

BENEFITS AND PENSIONS IN FORCE AND TOTAL PAYMENTS

Class.	As at 31st March, 1945.			As at 31st March, 1946.		
	Number in Force.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1944-45.	Number in Force.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1945-46.
		£	£		£	£
Universal superannuation ..	53,679	1,073,580	995,035	56,181	1,264,073	1,185,508
Age	104,653	8,665,268	8,492,015	110,060	11,589,318	9,817,615
Widows	10,965	1,019,745	985,452	11,507	1,153,001	1,043,593
Orphans	421	22,080	23,253	400	21,540	24,178
Family	24,251	1,750,922	1,405,113	42,637	3,935,395	2,611,759
Invalids	12,205	1,083,804	1,072,619	12,164	1,411,024	1,183,537
Miners	783	73,093	74,367	736	101,182	88,359
Maori War	1	85	78	1	104	101
Unemployment	198	..	27,822	205	..	31,661
Sickness	4,233	..	351,866	5,416	..	565,420
Emergency	2,083	..	105,843	2,094	..	121,959
War, 1914-18	20,849	2,059,116	2,046,005	20,460	2,015,934	1,997,390
War, 1939-45	20,584	1,662,564	1,407,460	26,926	1,923,166	1,662,227
War veterans' allowances ..	1,892	242,962	242,501	2,029	292,482	275,029
Boer War (Defence Act, 1909)	45	3,629	3,243	46	3,564	3,547
Mercantile Marine pensions ..	18	1,632	1,652	26	2,857	1,879
Emergency Reserve Corps ..	12	1,427	1,228	11	1,286	1,351
Sundry pensions and annuities	151	18,574	17,512	162	16,960	17,560
Civil Service Act, 1908 ..	3	1,400	1,471	3	1,400	1,260
War and other pensions paid on behalf of the Governments of Great Britain, Australia, India, Canada, South Africa, and Crown colonies	3,225	263,543	322,454	3,121	260,045	301,548
Totals	260,251	17,943,424	17,576,989	294,185	23,993,331	20,935,481

COST OF ADMINISTRATION

Excluding expenditure of £16,725 on capital items, administration costs for the year amounted to £558,934, including £83,572 in respect of the administration of war pensions and allowances. This represents 2·66 per cent. on total payments.

GENERAL

(1) FAMILY BENEFITS

At 31st March, 1946, there were 42,637 family benefits in force, representing payments in respect of 151,361 children.

With the abolition of the means test in respect of family benefits from 1st April, 1946, the Commission anticipated that a further 180,000 families would participate in the scheme and that family benefits would be paid in respect of approximately 335,000 additional children.

In anticipation of the large influx of new applications which would be received, the Commission made arrangements for applications for benefit to be accepted in offices of the Social Security Department prior to 1st April, 1946, as it was realized that a task of some magnitude was ahead of the Department if payments to the new beneficiaries were to be made as early as possible.

Arrangements were therefore made to have application forms available in all post-offices and district offices of the Department by 25th February, 1946, and from that date onwards a large flow of applications has been received. Up to 31st March, 132,000, or 73 per cent., of the anticipated total were received.