

WIDOWS' PENSIONS—*continued*

	Year 1918-19.
New claims lodged	1,597
New claims rejected	142
Annual liability at close of year (statutory pension)	£65,860
Annual liability at close of year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£112,618
Average pension (statutory)	£20
Average pension (total)	£35
Gross expenditure for year (statutory pension)	£44,715
Gross expenditure for year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£80,773
Increase on figures of previous year	£22,821
Cost per head of European population	1s. 5d.
Refunds paid to Public Account	£102
Absolutely forfeited instalments	£406
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£739
Average of total family of pensioners	3.4
Average of family under fourteen	2.4
Total claims lodged to date	6,059
Total claims established	5,050
Total number of children benefited	12,480
Total deaths	73
Total guardians appointed	44
Total cancellations	1,810
Grand total paid to date	£295,871

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON WHOSE ACCOUNT PENSION GRANTED.

	Number of Pensioners.	Children under Fourteen.
1911-12	791	1,923
1912-13	657	1,604
1913-14	421	1,090
1914-15	458	1,158
1915-16	444	1,180
1916-17	421	1,075
1917-18	509	1,198
1918-19	1,349	3,252
Totals	5,050	12,480

NOTE.—The influenza epidemic which ravaged the Dominion towards the end of the calendar year is responsible for a greatly increased expenditure in widows' pensions. During the last four months of the financial year the number of claims lodged and pensions granted totalled 1,046 and 963 respectively, the numbers for the corresponding period of the previous year being 200 and 185.

MILITARY PENSIONS.

	European.	Maori.	Total.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1918	875	278	1,153
Deaths during 1918-19	90	35	125
New pensions granted, 1918-19	2	10	12
Net decrease	..	..	113
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1919	787	253	1,040

	Year 1918-19.
New claims lodged	8
Number of pensioners previously in receipt of old-age pensions	249
Number of pensioners not in receipt of war bonus	242
Annual liability at close of year (statutory pension)	£37,440
Annual liability at close of year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£47,814
Average pension (statutory)	£36
Average pension (total)	£45
Gross expenditure for year (statutory pension)	£39,455
Gross expenditure for year (including allowance under Finance Act, 1917)	£50,488
Cost per head of European population	11d.
Decrease on figures of previous year	£246
Pensioners in homes and hospitals	41
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these	£2,358
Absolutely forfeited instalments	£320
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid	£94
Total claims lodged to date	1,868
Total claims established	1,686
Total deaths	644
Total cancellations	2
Grand total paid to date	£275,913