Cost of Administration.

The total cost under this head for the year amounted to £11,591, including a special contribution to the Post Office of £1,849 for payments made by it during the year 1912–13 on account of salaries and other charges subsequent to the recreation of the Department on the 14th November, 1912. The details are as follows:—

	£
Salaries	4,905
Contributions to Post Office for paying pensions	3,000
Postage and telegrams	733
Printing and stationery	598
Travelling-expenses	163
Bonuses for military pensions	105
Telephones	92
Office-cleaning	72
Fees for certificates of age (net)	11
Contingencies	63
Special contribution to Post Office (expenses 1912–13)	1,849
Total	£11,591

Of the increase of £6,330 on the cost in the previous year, no less than £5,674 represents payments made to the Post and Telegraph Department, including the special contribution of £1,849 for 1912–13 already mentioned, and £3,825 for services not charged for when pension matters were controlled by that Department.

The proportion of the actual cost of administration for the year—*i.e.*, £9,742—to the gross amount paid in pensions during the year—*i.e.*, £473,300—is 2·05 per cent.

The gross cost of administering all classes of pension to date from the passing of the original Old-age Pension Act is £72,415. Comparing this amount with the gross payments on account of pensions over the same period—namely, £4,473,480—the percentage is 1·61 per cent., as compared with 1·51 in 1913, and 1·56 in 1912.

Pensions in Australia.

A comparison of the last available figures relating to old-age pensions in Australia with the figures of the Dominion is submitted hereunder, from which it will be seen that the percentages in many directions are practically identical.

	Australia, at 30th June, 1913.	New Zealand, at 31st March, 1914.
European population	4,802,155	1,089,825
European population eligible by age	251,900	49,473*
Number of old-age pensioners (European)	82,943†	17,379
Percentage of pensioners to population eligible by age	32·93	32·75*
Percentage of pensioners to total population	1·72	1·59
Total pensions granted since Act passed	110,174	40,143
Total deaths since Act passed	23,771	17,001
Claims dealt with (last year)	14,417	4,885
Claims rejected (last year)	1,450	689
Percentage rejected (last year)	10	14
Pensions granted (last year)	11,304	3,320
Percentage granted (last year)	78	67
Pensions granted to females 60 to 64 (last year)	3,553	1,160
Deaths (last year)	6,557	1,479
Percentage of deaths (last year)	7·25	7·45
Pensions cancelled (last year)	875	300
Increase in number of pensions (last year)	3,872	1,541
Liability at close of year	£2,098,798	£447,765
Average pension	£25 7s.	£24 16s.
Total payments (last year)	£2,302,335‡	£473,300§
Cost per head of European population (last year)	9s. 7d.	8s. 8d.
Cost of administration (last year)	£44,523	£9,742
Percentage of cost of administration to payments (last year)	1·93	2·05
Percentage increase of population during last three years	9·95	8·06
Percentage increase of pensioners during last three years	26·65	13.32

The latest figures from Australia relating to invalid pensions are as follows:—

Pensions in force on 30th June, 1913	13,739
Pensions in force on 28th November, 1913	14,647
Net increase on previous year	2,976
Claims dealt with, 1912–1913	6,156
Pensions granted, 1912–1913	4,389
Liability at 30th June, 1913	£350,636

* Women at age 60 to 64 not included. † 87,685 on 30th June, 1914. ‡ Includes invalid pensions, £2,704,000, for year ended 30th June, 1914. § Includes widows' and military pensions.