

1936.
NEW ZEALAND.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1936.

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, 23rd July, 1936.
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, family allowances, and war veterans' allowances, for the year ended 31st March, 1936.
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, 1935.			As at 31st March, 1936.		
	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1934-35.	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1935-36.
		£	£		£	£
War.. ..	21,678	1,264,375	1,264,110	22,631	1,384,340	1,349,447
Old-age	40,141	1,583,413	1,519,889	43,309	1,828,150	1,718,601
Widows'	4,505	294,437	296,565	4,369	321,605	311,864
Maori War	65	3,185	3,607	43	2,107	2,577
Miners'	783	60,510	58,740	851	73,331	67,834
Epidemic	34	1,563	1,983	10	501	907
Blind	474	22,151	21,227	507	23,961	22,991
Boer War	53	2,108	2,084	55	2,086	2,127
Sundry pensions and annuities..	139	12,176	12,120	151	15,065	13,053
Civil Service Act, 1908	15	5,073	5,211	13	4,460	4,676
Family allowances	12,321	151,169	152,818	11,691	144,856	149,043
War veterans' allowances .. ..	..	..	..	1,043	58,358	16,544
Totals	80,208	3,400,160	3,338,354	84,673	3,858,820	3,659,664

Cost per head of European population : 1934-35, £2 5s. ; 1935-36, £2 9s. 1d.

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, 1936.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.	Payments, 1935-36.
Great Britain	War	1,404	£ 74,054	£ s. d. 53 0 0	£
"	Army and civil ..	746	52,172	70 0 0	} 160,122
Australia	War	514	24,737	48 2 6	26,061
India	Army and civil ..	63	15,320	243 0 0	19,578
South Africa	War	4	156	39 0 0	} 5,301
"	Civil	33	4,141	125 10 0	11,701
Crown Colonies	"	35	9,098	260 0 0	583
Canada	War	1	215	215 0 0	
Totals .. ..	.. ..	2,800	179,893	..	223,346

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, 1935	£ 1,015,819	£ 582,360	£ 34,346	£ 5,905	£ 9,803	£ 21,829,539	£ 23,477,772
Payments in 1935-36	49,093	40,716	2,436	712	1,079	1,255,411	1,349,447
Total payments to 31st March, 1936	1,064,912	623,076	36,782	6,617	10,882	23,084,950	24,827,219

The amount paid for the year ended 31st March, 1936, shows an increase over the preceding year of £85,337.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL LIABILITY AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1936.

Class of Pension.	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.*	Average Pension.
Soldiers (permanent)	10,301	38	£ 572,517	£ 56
Soldiers (temporary)	4,263	60	301,584	71
Dependants of disabled soldiers	2,658	4,960	199,304	75
Widows (without children)	1,233	..	115,484	94
Widows (with children)	351	703	57,530	135
Other dependants of deceased soldiers—				
Parents	3,582	..	127,247	36
Other adult dependants	88	..	2,666	30
Guardians of children	155	292	8,008	52
Totals, &c.	22,631	6,053	1,384,340	61

WAR PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1936.

	Soldiers.		Wives and Parents of Soldiers.	Dependants.		Annual Liability
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Temporary.	Widows.	Other Dependants.	
Great Britain	289	67	43	147	381	£ 50,788
Australia	315	181	40	61	130	41,699
Other countries	52	24	2	6	25	4,956
Totals	656	272	85	214	536	97,443

ECONOMIC PENSIONS PAYABLE AT 31ST MARCH, 1936.

Class.	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Annual Grant.
		£	£
Soldiers with permanent pensions	1,633	90,696	56
Soldiers with temporary pensions	1,467	82,051	56
Widows with children	60	1,581	26
Widows without children	255	8,483	33
Widowed mothers	186	7,073	38
Totals	3,601	189,884	53

WAR PENSION APPEALS.

Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1935	325	
Appeals lodged during 1935-36	1,088	
		1,413
Appeals dismissed during 1935-36	520	
Appeals upheld during 1935-36	540	
Appeals withdrawn and struck out, 1935-36	25	
		1,085
Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1936	328	
Percentage upheld, 48.9.		

The total number of appeals dealt with to the 31st March, 1936, was 7,499, the percentage upheld being 48 per cent.

Of the 1,085 cases dealt with during the past year, 610 were heard at Auckland, 57 per cent. being upheld; 127 at Wellington, 41.7 per cent. being upheld; 244 at Christchurch, 35.6 per cent. being upheld; and 104 at Dunedin, 50 per cent. being upheld.

