

1935.
NEW ZEALAND.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1935.

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, 1st August, 1935.

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, 1935.

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, 1934.			As at 31st March, 1935.		
	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1933-34.	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1934-35.
		£	£		£	£
War.. .. .	21,314	1,228,572	1,246,441	21,678	1,264,375	1,264,110
Old-age	37,507	1,403,375	1,350,982	40,141	1,583,413	1,519,889
Widows'	4,619	301,388	302,020	4,505	294,437	296,565
Maori War	86	4,214	4,522	65	3,185	3,607
Miners'	736	56,184	56,810	783	60,510	58,740
Epidemic	68	2,635	3,290	34	1,563	1,983
Blind	438	20,399	19,306	474	22,151	21,227
Boer War	52	2,082	2,163	53	2,108	2,084
Sundry pensions and annuities..	135	12,367	11,678	139	12,176	12,120
Civil Service Act, 1908	16	4,933	5,917	15	5,073	5,211
Family allowances	12,145	151,765	146,766	12,321	151,169	152,818
Totals	77,116	3,187,914	3,149,895	80,208	3,400,160	3,338,354

Cost per head of European population : 1933-34, £2 2s. 8d. ; 1934-35, £2 5s.

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, 1935.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.	Payments, 1934-35.
Great Britain	War	1,423	£ 74,188	£ s. d. 52 0 0	} 161,986
"	Army and civil ..	737	51,576	70 0 0	
Australia	War	483	22,880	47 7 5	24,109
India	Army and civil ..	63	14,128	224 0 0	17,812
South Africa	War	5	442	88 0 0	327
"	Civil	30	3,269	109 0 0	4,734
Crown Colonies	"	35	8,577	245 0 0	13,482
Canada	War	2	253	126 7 10	481
Totals .. ..	.. ..	2,778	175,313	..	222,931

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, 1934	£ 965,628	£ 544,142	£ 31,899	£ 5,289	£ 9,035	£ 20,657,669	£ 22,213,662
Payments in 1934-35	50,191	38,218	2,447	616	768	1,171,870	1,264,110
Total payments to 31st March, 1935	1,015,819	582,360	34,346	5,905	9,803	21,829,539	23,477,772

The amount paid for the year ended 31st March, 1935, shows an increase over the preceding year of £17,669.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL LIABILITY AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1935.

Class of Pension.	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
Soldiers (permanent)	9,986	43	£ 535,055	£ 54
Soldiers (temporary)	3,875	59	272,935	70
Dependants of disabled soldiers	2,230	4,312	161,464	72
Widows (without children)	1,149	..	106,095	92
Widows (with children).. ..	263	499	41,530	158
Other dependants of deceased soldiers—				
Parents	3,833	1	131,695	34
Other adult dependants	83	..	2,354	28
Guardians of children	259	485	13,247	51
Totals, &c.	21,678	5,399	1,264,375	58

WAR PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1935.

	Soldiers.		Wives and Parents of Soldiers.	Dependants.		Annual Liability
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Temporary.	Widows.	Other Dependants.	
Great Britain.. ..	274	77	36	143	416	£ 49,860
Australia	294	191	41	54	139	39,546
Other countries	53	21	3	6	28	4,912
Totals	621	289	80	203	583	94,318

ECONOMIC PENSIONS PAYABLE AT 31ST MARCH, 1935.

Class.	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Annual Grant.
		£	£
Soldiers with permanent pensions	1,370	71,202	52
Soldiers with temporary pensions	1,357	71,010	52
Widows with children	59	1,392	24
Widows without children	209	6,498	31
Widowed mothers	180	6,217	35
Totals	3,175	156,319	49

WAR PENSION APPEALS.

Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1934	265
Appeals lodged during 1934-35	947
	— 1,212
Appeals dismissed during 1934-35	417
Appeals upheld during 1934-35	434
Appeals withdrawn and struck out, 1934-35	36
	— 887
Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1935	325
Percentage upheld, 48·9 per cent.	

The total number of appeals dealt with to the 31st March, 1935, was 6,414, the percentage upheld being 48 per cent.

Of the 887 cases dealt with during the past year, 530 were heard at Auckland, 52·4 per cent. being upheld; 106 at Wellington, 34·9 per cent. being upheld; 102 at Christchurch, 41 per cent. being upheld; and 149 at Dunedin, 51 per cent. being upheld.

Medical treatment of war pensioners during 1934-35 cost £67,912.

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 £1,684 during the year.

The loading paid on life-insurance policies of war pensioners due to war-service disability amounted to £175 for the year.

Temporary war pensions to soldiers increased by 113 and permanent pensions to soldiers increased by 300 during the year.

The 445 deaths among war pensioners are made up as follows: Soldiers, 146; widows of soldiers, 9; other dependants, 290.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The claims lodged during the year totalled 2,481, which, with the 262 outstanding from the previous year, made a total of 2,743 to be dealt with. Of these, 2,166 were accepted and 295 rejected. Of the rejected claims 135 represent cases where the income of the family was in excess of the limit allowed. 430 new claims from Maoris were finally dealt with during the year, 328 being granted and 102 rejected.

The total children of the 12,321 allowances in force as at 31st March, 1935, and those in excess of two in a family numbered 54,040 and 29,398, the average per family being 4·39 and 2·39 respectively.

The total amount paid during the year was £152,818, while the total annual value of all allowances in force at the close of the year was £151,169.

Weekly Rates at which Allowances granted.

Weekly Rate.	1s.	2s.	3s.	4s.	5s.	6s.	7s.	8s.	9s.	10s.	12s.	14s.	16s.	18s.
Number granted	8	1,249	8	497	3	233	2	94	1	48	18	4	..	1

Numbers according to Size of Family.

