

1931.
NEW ZEALAND.

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1931.

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, 30th June, 1931.

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, and family allowances for the year ended 31st March, 1931.

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, 1930.			As at 31st March, 1931.		
	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1929-30.	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1930-31.
		£	£		£	£
War	20,739	1,187,574	1,207,748	21,025	1,236,188	1,245,499
Old-age	26,909	1,125,673	1,107,993	28,995	1,212,673	1,158,788
Widows'	4,373	323,250	323,419	4,566	336,039	325,998
Maori War	209	10,241	11,498	170	8,330	9,102
Miners'	779	53,354	51,684	876	62,575	58,441
Epidemic	160	6,629	7,302	138	6,229	6,322
Blind	311	14,956	14,737	330	16,072	15,796
Boer War	60	2,578	2,606	59	2,552	2,620
Sundry pensions and annuities..	113	10,330	11,055	114	9,301	10,624
Civil Service Act, 1908 ..	33	10,059	10,548	27	8,389	9,251
Family allowances	3,868	59,205	61,008	4,617	69,930	63,608
Totals	57,554	2,803,849	2,809,598	60,917	2,968,278	2,906,049

Cost per head of European population : 1929-30, £1 19s. 6d. ; 1930-31, £2 0s. 3d.

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, 1931.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.	Payments, 1930-31.
Great Britain	War	1,664	£ 86,915	£ s. d. 52 0 0	£ 158,551
"	Army and civil ..	768	56,035	73 0 0	
Australia	War	556	25,522	45 18 0	27,305
India	Army and civil ..	73	20,132	276 0 0	23,412
South Africa	War	2	115	57 8 6	118
"	Civil	29	3,410	118 0 0	4,094
Crown Colonies	"	27	9,370	347 0 0	9,495
Canada	War	2	398	199 3 0	599
Totals .. ..	.. ..	3,121	201,897	..	223,574

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The claims lodged during the year totalled 1,727, which, with the 142 outstanding from the previous year, made a total of 1,869 dealt with. Of these, 1,399 were accepted and 191 rejected. Of the rejected claims 102 represent cases where the income of the family was in excess of the limit allowed. 236 new claims from Maoris were finally dealt with during the year, 187 being granted, and 49 rejected.

The total children of the 4,617 allowances in force as at 31st March, 1931, and those in excess of two in a family numbered 23,033 and 13,799, the average per family being 4·98 and 2·98 respectively.

The total amount paid during the year was £63,608.

The total annual value of all allowances in force at the close of the year was £69,930. The latter averaged £15 2s. 11d. per annum each, or just a trifle under 6s. weekly, the maximum for three children.

Weekly Rates at which Allowances granted.

Weekly Rate.	1s.	2s.	3s.	4s.	5s.	6s.	7s.	8s.	10s.	12s.	14s.	16s.
Number granted ..	6	405	7	429	2	273	2	147	75	30	18	5

Numbers according to Size of Family.

Number of Children in excess of two.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Number of families ..	381	443	282	150	81	37	19	6

Weekly Incomes of Families.

Weekly Income.	£1 and under.	Over £1 and up to £2.	Over £2 and up to £3.	Over £3 and up to £4.	Over £4.
Number of families ..	48	180	387	749	35

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration for the year amounted to £70,109, the principal items of expenditure being £35,907 for salaries of officers of the Department, who numbered 161 as at 31st March, 1931; £16,076 and £2,818 paid to the Postal Department respectively for payment of pensions and postage and telegrams; £4,675 for salaries and other expenses of the War Pensions Appeal Board; and £2,975 for salaries of the War Pensions Board.

The percentage of cost of administration to the total payments made of £3,129,623 was 2·24.

WAR PENSIONS.

SUMMARY OF WAR PENSION PAYMENTS.

	Payments made in						Total
	London.	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa.	Foreign Countries.	New Zealand.	
Total payments to 31st March, 1930	£ 739,709	£ 384,471	£ 21,507	£ 2,889	£ 5,947	£ 16,087,835	£ 17,242,358
Payments in 1930-31	45,822	51,429	2,522	514	814	1,144,398	1,245,499
Total payments to 31/3/31	785,531	435,900	24,029	3,403	6,761	17,232,233	18,487,857

The amount paid for the year ended 31st March, 1931, shows an increase over the preceding year of £37,751.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL LIABILITY AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1931.

Class of Pension.	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
			£	£
Soldiers (permanent)	9,405	22	489,191	52
Soldiers (temporary)	3,486	40	265,185	76
Dependants of disabled soldiers.. ..	1,313	2,795	123,878	94
Widows (without children)	810	..	73,766	91
Widows (with children)	584	912	89,093	153
Other dependants of deceased soldiers—				
Parents	4,787	5	171,877	36
Other adult dependants	117	8	4,172	36
Guardians of children	523	705	19,026	36
Totals, &c.	21,025	4,487	1,236,188	59

WAR PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1931.

