

1901.
NEW ZEALAND.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS:

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST MARCH, 1901.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 62 of "The Old-age Pensions Act, 1898."

The REGISTRAR of OLD-AGE PENSIONS to the Right Hon. the COLONIAL TREASURER.

SIR,—

Old-age Pensions Office, Wellington, 31st May, 1901.

I have the honour to furnish the following statement of particulars required for presentation to Parliament in terms of section 2 of "The Old-age Pensions Act, 1898," for the year ended the 31st March, 1901.

Last session an amending Act was passed, containing the following provisions:—

1. As an alternative condition in respect of residence, an absence of four years from the colony is allowed, provided that the claimant was not absent during the year ended 31st October, 1898, and provided that the total period of actual residence is not less than twenty-five years.
2. The property and income of husband and wife is to be computed as belonging to them jointly, and their united yearly incomes, including the pension, is limited to £78.
3. Extended powers are granted to Deputy Registrars in respect of statutory declarations to be taken by them.
4. The portion of the monthly instalment accrued up to the date of the pensioner's death may be applied, on the authority of the Colonial Treasurer, in or towards defraying burial expenses.
5. The currency of each instalment is for one calendar month, with power to the Colonial Treasurer to extend the period in special cases.
6. The right of pensioners to admission to charitable institutions is protected.
7. The limit as to time of the operation of the principal Act is rescinded, and the authority to pay made absolute.
8. In certain cases, pension-claims may be reinvestigated.
9. In the case of naturalised persons, the term of qualification preceding the establishment of a pension-claim is reduced from five years to one year.

The number of pensions in force on the 31st March, 1901, inclusive of 1,098 granted to Maoris, was 12,405, representing a yearly payment of £211,965.

During the year ended the 31st March, 1901, 2,227 pensions were granted, 815 pensioners died, 227 pension-certificates were cancelled (inclusive of 202 renewal claims rejected), and 65 pensions lapsed through non-application for renewal. The number of claims rejected under the respective subsections of section 8 of the Act were—2 under subsection (5), 26 under subsection (6), and 174 under subsections (7) and (8).

Tables are attached showing—(1) The number of pensions in force on the 31st March, 1901, at each rate; (2) the number and annual value of such pensions in each old-age pension district; and (3) the number of pensions granted since the Act came into operation, the number of deaths of pensioners, the number of certificates cancelled, the number of pensions lapsed, and the number of pensions in force at the end of each year.

The total amount paid in respect of pensions during the year was £197,292 13s. 6d. This amount includes £685 16s. 2d. charged to a vote provided for the purpose of paying forfeited instalments in special cases, and portions of instalments accrued up to date of death. The cost of administration was £2,415 10s. 7d.

The total amount of absolutely forfeited instalments during the year was £2,926 3s. 4d.

During the year, 532 pension-certificates were transferred from one old-age pension district to another.

The former regulations were revoked and new regulations gazetted on the 13th December, 1900.

EDMUND MASON,
Registrar of Old-age Pensions.

TABLE I.—NUMBER of PENSIONS in FORCE, at each Rate, on the 31st March, 1901.

Yearly Pension. £				Number of Pensions.	Amount. £
18	...	...	...	10,356	186,408
17	...	...	...	267	4,539
16	...	...	...	262	4,192
15	...	...	...	261	3,915
14	...	...	...	193	2,702
13	...	...	...	188	2,444
12	...	...	...	215	2,580
11	...	...	...	111	1,221
10	...	...	...	120	1,200
9	...	...	...	74	666
8	...	...	...	97	776
7	...	...	...	70	490
6	...	...	...	56	336
5	...	...	...	49	245
4	...	...	...	33	132
3	...	...	...	22	66
2	...	...	...	22	44
1	...	...	...	9	9
Totals				12,405	£211,965

TABLE II.—NUMBER of PENSIONS in FORCE in each OLD-AGE PENSION DISTRICT on the 31st March, 1901.

