

WAR PENSIONS APPEAL BOARD.

The following table summarizes the operations of the War Pensions Appeal Board during the year with respect to appeals under war pension and related legislation :—

	War Pensions Act, 1915.	War Pensions Extension Act, 1940.	War Pensions and Allowances (Mercantile Marine) Act, 1940.	War Veterans' Allowances Act, 1935.	Totals.
Appeals outstanding at 31st March, 1941	55	21	..	1	77
Appeals lodged 1941-42	217	357	3	5	582
Total to be dealt with	272	378	3	6	659
Appeals upheld, 1941-42	92	111	2	2	207
Appeals dismissed, 1941-42	127	146	1	3	277
Appeals withdrawn and struck out	22	25	..	..	47
Total disposed of, 1941-42	241	282	3	5	531
Appeals outstanding at 31st March, 1942	31	96	..	1	128
Percentage upheld	38·1	39·3	66·6	40·0	38·9

Medical treatment of war pensioners during 1941-42 cost £26,214. (This item includes the cost of treatment of pensioners resident in overseas countries.)

Railway concessions to ex-members of the forces pensioned for total and permanent disablement and those with locomotor disabilities on permanent pensions in excess of 50 per cent. cost £4,003.

BENEFITS AND PENSIONS IN FORCE AND TOTAL PAYMENTS.

	As at 31st March, 1941.			As at 31st March, 1942.		
	Number in Force.	Annual Value.	Total Payments 1940-41.	Number in Force.	Annual Value.	Total Payments 1941-42.
		£	£		£	£
Universal superannuation	36,602	366,020	240,336	41,021	512,762	445,636
Age	97,606	7,127,821	7,101,346	99,152	7,337,248	7,190,694
Widows	10,569	843,516	836,368	10,765	849,363	844,928
Orphans	350	17,888	17,713	372	18,909	18,275
Family	16,626	485,337	411,811	18,316	631,902	539,183
Invalids	11,936	998,792	999,648	12,107	1,022,611	1,011,375
Miners	931	85,394	88,656	888	80,403	83,258
Maori War	7	546	744	4	312	440
Unemployment	1,906	..	299,161	841	..	138,528
Sickness	3,452	..	279,581	3,672	..	304,154
Emergency	2,034	..	130,096	2,170	..	126,718
War (War Pensions Act, 1915)	23,458	1,653,534	1,649,076	22,894	1,619,206	1,617,181
War (War Pensions Extension Act, 1940)	551	61,644	14,376	3,297	313,399	178,135
War Veterans' allowances	2,033	209,445	211,325	1,888	216,864	210,575
Boer War (Defence Act, 1909)	47	1,777	1,858	45	1,478	1,581
Mercantile Marine pensions	9	1,128	916	3	266	617
Emergency Reserve Corps	1	104	3	2	127	1,062
Sundry pensions and annuities	83	9,832	10,152	76	9,377	9,329
Civil Service Act, 1908	6	2,337	2,647	6	2,337	2,354
War and other pensions paid on behalf of the Governments of Great Britain, Australia, India, Canada, South Africa, and Crown colonies	2,721	175,900	214,795	3,037	210,455	184,039
Totals	210,928	12,041,015	12,510,608	220,556	12,827,019	12,908,412

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

Excluding expenditure of £2,556 on capital items, administration costs for the year amounted to £326,195, including £36,140 in respect of the administration of war pensions and allowances. This represents 2·52 per cent. on total payments.

GENERAL.

Under arrangements made with the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific the facilities of the Social Security Department were made available for the payment of allowances to evacuees from Tonga, and as at 31st March, 1942, a total of twenty-five persons were being paid allowances on behalf of the Tongan Government.

The number of officers absent on war service on 31st March, 1942, was 449, 9 of whom have made the supreme sacrifice. The heavy drain on trained personnel owing to war conditions has proved a severe handicap, but the ready response at all times of the remaining members of the staff, together with the temporary assistance engaged, has enabled the Department to function efficiently.

In submitting this report I would like to place on record my appreciation of the staff's wholehearted co-operation in bringing to a successful conclusion a very strenuous and trying year's work.

H. DIGBY-SMITH, Chairman,
Social Security Commission.

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