	Soldiers.		Wives and Parents of Soldiers.	Dependants.		Annual Liability.
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Temporary.	Widows.	Other Dependants.	
						£
Great Britain	240	107	24	152	574	59,665
Australia	250	195	23	53	176	40,181
Other countries	48	26	..	6	37	5,092
Totals	538	328	47	211	787	104,938

ECONOMIC PENSIONS PAYABLE AT 31ST MARCH, 1931.

Class.	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Annual Grant.
		£	£
Soldiers with permanent pensions	820	59,145	72
Soldiers with temporary pensions	1,099	78,985	72
Widows with children	106	3,176	30
Widows without children	96	3,454	36
Widowed mothers	180	5,114	28
Totals	2,301	149,874	65

WAR PENSION APPEALS.

Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1930	155
Appeals lodged during 1930-31	603
	758
Appeals dismissed during 1930-31	279
Appeals upheld during 1930-31	308
Appeals withdrawn and struck out, 1930-31	24
	611
Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1931	147
Percentage upheld, 50·4 per cent.	

The total number of appeals dealt with to the 31st March, 1931, was 3,697, the percentage upheld being 48 per cent.

Of the 611 cases dealt with during the past year, 330 were heard at Auckland, 56·7 per cent. being upheld ; 119 at Wellington, 35·3 per cent. being upheld ; 98 at Christchurch, 47 per cent. being upheld ; and 64 at Dunedin, 51·6 per cent. being upheld.

Medical treatment of war pensioners during 1930-31 cost £83,394.

Railway concessions to war pensioners with locomotive disabilities in excess of 50 per cent. cost £1,876 during the year.

The loading paid on life-insurance policies of war pensioners due to war-service disability amounted to £196 for the year.

Temporary war pensions to soldiers increased by 118, and permanent pensions to soldiers by 120 during the year.

The 387 deaths among war pensioners are made up as follows : Soldiers, 145 ; widows of soldiers, 5 ; other dependants, 237.

STATISTICS IN REGARD TO CIVIL PENSIONS.

	Old-age.	Widows'.	Maori War.	Miners'.	Blind.	Epidemic.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1930 ..	26,909	4,373	209	{ 394* 385† }	311	160
New pension granted, 1930-31	4,640	815	1	153	43	..
Deaths during 1930-31	2,202	9	40	51	18	..
Cancellations during 1930-31	352	613	..	5	6	22
Net increase or decrease	+2,086	+193	- 39	+97	+19	- 22
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1931 ..	28,995	4,566	170	{ 481* 395† }	330	138
Total children in receipt of pension, 31st March, 1931 ..	..	9,534	..	..	..	220
Total European pensioners sixty-five years and over at 31st March, 1931 ..	23,226	..	..	..	..	..
Total female European pensioners sixty years to sixty-four years at 31st March, 1931 ..	4,208	..	..	..	..	..
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population ..	1.9	..	..	..	..	..
Total Maori pensioners	1,534	334	59	..	38	..
New claims lodged	5,918	916	2	194	66	..
New claims rejected	1,091	104	1	36	22	..
Number of children on whose account pension granted ..	..	1,930	..	..	..	..
Annual liability at 31st March, 1931 ..	£1,212,673	£336,039	£8,330	£62,575	£16,072	£6,229
Average pension per annum	£41 16s.	£73 12s.	£49	£71 9s.	£48 14s.	£45 3s.
Gross expenditure for year 1930-31 ..	£1,158,788	£325,998	£9,102	£58,441	£15,796	£6,322
Increase or decrease on figures of previous year ..	+£50,795	+£2,579	-£2,396	+£6,757	+£1,059	-£980
Cost per head of European population ..	16s. 1d.	4s. 6d.	1½d.	9-7d.	2-6d.	1d.
Credit from national endowment	£40,502	..	..	..	..	..
Credit from gold duty .. ..	..	..	..	£2,508	..	..
Refunds paid to Public Account	£2,025	£2,090	..	£46	£28	..
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals ..	1,040	..	6	6	91	..
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these ..	£50,149	..	£350	£368	£5,238	..
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals ..	130	..	..	1	1	..
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these ..	£5,300	..	..	£45	£56	..
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1931 ..	£6,230	£2,491	£45	£255	£31	£18
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid ..	£2,017	£713	£8	£51	£36	..
Average of total family of pensioners ..	..	3.84	..	..	..	..
Average of family under fifteen years ..	..	2.09	..	..	..	..
Total claims lodged to date	113,038	15,788	1,893	2,137	561	..
Total claims established	88,551	13,405	1,698	1,780	424	972
Total claims rejected	23,815	2,316	195	341	133	..
Total number of children benefited .. ..	..	32,825	..	..	..	..
Total deaths	48,197	116	1,523	695	68	14
Total guardians appointed .. ..	..	261	..	..	..	..
Total cancellations	11,359	8,723	5	209	26	820
Grand total paid to date	£17,957,882	£3,289,458	£583,318	£504,473	£75,558	£457,877
Total credit from gold duty .. ..	..	..	..	£48,191	..	..
Total amount paid on account funeral expenses ..	..	..	..	£6,263	..	..
Total credit from national endowment ..	£661,860	..	..	..	..	..

