

Number of pensions at 31st October, 1907	..	..	..	13,479	
Add new grants during November, 1907	..	..	146		
Deduct deaths during November	..	..	101		
„ cancellations during November	..	..	13		
			—	114	
					32 increase.
Number of pensions at 30th November, 1907	..	..	..	13,511	
Add new grants during December, 1907	..	..	131		
Deduct deaths during December	..	..	77		
„ cancellations during December	..	..	21		
			—	98	
					33 increase.
Number of pensions at 31st December, 1907	..	..	..	13,544	
Add new grants during January, 1908	..	..	123		
Deduct deaths during January	..	..	85		
„ cancellations during January	..	..	21		
			—	106	
					17 increase.
Number of pensions at 31st January, 1908	..	..	..	13,561	
Add new grants during February, 1908	..	..	132		
Deduct deaths during February	..	..	82		
„ cancellations during February	..	..	16		
			—	98	
					34 increase.
Number of pensions at 29th February, 1908	..	..	..	13,595	
Add new grants during March, 1908	..	..	156		
Deduct deaths during March	..	..	135		
„ cancellations during March	..	..	47		
			—	182	
					26 decrease. ¹
Number of pensions at 31st March, 1908	..	..	..	13,569	
Total increase for year, 312.					

NEW CLAIMS.

The number of new claims lodged throughout the Dominion during the year was 2,327, being 250 less than in the previous year, and 700 less than in the year 1905-6. These with 666 claims on hand at the beginning of the year awaiting investigation made a total of 2,993 dealt with. The manner in which they were disposed of is as follows :—

Pensions granted	..	..	..	..	..	1,740
Rejected, withdrawn, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	613
Outstanding at end of year	..	..	..	..	..	640
						2,993

The percentage of new pensioners to the people who became eligible by age and residence in each of the past three years is as follows :—

Year ended 31st March.	People who became eligible by Age and Residence.	New Pensioners.	Percentage.
1906	5,900	2,073	35
1907	3,762	2,030	54
1908	3,623	1,740	48

The new pensions for the year include 80 granted to Maoris.

1,556, or 89 per cent. of the total of 1,740, were of British extraction, 1,499 being born in the British Isles.

538 were of the minimum age of 65, while 48 were 80 years of age and over.

The total number of claims lodged since the Act came into force amounts to 33,598. Of this number pensions have been established in 25,617 cases, 52 per cent. of which still remain on the roll.

The following table shows the number of claims lodged and those rejected since the inauguration of the new system of investigation early in the year 1903 :—

Year.	Claims received.	Claims rejected.
1903-4	1,544	311
1904-5	1,683	323
1905-6	3,027	590
1906-7	2,577	774
1907-8	2,327	613
	11,158	2,611