

1914.  
NEW ZEALAND.

# SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PENSIONS DEPARTMENT,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1914.

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 76 of the Pensions Act, 1913.*

The COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS to the Hon. the MINISTER OF PENSIONS.

SIR,— Pensions Department, Wellington, 30th June, 1914.

I have the honour to furnish herewith, for the information of Parliament, the sixteenth annual report of the Department, embracing the figures relating to old-age, widows', and military pensions for the year ended 31st March, 1914, which will be found set out hereafter under separate heads.

Before proceeding to a review of the year's work, I beg leave to submit the following sets of figures as an indication of the position of affairs after close on sixteen years' experience of old-age pensions, three years' of widows' pensions, and two years' of military pensions:—

|                    |    |    |    |    | At 31st March,<br>1914. | At 31st March,<br>1913. |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pensions in force— |    |    |    |    |                         |                         |
| Old-age            | .. | .. | .. | .. | 18,050                  | 16,509                  |
| Widows'            | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,540                   | 1,313                   |
| Military           | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,240                   | 568                     |
| Totals             | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20,830                  | 18,390                  |

Increase, 2,440.

|            |    |    |    |    | At 31st March,<br>1914.<br>£ | At 31st March,<br>1913.<br>£ |
|------------|----|----|----|----|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Liability— |    |    |    |    |                              |                              |
| Old-age    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 447,765                      | 412,408                      |
| Widows'    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29,320                       | 24,768                       |
| Military   | .. | .. | .. | .. | 44,640                       | 19,026                       |
| Totals     | .. | .. | .. | .. | £521,725                     | £456,202                     |

Increase £65,523.

|                  |    |    |    |    | Year 1913-14.<br>£ | Year 1912-13.<br>£ |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|--------------------|--------------------|
| (Gross payments— |    |    |    |    |                    |                    |
| Old-age          | .. | .. | .. | .. | 416,776            | 415,761            |
| Widows'          | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27,077             | 22,114             |
| Military         | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29,447             | 3,681              |
| Totals           | .. | .. | .. | .. | £473,300           | £441,556           |

Increase, £31,744.

Cost per head of European population, 8s. 8d.

## CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT OF ACTS.

An important event of the year was the consolidation by Parliament in one Act of the various statutes—eight in number—relating to old-age, widows', and military pensions, the opportunity being taken at the same time of including several amendments of a far-reaching character, notably provisions for reducing the old-age pension age for women to 60, and repeal of the income and property restrictions affecting military pensions, estimated to increase the liability by an amount approximating £100,000 per annum for the first year. The immediate effect of these amendments has been to cause an addition to the roll of old-age pensioners by a number—namely, 1,541—that has not been reached since 1900, the second year of the Act, when 3,842 participants were added, and to double the number