

EMERGENCY BENEFITS

In cases of hardship a special benefit may be granted at the discretion of the Social Security Commission to any person who is not qualified for any other benefit under the Act, but who by reason of age, 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 was made of this section, and during the past year 2,518 benefits were granted, an increase of 816 over the number of grants for the previous year.

The number of benefits in force increased from 1,845 as at the 31st March, 1947, to 2,141 as at the 31st March, 1948, and the expenditure for the year was £227,857, as against £134,288 for the previous year, an increase of £93,569.

FINANCE

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1948

Receipts		Payments	
Balance at 1st April, 1947—	£	Monetary benefits—	£
Cash	1,227,836	Universal super-annuation	1,593,757
Imprest	183,140	Age	12,976,286
Investments	4,000,000	Widows'	1,770,622
	5,410,976	Orphans'	24,187
Social security charge on wages and other income	26,176,635	Family	13,798,648
Miscellaneous receipts, interest, penalties, and fines	97,433	Invalids'	1,367,300
	26,274,068	Miners'	110,106
Recoveries under maintenance orders, widows benefits*	60,569	Maori War	111
Grants from Consolidated Fund, vote, "Social Security" (Social Security Act, 1938, section 105 (c))	16,000,000	Unemployment	8,358
		Sickness	897,093
		Emergency	227,857
			32,774,325
		Medical benefits, &c.—	
		Medical benefits	2,167,825
		Hospital benefits	1,949,489
		Maternity benefits	800,030
		Pharmaceutical benefits	1,558,350
		Supplementary benefits	545,793
			7,021,487
		Administration expenses: Social Security Department	707,883
		Balance at 31st March, 1948—	
		Cash	1,342,701
		Imprests outstanding	890,055
		Foreign imprest	9,162
		Investments	5,000,000
			7,241,918
	£47,745,613		£47,745,613

* This item reduces the cost to the fund on account of widows benefits by an equivalent amount.