

OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

The following is a comparative return showing the number and amount of old-age pension payments made each month for the two years ended 31st March, 1904 :—

Month.				1902-3.				1903-4.			
				Number of Payments.		Amount.		Number of Payments.		Amount.	
					£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
April	...	...	...	12,295	17,389	3	6	12,272	17,343	0	8
May	...	...	...	12,471	17,647	16	9	12,201	17,237	12	1
June	...	...	...	12,321	17,428	17	10	12,060	17,051	17	3
July	...	...	...	12,481	17,629	8	10	12,124	17,148	13	1
August	...	...	...	12,401	17,523	12	9	12,040	17,010	8	8
September	...	...	...	12,392	17,505	3	8	11,989	16,934	11	0
October	...	...	...	12,453	17,596	19	4	12,064	17,001	1	7
November	...	...	...	12,348	17,441	3	11	11,925	16,827	8	2
December	...	...	...	12,418	17,562	1	0	11,938	16,824	16	8
January	...	...	...	12,325	17,416	4	10	11,829	16,651	7	6
February	...	...	...	12,386	17,507	6	3	11,883	16,760	14	4
March	...	...	...	12,385	17,496	5	2	11,601	16,351	3	8
Totals				...	148,676	£210,144	3 10	143,926	£203,142	14 8	8

RETURN for same Period of Number of Payments and Amounts in each Postal District.

Postal District.			1902-3.			1903-4.				
			Number of Payments.	Amount.		Number of Payments.	Amount.			
				£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Auckland...	...	...	31,903	44,623	11	5	29,529	41,396	14	10
Blenheim...	...	...	2,007	2,811	7	6	1,931	2,688	18	4
Christchurch	...	...	21,182	29,671	9	10	21,108	29,395	0	9
Dunedin ...	...	...	22,706	32,008	18	4	22,168	31,221	19	7
Gisborne ...	...	...	1,380	1,966	6	3	1,324	1,872	4	4
Greymouth	...	...	6,524	9,612	6	0	6,467	9,513	18	5
Hokitika ...	...	...	6,278	9,227	6	8	6,115	8,954	15	11
Invercargill	...	...	9,429	13,343	9	2	9,598	13,500	13	10
Napier ...	...	...	5,710	7,861	15	10	5,524	7,680	0	2
Nelson ...	...	...	4,233	5,684	11	6	4,032	5,419	0	11
New Plymouth	...	...	2,950	4,097	4	6	2,646	3,681	12	1
Oamaru ...	...	...	2,960	4,275	2	2	2,752	3,939	11	4
Thames ...	...	...	5,885	8,511	12	9	5,702	8,182	6	2
Timaru ...	...	...	4,611	6,479	19	10	4,418	6,136	17	3
Wanganui ...	...	...	4,628	6,634	1	0	4,175	6,007	5	8
Wellington	...	...	12,796	18,246	1	11	13,054	18,611	4	7
Westport...	...	...	3,494	5,088	19	2	3,383	4,940	10	6
Totals ...			148,676	£210,144	3	10	143,926	£203,142	14	8

POST OFFICE.

ARTICLES POSTED AND DELIVERED.

The number of articles posted in the colony and received from places outside the colony during the year 1903, as compared with the number in 1902, was as under :—

		1903.	1902.	Increase.
Letters—				
Posted in the colony	..	56,549,532	53,278,875	
Received from places outside the colony	..	3,963,115	3,410,381	
		60,512,647	56,689,256	3,823,391
Letter-cards—				
Posted in the colony	..	1,174,810	1,025,375	149,435
Post-cards—				
Posted in the colony	..	1,377,987	1,239,004	
Received from places outside the colony	..	75,476	63,163	
		1,453,463	1,302,167	151,296