	..	112	412	524	4.2
				127	470	597	4.8
Gastro-intestinal	..	..	..	86	106	192	1.6
Genito-urinary	..	..	..	63	91	154	1.3
General diseases	..	..	..	194	241	435	3.5
Diseases of bone	..	..	..	34	23	57	0.5
Injuries of joints (not due to wounds)	..	..	..	234	88	322	2.6
Spinal disease	..	..	..	22	70	92	0.7
Deformities	..	..	..	49	4	53	0.4
Disease of skin	..	..	..	4	10	14	0.1
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	81	59	140	1.1
				8,646	3,717	12,363	100

* The figures in previous year's reports were in error.

TABLE II.—PENSIONS GRANTED, DEATHS, AND CANCELLATIONS IN EACH YEAR, WITH NUMBER IN FORCE.

Year ended 31st March,	Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancellations.	In Force at End of Year.	Year ended 31st March,	Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancellations.	In Force at End of Year.
<i>Old-age.</i>					<i>Maori War.</i>				
1899 ..	7,487	38	6	7,443	1913 ..	577	9	..	568
1900 ..	4,699	786	71	11,285	1914 ..	747	74	1	1,240
1901 ..	2,227	815	292	12,406	1915 ..	256	108	..	1,388
1902 ..	1,694	935	388	12,776	1916 ..	60	124	1	1,323
1903 ..	1,391	1,064	622	12,481	1917 ..	10	101	..	1,232
1904 ..	1,063	928	690	11,926	1918 ..	24	103	..	1,153
1905 ..	1,210	890	476	11,770	1919 ..	12	125	..	1,040
1906 ..	2,075	1,038	225	12,582	1920 ..	5	106	..	939
1907 ..	2,031	1,097	259	13,257	1921 ..	2	130	..	811
1908 ..	1,740	1,189	239	13,569	1922 ..	1	72	..	740
1909 ..	2,113	1,112	174	14,396	1923 ..	1	71	1	669
1910 ..	2,304	1,169	211	15,320	1924 ..	1	80	1	589
1911 ..	2,399	1,423	276	16,020	1925 ..	1	71	..	519
1912 ..	2,318	1,469	220	16,649	1926 ..	..	74	1	444
1913 ..	2,072	1,569	643	16,509	1927 ..	..	70	..	374
1914 ..	3,320	1,479	300	18,050	Totals..	1,697	1,318	5	..
1915 ..	3,158	1,582	274	19,352	<i>War.</i>				
1916 ..	2,268	1,539	277	19,804	1916 ..	1,214	1	22	1,191
1917 ..	1,823	1,610	320	19,697	1917 ..	5,316	44	1,294	5,169
1918 ..	2,146	1,535	348	19,960	1918 ..	10,587	86	1,173	14,497
1919 ..	2,235	2,013	310	19,872	1919 ..	16,954	531	3,493	27,427
1920 ..	2,289	1,798	370	19,993	1920 ..	15,183	291	7,748	34,571
1921 ..	2,152	1,880	428	19,837	1921 ..	2,207	358	4,656	31,764
1922 ..	2,553	1,578	321	20,491	1922 ..	945	369	3,249	29,091
1923 ..	2,781	1,763	328	21,181	1923 ..	625	358	2,898	26,460
1924 ..	2,549	1,870	392	21,468	1924 ..	551	361	3,484	23,166
1925 ..	2,654	1,635	425	22,062	1925 ..	432	334	1,946	21,318
1926 ..	3,100	1,839	418	22,905	1926 ..	353	369	586	20,716
1927 ..	3,302	2,049	407	23,751	1927 ..	350	353	88	20,625
Totals..	73,153	39,692	9,707	..	Totals..	54,717	3,455	30,637	..
<i>Widows'.</i>					<i>Miners'.</i>				
1912 ..	791	..	3	788	1916 ..	120	..	..	120
1913 ..	657	3	129	1,313	1917 ..	153	35	..	238
1914 ..	421	1	193	1,540	1918 ..	91	34	25	270
1915 ..	458	2	208	1,788	1919 ..	82	41	71	240
1916 ..	444	4	338	1,890	1920 ..	237	23	39	415
1917 ..	421	2	285	2,024	1921 ..	107	43	5	474
1918 ..	509	6	335	2,192	1922 ..	78	38	8	506
1919 ..	1,349	11	319	3,211	1923 ..	96	52	6	544
1920 ..	767	18	516	3,444	1924 ..	88	48	4	580
1921 ..	627	8	642	3,421	1925 ..	111	70	14	607
1922 ..	523	3	598	3,343	1926 ..	96	50	13	640
1923 ..	616	12	536	3,411	1927 ..	84	51	5	668
1924 ..	730	8	607	3,526	Totals..	1,343	485	190	..
1925 ..	602	6	524	3,598	<i>Epidemic.</i>				
1926 ..	684	2	447	3,833	1920 ..	939	..	..	..
1927 ..	705	6	562	3,970	1921 ..	27	4	113	849
Totals..	10,304	92	6,242	..	1922 ..	6	..	172	683
<i>Blind.</i>					1923 ..	..	2	112	569
1925 ..	114	..	..	114	1924 ..	..	1	111	457
1926 ..	92	9	1	196	1925 ..	..	..	92	365
1927 ..	46	6	4	232	1926 ..	..	1	51	313
Totals..	252	15	5	..	1927	2	52	259
					Totals..	972	10	703	..

G. C. FACHE,
Commissioner of Pensions.

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TABLE II—PERSONS GRANTED DEATHS AND CONDEMNATIONS IN EARLY YEARS WITH NUMBER IN PARENTS

[illegible]