

1934.
NEW ZEALAND.

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1934.

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, 1934.

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, 1934.

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, 1933.			As at 31st March, 1934.		
	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1932-33.	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1933-34.
		£	£		£	£
War.. .. .	21,104	1,200,468	1,217,586	21,314	1,228,572	1,246,441
Old-age	34,932	1,305,772	1,271,157	37,507	1,403,375	1,350,982
Widows'	4,687	307,926	311,317	4,619	301,388	302,020
Maori War	106	5,194	5,831	86	4,214	4,522
Miners'	743	56,618	62,563	736	56,184	56,810
Epidemic	98	3,690	4,197	68	2,635	3,290
Blind	395	18,422	18,065	438	20,399	19,306
Boer War	55	2,157	2,176	52	2,082	2,163
Sundry pensions and annuities..	120	10,090	9,626	135	12,367	11,678
Civil Service Act, 1908	20	6,142	6,453	16	4,933	5,917
Family allowances	10,320	131,118	122,810	12,145	151,765	146,766
Totals	72,580	3,047,597	3,031,781	77,116	3,187,914	3,149,895

Cost per head of European population: 1932-33, £2 1s. 4d.; 1933-34, £2 2s. 8d.

PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

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, 1934.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.	Payments, 1933-34.
			£	£ s. d.	£
Great Britain	War	1,463	75,931	52 0 0	} 165,975
"	Army and civil ..	746	52,011	74 0 0	
Australia	War	498	22,990	46 3 4	23,525
India	Army and civil ..	68	14,526	214 0 0	27,763
South Africa	War	3	136	45 0 0	169
"	Civil	30	3,406	114 0 0	4,896
Crown Colonies	"	38	10,641	280 0 0	15,832
Canada	War	1	215	215 7 4	496
Totals		2,847	179,856	..	238,656

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The claims lodged during the year totalled 3,196, which, with the 448 outstanding from the previous year, made a total of 3,644 to be dealt with. Of these, 3,022 were accepted and 360 rejected. Of the rejected claims 149 represent cases where the income of the family was in excess of the limit allowed. 450 new claims from Maoris were finally dealt with during the year, 351 being granted and 99 rejected.

The total children of the 12,145 allowances in force as at 31st March, 1934, and those in excess of two in a family numbered 53,367 and 29,077, the average per family being 4·39 and 2·39 respectively.

The total amount paid during the year was £146,766, while the total annual value of all allowances in force at the close of the year was £151,765.

Weekly Rates at which Allowances granted.

Weekly Rate.	1s.	2s.	3s.	4s.	5s.	6s.	7s.	8s.	9s.	10s.	12s.	14s.	16s.
Number granted ..	2	1,653	5	758	5	332	1	155	2	73	21	12	3

Numbers according to Size of Family.

Number of Children in Excess of Two.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Number of families ..	1,584	776	348	177	93	22	18	4

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 £3 5s.	Over £3 5s.
Number of families ..	157	1,719	762	371	13

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration for the year amounted to £58,336, the principal items of expenditure being £28,235 for salaries of officers of the Department, who numbered 164 as at 31st March, 1934; £17,183 and £3,086 paid to the Postal Department respectively for payment of pensions and postage and telegrams; £3,006 for salaries and other expenses of the War Pensions Appeal Board; and £2,018 for salaries of the War Pensions Board.

The percentage of cost of administration to the total payments made of £3,388,552 (including £238,655 paid on behalf of other Governments) was 1·72.

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, 1933	£ 901,290	£ 506,747	£ 29,100	£ 3,963	£ 8,351	£ 19,517,770	£ 20,967,221
Payments in 1933-34	64,338	37,395	2,799	1,326	684	1,139,899	1,246,441
Total payments to 31st March, 1934	965,628	544,142	31,899	5,289	9,035	20,657,669	22,213,662

The amount paid for the year ended 31st March, 1934, shows an increase over the preceding year of £28,855.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL LIABILITY AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1934.

