

MINERS' PENSIONS.

The Miner's Phthisis Act, which was brought into operation immediately it received the Governor's assent on the 11th October, 1915, provides for the following classes of pension :—

To miners incapacitated for work (married)	..	..	£52 per annum.
To miners incapacitated for work (single)	..	..	£39 per annum.
To widows of miners (for two years only)	..	..	£32 10s. per annum.

	1915-16.	1916-17.
New pensions granted	120	153
Deaths	..	35
Pensions in force at end of year	120	238
Annual liability at close of year	£5,445	£9,984
Average pension	£45	£41 19s.
Gross expenditure for year	£1,509	£8,066
Credit to vote from gold duty	£4,028	£2,672
Absolutely forfeited instalments	£7	£44
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£13	£112
Total claims lodged to date	..	313
Total claims established	..	273
Total claims rejected	..	21
Total deaths	..	35
Total amount paid on account of funeral expenses	..	£438

NUMBER OF PENSIONS AT EACH RATE GRANTED SINCE COMMENCEMENT.

	Annual Value. £
123 at £52	6,396
60 at £39	2,340
90 at £32 10s.	2,925
273	11,661
Less 35 deaths	1,677
Net 238	£9,984

AGES (IN GROUPS) OF PENSIONERS AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

Ages.	Miners.	Widows.
32-40	10	12
41-50	20	30
51-60	39	25
61-70	43	15
Over 70	39	5
	151	87
	238	

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

	1915-16. £	1916-17. £
Salaries	4,880	6,416
Contribution to Post Office	3,000	3,750
Fees for certificates of age	8	11
Honoraria of members of War Pensions Board	81	158
Interpreters' fees	2	2
Light, firing, and water	7	16
Medical fees	65	1,670
Office requisites	19	124
Postage, telegrams, and rent of boxes	808	1,238
Printing and stationery	734	832
Telephones	56	78
Travelling-expenses	145	480
Contingencies	78	525
Totals	£9,883	£15,300
Number of officers on staff at 31st March	40	60

ROLL OF HONOUR.

LIST OF OFFICERS WITH EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

Morgan, G. O., killed in action (Gallipoli), 11/5/15	Fulton, E. W.
Robertson, A. W., killed in action (France), 22/6/16	Smyth, R. P.
McBride, D. J., killed in action (France), 7/6/17	Smith, H. D.
Keddell, P. A., wounded (France), 2/10/16.	Waters, B. F.
Murphy, B. E.	Cunningham, P.
Parfitt, A. H.	

G. C. FACHE,
Commissioner of Pensions.