

Widows' Pensions.—The gross payments under this head for the year were £22,114 11s. 4d. Deducting £5 for refund of overpaid instalments and £1 8s. 4d. for a payment held up, the net charge against the Consolidated Fund is £22,108 3s. The gross payments in each year to date are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1911-12 (two months)	1,963	1	5
1912-13	22,114	11	4
Total	£24,077	12	9

Military Pensions.—The payments made to the end of the year for this class of pension was £3,681 11s. 8d., being the instalments for four months, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
December, 1912	206	5	0
January, 1913	646	18	4
February, 1913	1,304	13	4
March, 1913	1,523	15	0
Total	£3,681	11	8

The following table shows the distribution of the year's payments under each head in the various parts of the Dominion:—

Postal District	Old-age. £	Widows'. £	Military. £
Auckland	87,162	4,161	1,610
Thames	13,732	706	279
Gisborne	3,271	227	58
Napier	15,796	816	389
New Plymouth	7,404	485	321
Wanganui	13,811	1,008	306
Wellington	45,829	3,012	342
Nelson	8,241	510	36
Blenheim	5,023	365	27
Christchurch	71,789	4,068	127
Timaru	17,149	742	15
Greymouth	13,004	582	24
Hokitika	13,109	147	30
Westport	6,764	421	9
Oamaru	8,231	319	30
Dunedin	60,370	3,089	53
Invercargill	25,076	1,456	25
Grand total	£415,761	£22,114	£3,681

Grand total, £441,556.

RECOVERIES.

The amount of overpaid pensions refunded and paid to the Public Account during the year totalled £873 0s. 9d., as follows: Old-age, £868 0s. 9d.; widows, £5. The total refunded to date now stands at £8,714, including £6 on account of widows' pensions.

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost under this head during the year amounted to £5,260 16s. 4d., the details being as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	4,526	12	4
Lodging-allowances	102	7	3
Non-permanent Postmasters for paying pensions	239	10	0
Fees for certificates of age	18	3	8
Interpreters' fees	7	0	0
Travelling-expenses	88	6	2
Printing and stationery	228	16	11
Miscellaneous	50	0	0
Total	£5,260	16	4

Of the increase on the figures of the previous year—namely, £879—£229 represents a new item for printing and stationery for the five months commencing on the 1st November, 1912. The cost of this service was previously borne by the Printing and Stationery Department. The proportion of the total cost to the total amount paid in pensions during the year is 1·19 per cent. The total cost of administration to date is £60,824, the percentage to the gross payments of £4,000,180, being 1·51 per cent., as compared with 1·56 per cent. in 1912.