Medical treatment of war pensioners during 1935-36 cost £70,995.

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 £1,596 during the year.

The loading paid on life-insurance policies of war pensioners due to war-service disability amounted to £171 for the year.

Temporary war pensions to soldiers increased by 388 and permanent pensions to soldiers increased by 315 during the year.

The 451 deaths among war pensioners are made up as follows: Soldiers, 168; widows of soldiers, 17; other dependants, 266.

WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCES.

Since the passing of the War Veterans' Allowances Act in October, 1935, 1,061 cases have been granted, of which 1,043, with an annual value of £58,358, were in force as at 31st March, 1936. These comprised 539 single and 504 married veterans, with 874 dependent children.

WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCES APPEALS.

Appeals lodged during 1935-36	51
Appeals dismissed during 1935-36	7
Appeals upheld during 1935-36	7
Appeals withdrawn and struck out during 1935-36	1
	15
Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1936	36
Percentage upheld, 46.6.	

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The claims lodged during the year totalled 1,988, which, with the 282 outstanding from the previous year, made a total of 2,270 to be dealt with. Of these, 1,730 were accepted and 315 rejected. Of the rejected claims 117 represent cases where the income of the family was in excess of the limit allowed. Four hundred and sixty-nine new claims from Maoris were finally dealt with during the year, 324 being granted and 145 rejected.

The total children of the 11,691 allowances in force as at 31st March, 1936, and those in excess of two in a family numbered 51,788 and 28,406, the average per family being 4.43 and 2.43 respectively.

The total amount paid during the year was £149,043, while the total annual value of all allowances in force at the close of the year was £144,856.

Weekly Rates at which Allowances granted.

Weekly Rate.	1s.	2s.	3s.	4s.	5s.	6s.	7s.	8s.	10s.	12s.	13s.	14s.
Number granted ..	13	997	1	405	3	167	2	92	26	19	1	4

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 ..	983	406	186	97	29	22	4	..	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 ..	122	752	515	315	26

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration for the year amounted to £71,346, the principal items of expenditure being £34,849 for salaries of officers of the Department, who numbered 194 as at 31st March, 1936; £19,734 and £3,676 paid to the Postal Department for payment of pensions and postage and telegrams respectively; £4,674 for salaries and other expenses of the War Pensions Appeal Board; and £2,224 for salaries of the War Pensions Board.

The percentage of cost of administration to the total pension payments made of £3,883,010 (including £223,346 paid on behalf of other Governments) was 1·83, or 4·4d. in the pound.

LEGISLATION.

CIVIL PENSIONS.

In terms of the provisions of the Finance Act, 1935, legislation was passed to restore, as from the 1st August, 1935, the rates of civil pensions to those obtaining prior to the reductions brought about by the operation of the National Expenditure Adjustment Act, 1932. This affected the various classes of pensions as follows:—

Old-age Pensions.

Section 13 provided for the maximum rate of old-age pensions to be increased from £43 to £45 10s. per annum. The income exemption was increased from £41 to £52, and the limiting amount of income and pension for married couples from £127 to £143 per annum. Section 14 increased the income and pension limit of those South African War veterans in receipt of a pension additional to the old-age pension under the provisions of section 45 of the Pensions Act, 1926, from £84 to £97 10s. per annum.

Widows' Pensions.

Section 15 repealed the provisions of the National Expenditure Adjustment Act, 1932, whereby widows' pensions were reduced by 10 per cent., and restored same to the full rates formerly payable—that is, £1 weekly to a widow with one child under the age of fifteen years, increased by 10s. weekly for each additional child, with a maximum pension of £4 weekly. The rate of the income exemption was also restored to the previous rate of £78 per annum.

Miners' Pensions.

Section 16 increased the rate of miners' pensions to that payable prior to the passing of the National Expenditure Adjustment Act, 1932—that is, 25s. weekly to a single or widowed miner, 25s. weekly to a married miner, plus 10s. weekly on behalf of his wife, plus 10s. weekly in respect of each child under the age of fifteen years, with a maximum pension of £4 5s. weekly, and 17s. 6d. weekly to the widow of the miner.

WAR PENSIONS.