District.	Number of Pensions.	Amount. £	District.	Number of Pensions.	Amount. £
Akaroa ...	43	707	New Plymouth ...	230	3,911
Amberley ...	8	144	Oamaru ...	239	4,133
Ashburton ...	184	3,174	Opotiki ...	39	694
Auckland ...	1,015	17,034	Onehunga ...	281	4,577
Balclutha ...	131	2,238	Otaki ...	63	1,107
Blenheim ...	146	2,457	Paeroa ...	54	946
Chatham Islands...	5	90	Pahiatua ...	30	514
Christchurch ...	1,215	20,501	Palmerston North ...	159	2,691
Clyde ...	98	1,758	Palmerston South ...	50	846
Coromandel ...	121	2,138	Patea ...	23	397
Culverden ...	2	24	Port Awanui ...	48	864
Dannevirke ...	149	2,497	Port Chalmers ...	195	3,238
Dargaville ...	69	1,226	Queenstown ...	99	1,732
Dunedin ...	929	15,938	Raglan ...	94	1,569
Fairlie ...	8	144	Rawene ...	100	1,694
Feilding ...	86	1,490	Reefton ...	139	2,442
Geraldine ...	133	2,261	Riverton ...	117	2,020
Gisborne ...	96	1,634	Rotorua ...	71	1,276
Greymouth ...	467	8,311	Russell ...	137	2,285
Greytown ...	72	1,222	Stratford ...	27	476
Hamilton ...	178	2,992	Taupo ...	35	626
Havelock ...	7	119	Tauranga ...	86	1,502
Hawera ...	56	942	Te Aroha ...	30	519
Helensville ...	257	4,457	Thames ...	266	4,576
Hokitika ...	484	8,561	Timaru ...	144	2,477
Invercargill ...	540	9,278	Waimate ...	85	1,450
Kaiapoi ...	270	4,461	Waipawa ...	18	312
Kaikoura ...	27	467	Wairoa ...	111	1,682
Lawrence ...	206	3,503	Wanganui ...	196	3,341
Marton ...	88	1,535	Warkworth ...	81	1,292
Masterton ...	81	1,385	Wellington ...	496	8,717
Maungaturoto ...	45	749	Westport ...	266	4,659
Milton ...	113	1,893	Whakatane ...	107	1,913
Mongonui ...	82	1,416	Whangarei ...	158	2,714
Motueka ...	77	1,219	Whangaroa ...	35	601
Napier ...	243	4,087			
Naseby ...	87	1,506			
Nelson ...	278	4,614			
			Total	12,405	£211,965

TABLE III.—NUMBER of PENSIONS GRANTED since the Act came into Operation; NUMBER of DEATHS, CERTIFICATES CANCELLED, and PENSIONS LAPSED during each Year; and NUMBER of PENSIONS in FORCE at End of each Year.

Year ended	Number of Pensions granted.	Number of Deaths of Pensioners.	Number of Pension-certificates cancelled.	Number of Pensions lapsed.	Number of Pensions in Force at End of Year.
31st March, 1899 ...	7,487	38	6	...	7,443
" 1900 ...	4,699	786	65	6	11,285
" 1901 ...	2,227	815	227	65	12,405
Total ...	14,413	1,639	298	71	...

RETURN showing COST of ADMINISTRATION of "The Old-age Pensions Act, 1898," for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1901.

Salaries—			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Registrar	...	...	100	0	0			
Deputy Registrars	...	...	200	0	0			
						300	0	0
Other charges—								
Clerical assistance	...	...	1,209	5	0			
Contribution to Post Office	...	...	500	0	0			
Travelling-expenses and interpreters' fees	...	...	193	17	1			
Contingencies	...	...	176	11	10			
Rent of offices	...	...	35	16	8			
						2,115	10	7
Total	...	...				£2,415	10	7

The Treasury, 31st May, 1901.

R. J. COLLINS,
Accountant to the Treasury.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,675 copies), £2 3s.

Price 3d.]

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1901.

