

The number of applications received and dealt with during the period 1st April, 1945, to 31st March, 1946, was—

	Age-Benefits.	Invalids' Benefits.
Applications received and those outstanding at the beginning of year	94	15
Applications granted	57	7
Applications rejected	17	5
Outstanding at 31st March, 1946	20	3
The number of reciprocal benefits in force as at 31st March, 1946 was—		
Age-benefits	117	
Invalids' benefits	40	
Total	157	

This shows an increase of 55 (47 age and 8 invalids' benefits) over the figures as at 31st March, 1945.

Due to increases in Australian pensions, from 5th July, 1945, the maximum rate for reciprocal benefits was increased from £70 4s. to £84 10s. a year.

FINANCE

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1946

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Payments</i>	
	£		£
Balance	2,389,702	Monetary benefits—	
Social security registration fees	585,713	Universal superannuation	1,185,508
Social security charge on wages and other income	14,557,460	Age	9,817,615
Penalties, fines, interest, and miscellaneous receipts	143,019	Widows	1,043,593
	15,286,192	Orphans	24,178
Grants from Consolidated Fund, vote "Social Security" (Social Security Act, 1938, section 105 (c))	7,000,000	Family	2,611,759
		Invalids	1,183,537
		Miners	88,359
		Maori War	101
		Unemployment	31,661
		Sickness	565,420
		Emergency	121,959
			16,673,690
		Medical benefits, &c.—	
		Medical benefits	1,427,309
		Hospital benefits	2,173,460
		Maternity benefits	600,209
		Pharmaceutical benefits	1,133,366
		Supplementary benefits	229,971
			5,564,315
		Administration expenses—	
		Social Security Department	492,087
		Land and Income Tax Department	132,000
		Health Department	97,500
			721,587
		Balance	1,716,302
	<u>£24,675,894</u>		<u>£24,675,894</u>

WAR PENSIONS

The general administration of the enactments providing for pensions and allowances in respect of war service, and the carrying-out of the decisions of the War Pensions Boards and the War Pensions Appeal Boards, are the functions of the Secretary for War Pensions.