Under the provisions of the War Pensions Amendment Act, 1935, the definition of a dependant was widened to include the wives and widows of members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force whose marriage took place within seven years of their discharge from the Forces and the children of such marriages, provided that, in the event of the death of the soldier occurring within one year of the date of marriage, the War Pensions Board was satisfied that at the date of marriage the member had a reasonable expectation of surviving for at least one year thereafter. Provision was also made for dependants of members of the New Zealand Motor-boat Patrol to be placed on the same footing as dependants of members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force so far as their qualification for dependency is concerned.

Section 17 of the Finance Act, 1935, increased by $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. those dependants' pensions which had been reduced by $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. under the National Expenditure Adjustment Act, 1932. Economic pensions to ex-soldiers and their dependants were also increased by $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCES.

The War Veterans' Allowances Act, 1935, which came into force on the 24th October, 1935, made provision for the payment of allowances to veterans who served with a unit in actual engagement with the enemy and to members of the New Zealand Army Nursing Service who served overseas, if they are now unfit for permanent employment. A veteran includes a member of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, a member of any other of the British Forces who was domiciled in New Zealand at the commencement of the Great War, and a member of any New Zealand contingent raised for service in the South African War who was domiciled in New Zealand at the commencement of that war.

The following rates of allowances are provided: Unmarried veteran, £52 per annum; married veteran, £52 per annum, with an additional £39 in respect of his wife and £13 on account of each dependent child, the maximum allowance payable under the Act being £143 per annum. Income exemptions of £26 and £39 are provided in the cases of single and married applicants respectively.

STATISTICS IN REGARD TO CIVIL PENSIONS.

—	Old-age.	Widows'.	Maori War.	Miners'.	Blind.	Epidemic.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1935 ..	40,141	4,505	65	{ 668* 115† 119* 23† }	474	34
New pensions granted, 1935-36	6,476	696	..	{ 119* 23† }	55	..
Deaths during 1935-36	2,746	10	22	70	13	..
Cancellations during 1935-36	562	822	..	4	9	24
Net increase or decrease	+3,168	-136	-22	+68	+33	-24
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1936 ..	43,309	4,369	43	851	507	10
Total children in receipt of pension, 31st March, 1936 ..	..	8,901	..	335	..	10
Total European pensioners sixty-five years and over at 31st March, 1936 ..	34,205	..	..	..	..	..
Total female European pensioners sixty years to sixty-four years at 31st March, 1936 ..	7,156	..	..	..	..	..
Total Maori pensioners	1,901	395	14	..	66	..
‡ Pensioners under section 7 (b), Pensions Act, 1926 ..	50	..	..	..	..	..
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population ..	2.8	..	..	..	..	..
New claims lodged	7,851	797	..	219	83	..
New claims rejected	1,264	92	..	69	24	..
Number of children on whose account pension granted ..	..	1,678	..	..	..	..
Annual liability at 31st March, 1936 ..	£1,828,150	£321,605	£2,107	£73,331	£23,961	£501
Average pension per annum	£42 4 3	£73 12 3	£49 0 0	£86 3 5	£47 5 3	£50 2 1
Gross expenditure for year 1935-36 ..	£1,718,601	£311,864	£2,577	£67,834	£22,991	£907
Increase or decrease on figures of previous year ..	+£198,712	+£15,299	-£1,030	+£9,094	+£1,764	-£1,076
Cost per head of European population ..	£1 3s. 0d.	4s. 2d.	0.4d.	10.9d.	3.7d.	0.15d.
Credit from national endowment	£41,129	..	..	..	..	..
Refunds paid to Public Account	£830	£158	..	£8	£1	..
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals ..	1,139	..	4	13	110	..
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these ..	£51,134	..	£278	£914	£6,860	..
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals ..	161	2	..	1	..	..
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these ..	£6,664	£50	..	£61	..	..
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1936 ..	£7,723	£1,624	£13	£114	£75	£3
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid ..	£2,009	£482	..	£37	£71	..
Average of family under fifteen years ..	..	2.04	..	..	..	..
Total claims lodged to date	148,972	19,913	1,893	3,076	966	..
Total claims established	117,810	17,020	1,698	2,391	706	972
Total claims rejected	30,384	2,839	195	659	250	..
Total number of children benefited .. ..	..	41,129	..	..	..	..
Total deaths	60,506	144	1,649	972	139	14
Total guardians appointed .. ..	..	388	..	..	..	..
Total cancellations	13,995	12,507	6	568	60	948
Grand total paid to date	£25,095,618	£4,851,386	£607,437	£820,205	£173,857	£473,834
Total amount paid on account funeral expenses ..	..	..	..	£8,952	..	..
Total credit from national endowment ..	£819,449	..	..	..	..	..