Class of Pension.	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
			£	£
Soldiers (permanent)	9,686	41	512,671	53
Soldiers (temporary)	3,762	58	261,620	70
Dependants of disabled soldiers	1,988	3,901	147,424	74
Widows (without children)	1,063	..	97,493	92
Widows (with children).. .. .	340	581	52,679	155
Other dependants of deceased soldiers—				
Parents	4,102	..	140,358	34
Other adult dependants	90	..	2,578	29
Guardians of children	283	505	13,749	49
Totals, &c.	21,314	5,086	1,228,572	58

WAR PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1934.

	Soldiers.		Wives and Parents of Soldiers.	Dependants.		Annual Liability.
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Temporary.	Widows.	Other Dependants.	
						£
Great Britain.. .. .	267	83	31	142	457	50,848
Australia	270	201	35	53	154	38,603
Other countries	52	21	1	5	31	4,748
Totals	589	305	67	200	642	94,199

ECONOMIC PENSIONS PAYABLE AT 31ST MARCH, 1934.

Class.	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Annual Grant.
		£	£
Soldiers with permanent pensions	1,231	63,864	52
Soldiers with temporary pensions	1,274	67,002	53
Widows with children	76	1,879	25
Widows without children	179	5,519	31
Widowed mothers	179	5,885	33
Totals	2,939	144,149	49

WAR PENSION APPEALS.

Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1933	180
Appeals lodged during 1933-34	741
	921
Appeals dismissed during 1933-34.. .. .	303
Appeals upheld during 1933-34	326
Appeals withdrawn and struck out, 1933-34	27
	656
Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1934	265
Percentage upheld, 49·7 per cent.	

The total number of appeals dealt with to the 31st March, 1934, was 5,527, the percentage upheld being 48 per cent.

Of the 656 cases dealt with during the past year, 372 were heard at Auckland, 54·6 per cent. being upheld; 70 at Wellington, 27·1 per cent. being upheld; 133 at Christchurch, 39·8 per cent. being upheld; and 81 at Dunedin, 63 per cent. being upheld.

Medical treatment of war pensioners during 1933-34 cost £69,131.

Railway concessions to war pensioners on maximum permanent disablement pension and those with locomotive disabilities on permanent pension in excess of 50 per cent. cost £1,562 during the year.

The loading paid on life-insurance policies of war pensioners due to war-service disability amounted to £167 for the year.

Temporary war pensions to soldiers increased by 147 and permanent pensions to soldiers increased by 138 during the year.

The 419 deaths among war pensioners are made up as follows: Soldiers, 161; widows of soldiers, 12; other dependants, 246.

Discharged Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Act, 1930.

The rehabilitation of disabled ex-soldiers has been carried out with increasing difficulty during the past year owing to the continued economic depression and the very limited finance available for the purpose.

The committees set up in terms of the provisions of the Act and the employment officers have made every endeavour to place disabled ex-soldiers in employment, and, although a fair measure of success has been achieved, it is becoming more evident that the ordinary channels of employment are practically closed to the disabled man by reason mainly of his inability through his disabilities to carry out work of a sustained nature. However, in some cases permanent employment has been secured, but mostly the work obtained has been of a casual nature.

For the more seriously disabled men the system whereby ex-soldiers manufacture articles in their own homes and sell them through special shops in the cities continues to be the most successful solution of this problem, not only as a means of bringing in some small remuneration to the workers, but also in giving to each participant some definite encouragement that profitable use may still be made of what ability and craftsmanship he still possesses.

STATISTICS IN REGARD TO CIVIL PENSIONS.

