

On the 31st December last there were 1,668 ministers on the list of officiating ministers under the Marriage Act, having authority to solemnize marriages in New Zealand, as follows: Church of the Province of New Zealand, commonly called the Church of England, 450; Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, 352; Roman Catholic Church, 262; Methodist Church of New Zealand, 260; Congregational Independents, 29; Baptists, 52; Church of Christ, 31; Salvation Army, 134; other denominations, 98.

The number of searches made and certificates issued last year by the Head Office was as follows: For Pensions Department, 7,779; for National Provident Fund, 4,879; for Labour Department, 1,369; for Education Department, 740; for Defence Department, 6,358; other searches (for public, &c.), 1,807: certificates issued—Ordinary, 6,403; soldiers' deaths, 9,000: total searches, &c., 38,335.

The war has added a great amount of work to this office in the way of searches for births and marriages for war-pension purposes, and also for claiming separation and children's allowances from the Defence Department. The number of searches made for the last-named Department from April, 1916, to date amounts to over sixteen thousand, and the number of searches for war pension purposes has assumed very large proportions, comprising more than half of the searches now undertaken for the Pensions Department.

In addition to this work the Department has compiled a register of deaths of members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces and others which occurred while out of New Zealand on service in some capacity in connection with the present war.

The revenue of the Department, though steady for several years, shows a decided advance for 1915-16, a severe drop for 1916-17, a further drop for 1917-18, but a slight recovery for 1918-19.

The revenue for the last five financial years was as follows:—

1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
£14,163	£16,865	£13,684	£12,450	£12,811

It was not until 1916 that the expenditure of the Registrar-General's Office was kept separately. The expenditure for the last three years was—1916-17, £9,175; 1917-18, £9,176; and 1918-19, £11,020.

W. W. Cook, Registrar-General

The Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington.

III. REPORT OF DOMINION ANALYST AND CHIEF INSPECTOR OF EXPLOSIVES.

Dominion Laboratory, Wellington, 11th July, 1919.

LABORATORY REPORT.

The analytical and chemical work summarized in this report is chiefly of a routine nature, resembling that of previous years. The total number of samples examined was 3,492, received from various public bodies as follows:—

Customs	142
Defence Forces	25
Explosives Branch of Laboratory	88
Justice (Police)	50
Military Purchase Board, medical service and camp supplies	152
Mines—	
Geological Survey	79
Head Office	23
Inspectors	142
Prospectors	140
Post Office	37
Public Health—	
Auckland District	8
Christchurch District	24
Dunedin District	2
Wellington District	2,417
Public Works	51
Railways	27
Other Departments	12
Public bodies and Crown Commissioners	7
Research (Laboratory)	20
Miscellaneous samples	46
Total number of samples	3,492

STAFF.

During the year the total enlistments for the Expeditionary Forces was brought up to eight, leaving only four of the original pre-war staff in the Laboratory. Lieutenant L. J. Shaw was killed in action on the 21st September. He was an excellent officer in every respect, and his death is a severe loss to the Department. Messrs. N. L. Wright and R. P. Wilson, who both gave promise of considerably ability, resigned from the Laboratory and accepted discharge in England in order to pursue studies there. As the vacancies were filled by younger or less experienced men, the staff is