* 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 fifty cases above comprise: European—Males, 60 and under 65, 39; females, 55 and under 60, 8; Maori—Males, 60 and under 65, 3.

Total European population at 31st March, 1936, 1,491,708.

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	1936 ..	1,730	55	2,305	11,691
1927 ..	3,302	2,049	407	23,751	Totals..	20,793	461	8,641	..
1928 ..	3,638	2,093	421	24,875	<i>Maori War.</i>				
1929 ..	3,614	1,968	411	26,110	1913-1920	1,691	750	2	939
1930 ..	3,506	2,242	465	26,909	1921 ..	2	130	..	811
1931 ..	4,640	2,202	352	28,995	1922 ..	1	72	..	740
1932 ..	5,806	2,188	296	32,317	1923 ..	1	71	1	669
1933 ..	5,534	2,262	657	34,932	1924 ..	1	80	1	589
1934 ..	5,509	2,369	565	37,507	1925 ..	1	71	..	519
1935 ..	5,934	2,744	556	40,141	1926 ..	..	74	1	444
1936 ..	6,476	2,746	562	43,309	1927 ..	..	70	..	374
Totals..	117,810	60,506	13,995	..	1928 ..	..	66	..	308
<i>Widows'.</i>					1929 ..	..	49	..	259
1912-1920	5,817	47	2,326	3,444	1930 ..	..	50	..	209
1921 ..	627	8	642	3,421	1931 ..	1	40	..	170
1922 ..	523	3	598	3,343	1932 ..	..	27	..	143
1923 ..	616	12	536	3,411	1933 ..	..	36	1	106
1924 ..	730	8	607	3,526	1934 ..	..	20	..	86
1925 ..	602	6	524	3,598	1935 ..	..	21	..	65
1926 ..	684	2	447	3,833	1936 ..	..	22	..	43
1927 ..	705	6	562	3,970	Totals..	1,698	1,649	6	..
1928 ..	761	4	629	4,098	<i>War.</i>				
1929 ..	823	5	584	4,332	1916-1920	49,254	953	13,730	34,571
1930 ..	702	6	655	4,373	1921 ..	2,207	358	4,656	31,764
1931 ..	815	9	613	4,566	1922 ..	945	369	3,249	29,091
1932 ..	798	8	647	4,709	1923 ..	625	358	2,898	26,460
1933 ..	731	3	750	4,687	1924 ..	551	361	3,484	23,166
1934 ..	703	5	766	4,619	1925 ..	432	334	1,946	21,318
1935 ..	687	2	799	4,505	1926 ..	353	369	586	20,716
1936 ..	696	10	822	4,369	1927 ..	350	353	88	20,625
Totals..	17,020	144	12,507	..	1928 ..	330	401	—6	20,560
<i>Blind.</i>					1929 ..	398	360	—88	20,686
1925 ..	114	..	..	114	1930 ..	347	405	—111	20,739
1926 ..	92	9	1	196	1931 ..	431	387	—242	21,025
1927 ..	46	6	4	232	1932 ..	348	432	—100	21,041
1928 ..	39	11	1	259	1933 ..	352	400	—111	21,104
1929 ..	43	14	6	282	1934 ..	365	419	—264	21,314
1930 ..	47	10	8	311	1935 ..	463	445	—346	21,678
1931 ..	43	18	6	330	1936 ..	740	451	*—664	22,631
1932 ..	45	13	2	360	Totals..	58,491	7,155	28,705	..
1933 ..	52	9	8	395					
1934 ..	60	12	5	438					
1935 ..	70	24	10	474					
1936 ..	55	13	9	507					
Totals..	706	139	60	..					

* This represents 1,008 reinstatements less 344 actual cancellations.

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

Year ended 31st March,	Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancella- tions.	In Force at End of Period.	Year ended 31st March,	Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancella- tions.	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
1936 ..	142	70	4	851	1936 ..	..	..	24	10
Totals..	2,391	972	568	..	Totals..	972	14	948	..
<i>War Veterans' Allowances.</i>									
1936 ..	1,061	7	11	1,043					

J. H. BOYES,
Commissioner of Pensions.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given ; printing (580 copies), £10.

By Authority: G. H. LONEY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1936.

Price 6d.]