	Old-age.	Widows'.	Maori War.	Miners'.	Blind.	Epidemic.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1933 ..	34,932	4,687	106	{ 610* 133† }	395	98
New pensions granted, 1933-34	5,509	703	..	70	60	..
Deaths during 1933-34	2,369	5	20	51	12	..
Cancellations during 1933-34	565	766	..	26	5	30
Net increase or decrease	+2,575	-68	-20	-7	+43	-30
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1934 ..	37,507	4,619	86	{ 617* 119† }	438	68
Total children in receipt of pension, 31st March, 1934 ..	..	9,442	..	..	..	77
Total European pensioners sixty-five years and over at 31st March, 1934 ..	29,631	..	..	..	..	..
Total female European pensioners sixty years to sixty-four years at 31st March, 1934 ..	6,155	..	..	..	..	..
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population ..	2.4	..	..	..	..	..
Total Maori pensioners	1,687	366	30	..	49	..
New claims lodged	6,708	802	..	122	85	..
New claims rejected	1,298	111	..	57	28	..
Number of children on whose account pension granted ..	..	1,556	..	..	..	..
Annual liability at 31st March, 1934 ..	£1,403,375	£301,388	£4,214	£56,184	£20,399	£2,635
Average pension per annum	£37 8 4	£65 5 0	£49 0 0	£76 6 9	£46 11 5	£38 15 1
Gross expenditure for year 1933-34 ..	£1,350,982	£302,020	£4,522	£56,810	£19,306	£3,290
Increase or decrease on figures of previous year ..	+£79,825	-£9,297	-£1,309	-£5,753	+£1,241	-£907
Cost per head of European population ..	18s. 4d.	4s. 1d.	0.7d.	9.2d.	3.1d.	0.5d.
Credit from national endowment	£22,809	..	..	..	..	..
Refunds paid to Public Account	£827	£201	..	£5	£21	..
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals ..	1,121	..	4	6	114	..
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these ..	£47,009	..	£272	£523	£5,586	..
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals ..	157	..	..	1	2	..
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these ..	£5,455	..	..	£55	£72	..
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1934 ..	£6,031	£1,815	£29	£226	£28	£5
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid ..	£1,512	£322	..	£56	£8	£3
Average of family under fifteen years ..	..	2.04	..	..	..	..
Total claims lodged to date	133,790	18,339	1,893	2,647	791	..
Total claims established	105,400	15,637	1,698	2,125	581	972
Total claims rejected	27,811	2,652	195	515	198	..
Total number of children benefited .. ..	..	37,935	..	..	..	..
Total deaths	55,016	132	1,606	854	102	14
Total guardians appointed .. ..	..	345	..	..	..	..
Total cancellations	12,877	10,886	6	535	41	890
Grand total paid to date	£21,857,128	£4,242,957	£601,253	£693,631	£129,639	£470,944
Total amount paid on account funeral expenses ..	..	..	..	£7,649	..	..
Total credit from national endowment ..	£740,946	..	..	..	..	..

* Miners.

† Widows.

Total European population at 31st March, 1934, 1,476,026.

