

EMERGENCY BENEFITS

Under the provisions of section 58 of the Social Security Act, 1938, the Social Security Commission may, in its discretion, grant a special benefit on grounds of hardship to any person who is not qualified for any other benefit under the Act, but who, by reason of age or of physical or mental disability, or for any other reason, is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants. Full and sympathetic use is made of this section, and emergency benefits granted during the year totalled 1,488.

OTHER MONETARY BENEFITS

Details with regard to other monetary benefits under the Act are included in the table on page 4.

FINANCE

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1943

Receipts			Payments		
	£			£	£
Balance	3,023,835		Monetary benefits—		
	£		Universal superannuation	603,124	
Social security registration fees ..	540,921		Age	7,783,084	
Social security charge on wages and other income	11,624,046		Widows	866,597	
Penalties, fines, interest, and miscellaneous ..	48,673		Orphans	20,628	
			Family	790,719	
Grants from Consolidated Fund, vote "Social Security" (Social Security Act, 1938, section 105 (c))	3,800,000		Invalids	1,036,373	
	12,213,640		Miners	80,100	
			Maori War	190	
			Unemployment	49,639	
			Sickness	362,088	
			Emergency	118,923	
					11,711,465
			Medical benefits, &c.—		
			Medical benefits	1,016,032	
			Hospital benefits	1,539,282	
			Maternity benefits	505,219	
			Pharmaceutical benefits	563,247	
			Supplementary benefits	97,399	
					3,721,179
			Administration expenses—		
			Land and Income Tax Department ..	150,000	
			Health Department	62,509	
			Social Security Department	305,521	
					518,030
			Balance		3,086,801
					£19,037,475

WAR PENSIONS

The general administration of the various enactments providing for pensions and allowances in respect of service in the present and former wars and the carrying-out of decisions of the War Pensions Board and the War Pensions Appeal Board are functions of the Secretary for War Pensions.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation became operative during the year :—

- (a) The Social Security and Pensions Emergency Regulations 1942, which made provision for a bonus of 15 per cent. on maximum rates to be paid in respect of all economic pensions from 1st May, 1942. War veterans' allowances were increased by the addition of a bonus of 5 per cent. on the maximum rates :
- (b) The Social Security and Pensions Emergency Regulations 1942, Amendment No. 1, which enables the War Pensions Board to grant pensions to widows of ex-servicemen in receipt of permanent pensions for total disablement where death is not attributable to military service. The Board may also continue for twenty-eight days after the death of an ex-serviceman any pension or allowance in respect of his disablement granted to any dependant and current at his death.

The maximum rates for war veterans' allowances are now £78 a year for the veteran, £52 a year for his wife, and £26 a year for each child, plus a bonus of 5 per cent., but so that the total allowance payable in respect of the veteran, his wife and children does not exceed £234 a year, plus bonus of 5 per cent.

The War Pensions Board may now complete the investigation of the claim of any veteran who has died before his application was finalized and may in its discretion authorize a grant on behalf of the widow and/or children.

DISSECTIONS OF WAR PENSIONS CURRENT AT 31ST MARCH, 1943

Class of Pension.	War Pensions Act, 1915.			War Pensions Extension Act, 1940.			Totals.		
	Number of Pensioners	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Number of Pensioners	Number of Children.	Annual Value.
			£			£			£
Ex-members of forces—									
Permanent	12,117	9	838,806	77	..	8,929	12,194	9	847,735
Temporary	3,341	..	255,971	5,331	1	479,761	8,672	1	735,732
Dependants of disabled ex-members	2,782	3,049	209,701	828	776	58,533	3,610	3,825	268,234
Widows	2,002	526	226,344	1,083	817	148,662	3,085	1,343	375,006
Other dependants of deceased members	1,919	71	71,955	347	126	18,755	2,266	197	90,710
Totals	22,161	3,655	1,602,777	7,666	1,720	714,640	29,827	5,375	2,317,417