Total European population at 31st March, 1931, 1,442,746. * Miners. † Widows.

RETURN OF DOUBLE PENSIONS AT 31ST MARCH, 1931.

War—	Number.	Widows'—	Number.
Old-age	1,644	Epidemic	136
Widows'	129	Miners'	46
Family allowance	224	Special annuity	2
Miners'	13	Miners'—	
Blind	6	Maori War	2
Boer War	2	Special annuity	1
Special annuity	2	Blind—	
Old-age—		Family allowance	10
Miners'	223	Special annuity	1
Maori War	51	Family allowance—	
Family allowance	22	Special annuity	1
Boer War	1		
Special annuity	14		2,531
Maori War—			
Boer War	1		

RETURN OF TRIPLE PENSIONS AT 31ST MARCH, 1931.

War—							
Old-age and miners'	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Widows' and miners'	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							10

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 Period.	Year ended 31st March,	Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancellations.	In Force at End of Period.
<i>Old-age.</i>					<i>Maori War.</i>				
1899-1900	12,186	824	77	11,285	1913-1920	1,691	750	2	939
1901-1910	17,848	10,237	3,576	15,320	1921 ..	2	130	..	811
1911-1920	24,028	16,017	3,338	19,993	1922 ..	1	72	..	740
1921 ..	2,152	1,880	428	19,837	1923 ..	1	71	1	669
1922 ..	2,553	1,578	321	20,491	1924 ..	1	80	1	589
1923 ..	2,781	1,763	328	21,181	1925 ..	1	71	..	519
1924 ..	2,549	1,870	392	21,468	1926 ..	..	74	1	444
1925 ..	2,654	1,635	425	22,062	1927 ..	..	70	..	374
1926 ..	3,100	1,839	418	22,905	1928 ..	..	66	..	308
1927 ..	3,302	2,049	407	23,751	1929 ..	..	49	..	259
1928 ..	3,638	2,093	421	24,875	1930 ..	..	50	..	209
1929 ..	3,614	1,968	411	26,110	1931 ..	1	40	..	170
1930 ..	3,506	2,242	465	26,909	Totals..	1,698	1,523	5	..
1931 ..	4,640	2,202	352	28,995	<i>War.</i>				
Totals..	88,551	48,197	11,359	..	1916-1920	49,254	953	13,730	34,571
<i>Widows'.</i>					1921 ..	2,207	358	4,656	31,764
1912-1920	5,817	47	2,326	3,444	1922 ..	945	369	3,249	29,091
1921 ..	627	8	642	3,421	1923 ..	625	358	2,898	26,460
1922 ..	523	3	598	3,343	1924 ..	551	361	3,484	23,166
1923 ..	616	12	536	3,411	1925 ..	432	334	1,946	21,318
1924 ..	730	8	607	3,526	1926 ..	353	369	586	20,716
1925 ..	602	6	524	3,598	1927 ..	350	353	88	20,625
1926 ..	684	2	447	3,833	1928 ..	330	401	—6	20,560
1927 ..	705	6	562	3,970	1929 ..	398	360	—88	20,686
1928 ..	761	4	629	4,098	1930 ..	347	405	—111	20,739
1929 ..	823	5	584	4,332	1931 ..	431	387	*—242	21,025
1930 ..	702	6	655	4,373	Totals..	56,223	5,008	30,190	..
1931 ..	815	9	613	4,566	<i>Miners'.</i>				
Totals..	13,405	116	8,723	..	1916-1920	683	133	135	415
<i>Blind.</i>					1921 ..	107	43	5	474
1925 ..	114	..	..	114	1922 ..	78	38	8	506
1926 ..	92	9	1	196	1923 ..	96	52	6	544
1927 ..	46	6	4	232	1924 ..	88	48	4	580
1928 ..	39	11	1	259	1925 ..	111	70	14	607
1929 ..	43	14	6	282	1926 ..	96	50	13	640
1930 ..	47	10	8	311	1927 ..	84	51	5	668
1931 ..	43	18	6	330	1928 ..	104	47	4	721
Totals..	424	68	26	..	1929 ..	94	53	2	760
<i>Family Allowances.</i>					1930 ..	86	59	8	779
1928 ..	3,154	25	123	3,006	1931 ..	153	51	5	876
1929 ..	1,437	39	641	3,763	Totals..	1,780	695	209	..
1930 ..	1,004	41	858	3,868	<i>Epidemic.</i>				
1931 ..	1,399	46	604	4,617	1920 ..	939	..	..	..
Totals..	6,994	151	2,226	..	1921 ..	27	4	113	849
					1922 ..	6	..	172	683
					1923 ..	..	2	112	569
					1924 ..	..	1	111	457
					1925 ..	..	..	92	365
					1926 ..	..	1	51	313
					1927 ..	..	2	52	259
					1928 ..	..	3	47	209
					1929 ..	..	..	21	188
					1930 ..	..	1	27	160
					1931 ..	..	..	22	138
					Totals..	972	14	820	..

* This represents 718 reinstatements less 476 actual cancellations.

J. H. BOYES,
Commissioner of Pensions.

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