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>Family Allowances.</i>				
1899-1900	12,186	824	77	11,285	1928 ..	3,154	25	123	3,006
1901-1910	17,848	10,237	3,576	15,320	1929 ..	1,437	39	641	3,763
1911-1920	24,028	16,017	3,338	19,993	1930 ..	1,004	41	858	3,868
1921 ..	2,152	1,880	428	19,837	1931 ..	1,399	46	604	4,617
1922 ..	2,553	1,578	321	20,491	1932 ..	3,040	56	269	7,332
1923 ..	2,781	1,763	328	21,181	1933 ..	3,841	68	785	10,320
1924 ..	2,549	1,870	392	21,468	1934 ..	3,022	68	1,129	12,145
1925 ..	2,654	1,635	425	22,062					
1926 ..	3,100	1,839	418	22,905	Totals..	16,897	343	4,409	..
1927 ..	3,302	2,049	407	23,751					
1928 ..	3,638	2,093	421	24,875					
1929 ..	3,614	1,968	411	26,110					
1930 ..	3,506	2,242	465	26,909					
1931 ..	4,640	2,202	352	28,995					
1932 ..	5,806	2,188	296	32,317					
1933 ..	5,534	2,262	657	34,932					
1934 ..	5,509	2,369	565	37,507					
Totals..	105,400	55,016	12,877	..					
<i>Widows'.</i>					<i>Maori War.</i>				
1912-1920	5,817	47	2,326	3,444	1913-1920	1,691	750	2	939
1921 ..	627	8	642	3,421	1921 ..	2	130	..	811
1922 ..	523	3	598	3,343	1922 ..	1	72	..	740
1923 ..	616	12	536	3,411	1923 ..	1	71	1	669
1924 ..	730	8	607	3,526	1924 ..	1	80	1	589
1925 ..	602	6	524	3,598	1925 ..	1	71	..	519
1926 ..	684	2	447	3,833	1926 ..	..	74	1	444
1927 ..	705	6	562	3,970	1927 ..	..	70	..	374
1928 ..	761	4	629	4,098	1928 ..	..	66	..	308
1929 ..	823	5	584	4,332	1929 ..	..	49	..	259
1930 ..	702	6	655	4,373	1930 ..	..	50	..	209
1931 ..	815	9	613	4,566	1931 ..	1	40	..	170
1932 ..	798	8	647	4,709	1932 ..	..	27	..	143
1933 ..	731	3	750	4,687	1933 ..	..	36	1	106
1934 ..	703	5	766	4,619	1934 ..	..	20	..	86
Totals..	15,637	132	10,886	..	Totals..	1,698	1,606	6	..
<i>Blind.</i>					<i>War.</i>				
1925 ..	114	..	..	114	1916-1920	49,254	953	13,730	34,571
1926 ..	92	9	1	196	1921 ..	2,207	358	4,656	31,764
1927 ..	46	6	4	232	1922 ..	945	369	3,249	29,091
1928 ..	39	11	1	259	1923 ..	625	358	2,898	26,460
1929 ..	43	14	6	282	1924 ..	551	361	3,484	23,166
1930 ..	47	10	8	311	1925 ..	432	334	1,946	21,318
1931 ..	43	18	6	330	1926 ..	353	369	586	20,716
1932 ..	45	13	2	360	1927 ..	350	353	88	20,625
1933 ..	52	9	8	395	1928 ..	330	401	-6	20,560
1934 ..	60	12	5	438	1929 ..	398	360	-88	20,686
Totals..	581	102	41	..	1930 ..	347	405	-111	20,739
					1931 ..	431	387	-242	21,025
					1932 ..	348	432	-100	21,041
					1933 ..	352	400	-111	21,104
					1934 ..	365	419	*-264	21,314
					Totals..	57,288	6,259	29,715	..

* This represents 647 reinstatements less 383 actual cancellations.

PENSIONS GRANTED, DEATHS, AND CANCELLATIONS IN EACH YEAR, WITH NUMBER IN FORCE—*continued*.

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>Miners'.</i>					<i>Epidemic.</i>				
1916-1920	683	133	135	415	1920	939	..	..	..
1921 ..	107	43	5	474	1921 ..	27	4	113	849
1922 ..	78	38	8	506	1922 ..	6	..	172	683
1923 ..	96	52	6	544	1923 ..	..	2	112	569
1924 ..	88	48	4	580	1924 ..	..	1	111	457
1925 ..	111	70	14	607	1925 ..	..	..	92	365
1926 ..	96	50	13	640	1926 ..	..	1	51	313
1927 ..	84	51	5	668	1927 ..	..	2	52	259
1928 ..	104	47	4	721	1928 ..	..	3	47	209
1929 ..	94	53	2	760	1929 ..	..	..	21	188
1930 ..	86	59	8	779	1930 ..	..	1	27	160
1931 ..	153	51	5	876	1931 ..	..	..	22	138
1932 ..	175	56	4	991	1932 ..	..	..	27	111
1933 ..	100	52	296	743	1933 ..	..	..	13	98
1934 ..	70	51	26	736	1934	30	68
Totals..	2,125	854	535	..	Totals..	972	14	890	..

J. H. BOYES,
Commissioner of Pensions.

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