

The immediate effect of the two salary cuts and reductions in permanent staff since 31st March, 1931 (allowing for scale increments, promotions, &c.), will be seen from the following table, which shows the classification of each group of officers (excluding the Administrative Division) after the cuts have been made, as compared with the total salaries for the year ended the 31st March, 1931 (*i.e.*, before the cuts were imposed):—

Class (excluding Administrative Division, and Native-school Teachers).	Total Salaries, 31st March, 1931.	Total Salaries after First Cut.	Total Salaries after Second Cut.	Annual Savings as compared with 31st March, 1931.
Professional—	£	£	£	£
A	150,915	127,262	114,004	36,911
B	74,010	62,212	56,234	17,776
C	62,620	52,411	47,279	15,341
D	40,020	35,001	31,897	8,123
E	13,050	13,842	13,069	..
F	4,410	2,713	2,949	1,461
Clerical—				
Special	55,960	45,036	40,670	15,290
I	57,530	51,070	46,222	11,308
II	42,295	34,866	31,399	10,896
III	73,805	63,684	57,396	16,409
IV	100,075	83,763	75,556	24,519
V	96,675	89,694	81,012	15,663
VI	164,875	142,524	128,595	36,280
VII	445,965	427,292	425,909	20,056
General—				
I (£320 and over) ..	319,394	263,195	238,289	81,105
II (£232-£319) ..	392,298	342,488	316,100	76,198
III (£191-£231) ..	115,210	100,884	97,438	17,772
IV (£190 and under) ..	84,437	70,915	68,506	15,931
Educational	12,215	11,226	10,428	1,787
Totals ..	2,305,760	2,020,085	1,882,964	422,826

STAFF STATISTICS.

The statistics shown as Table III in the appendix hereto reveal that there has been a net decrease of 314 permanent officers as at the 31st March last as compared with the position at the end of the previous year.

It will be seen from the table that in nearly all Departments there has been a curtailment of staffs. In some Departments this has been possible through the curtailment of services, but in a great number of Departments the depression has considerably increased the amount of work. In certain Departments the full extent of the economies effected is obscured by the fact that fresh appointments have been made in some particular branch—for example, in the Health Department the services of 49 officers were dispensed with, but during the year 21 new dental trainees were added to the establishment, thus reducing the net reduction to 28. Industries and Commerce, Tourist, and Publicity Department shows an increase of 56, but here again the increase is nominal only, a corresponding reduction being shown under Internal Affairs, from which Department the staff of the Statistician's Office was transferred. Similarly, a nominal increase in the Justice Department is compensated for by a corresponding reduction through the transfer of the Registrar-General's Office from Internal Affairs to Justice. Land and Income Tax has shown a net increase of 15 officers; there have been 19 additions to staff and 4 retirements. This increase has been necessitated through extra work incidental to the recent taxation proposals being thrown upon the Department.

The total decrease at the end of the year in the classified lists of all Departments under the Commissioner's control has been 671, as against the total increases during the year of 357.

In regard to the staffing of State Departments it must be borne in mind that, contrary to the general experience in private undertakings, the depression has in a great many cases increased the volume of work, accentuated the difficulties, and ushered in many new problems which Government has been obliged to deal with. Where it has been possible to carry on with a skeleton staff, or to arrange for a particular work to be carried on by a merger with another Department, this has been