Number of Children in Excess of Two.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Number of families ..	1,240	497	243	101	54	22	6	..	3

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 ..	178	983	642	337	26

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration for the year amounted to £63,819, the principal items of expenditure being £31,197 for salaries of officers of the Department, who numbered 171 as at 31st March, 1935; £18,183 and £3,264 paid to the Postal Department respectively for payment of pensions and postage and telegrams; £3,884 for salaries and other expenses of the War Pensions Appeal Board; and £2,118 for salaries of the War Pensions Board.

The percentage of cost of administration to the total pension payments made of £3,561,284 (including £222,931 paid on behalf of other Governments) was 1·79, or 4·3d. in the pound.

LEGISLATION.

Sections 13 and 14 of the Finance Act (No. 2), 1934, provided for the maximum rate of old-age pensions to be increased from £40 19s. to £43 per annum as from 1st April, 1934. The same legislation increased the income exemption from £39 to £41 and the limiting amount of income and pension for married couples from £121 to £127 per annum.

By section 15 of the same Act the income and pension limit of those South African War veterans in receipt of additional pension to the old-age pension under the provisions of section 45 of the Pensions Act, 1926, was increased from £79 19s. to £84.

STATISTICS IN REGARD TO CIVIL PENSIONS.

	Old-age.	Widows'.	Maori War.	Miners'.	Blind.	Epldemtc.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1934 ..	37,507	4,619	86	{ 617* 119† }	438	68
New pensions granted, 1934-35	5,934	687	..	124	70	..
Deaths during 1934-35	2,744	2	21	48	24	..
Cancellations during 1934-35	556	799	..	29	10	34
Net increase or decrease	+2,634	-114	-21	+47	+36	-34
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1935 ..	40,141	4,505	65	{ 668* 115† }	474	34
Total children in receipt of pension, 31st March, 1935 ..	..	9,196	..	..	..	34
Total European pensioners sixty-five years and over at 31st March, 1935 ..	31,679	..	..	..	..	..
Total female European pensioners sixty years to sixty-four years at 31st March, 1935 ..	6,617	..	..	..	..	..
Total Maori pensioners	1,800	371	22	..	59	..
‡ Pensioners under section 7 (b), Pensions Act, 1926 ..	45	..	..	..	..	..
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population ..	2·6	..	..	..	..	..
New claims lodged	7,331	777	..	210	92	..
New claims rejected	1,309	95	..	75	28	..
Number of children on whose account pension granted ..	..	1,516	..	..	..	..
Annual liability at 31st March, 1935 ..	£1,583,413	£294,437	£3,185	£60,510	£22,151	£1,563
Average pension per annum	£39 8 11	£65 7 2	£49 0 0	£77 5 7	£46 14 8	£45 19 5
Gross expenditure for year 1934-35 ..	£1,519,889	£296,565	£3,607	£58,740	£21,227	£1,983
Increase or decrease on figures of previous year ..	+£168,907	-£5,455	-£915	+£1,930	+£1,921	-£1,307
Cost per head of European population ..	£1 0s. 6d.	4s. 0d.	0·6d.	9·5d.	3·4d.	0·3d.
Credit from national endowment	£37,374	..	..	..	..	..
Refunds paid to Public Account	£632	£148	..	..	£32	..
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals ..	1,113	..	6	6	115	..
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these ..	£49,343	..	£265	£381	£6,488	..
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals ..	166	..	..	1	..	..
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these ..	£6,264	..	..	£24	..	..
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1935 ..	£6,660	£1,359	..	£141	£54	£3
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid ..	£1,596	£365	£12	£21	£46	..
Average of family under fifteen years ..	..	2·04	..	..	..	..
Total claims lodged to date	141,121	19,116	1,893	2,857	883	..
Total claims established	111,334	16,324	1,698	2,249	651	972
Total claims rejected	29,120	2,747	195	590	226	..
Total number of children benefited .. ..	..	39,451	..	..	..	..
Total deaths	57,760	134	1,627	902	126	14
Total guardians appointed .. ..	..	364	..	..	..	..
Total cancellations	13,433	11,685	6	564	51	924
Grand total paid to date	£23,377,017	£4,539,522	£604,860	£752,371	£150,866	£472,927
Total amount paid on account funeral expenses ..	..	..	..	£8,168	..	..
Total credit from national endowment ..	£778,320	..	..	..	..	..

* Miners. † Widows of miners. ‡ Pensions may be granted to males sixty years and over and to females fifty-five years and over in cases where two or more children under fifteen are being maintained. The forty-five cases above comprise: European—Males, 60 and under 65, 37; females, 55 and under 60, 5; Maori—Males, 60 and under 65, 3.

Total European population at 31st March, 1935, 1,485,046.

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	1935 ..	2,166	63	1,927	12,321
1926 ..	3,100	1,839	418	22,905	Totals..	19,063	406	6,336	..
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					
1935 ..	5,934	2,744	556	40,141					
Totals..	111,334	57,760	13,433	..					
<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
1935 ..	687	2	799	4,505	1935 ..	..	21	..	65
Totals..	16,324	134	11,685	..	Totals..	1,698	1,627	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
1935 ..	70	24	10	474	1930 ..	347	405	-111	20,739
Totals..	651	126	51	..	1931 ..	431	387	-242	21,025
					1932 ..	348	432	-100	21,041
					1933 ..	352	400	-111	21,104
					1934 ..	365	419	-264	21,314
					1935 ..	463	445	*-346	21,678
					Totals..	57,751	6,704	29,369	..

* This represents 728 reinstatements less 382 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
1935 ..	124	48	29	783	1935	34	34
Totals..	2,249	902	564	..	Totals..	972	14	924	..

J. H. BOYES,
Commissioner of Pensions.

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