1919.
NEW ZEALAND.

PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES' FUNDS.

RETURN SHOWING AMOUNTS COLLECTED DURING THE PERIOD OF THE WAR, COST OF COLLECTION AND ADMINISTRATION, AMOUNTS PAID BY EACH SOCIETY TO SOLDIERS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS, AND STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS.

Return to an Order of the House of Representatives dated the 26th September, 1919.

Ordered, "That there be laid before this House a return showing—(1) The amount of money collected by Patriotic Societies throughout the Dominion during the period of the war; (2) the cost of collecting and administering such funds; (3) the amount paid out by each society to soldiers and their dependants; (4) the amount of such funds (if any) that are on fixed deposit, also amounts invested and the period of time covering such investment, the rates of interest, and with whom such investments have been made."—(Mr. SEMPLE.)

RETURN.

(1.) THE amount of money collected by Patriotic Societies throughout the Dominion during the period of the war was £4,866,520.

(2.) The cost of administering and collecting such funds was £217,616.

(3.) The amount paid out by all societies to soldiers and their dependants was £351,839 (see footnote).

(4.) The latest return is dated 30th September, 1918, and shows that at that date there was an amount on fixed deposit of £181,570, the total amount invested being £1,390,801. The average rate of interest earned is estimated as between 4 and 4½ per cent.

The following table shows with whom this amount is invested, the amount invested in each case, and the percentage invested in each :—

Nature of Investment.	Amount. £	Percentage under each Investment.
Local bodies	324,021	23·3
Mortgages	276,364	19·8
War Loan	217,584	15·7
Fixed deposit	181,570	13·1
Government securities	118,204	8·5
Current account	70,771	5·1
Post Office Savings-bank	55,287	4·0
Public Trustee	48,000	3·4
Building societies and sundries	99,000	7·1
	£1,390,801	100·0

From examination of the latest annual reports of the societies administering relief it would appear that at least 85 per cent. of the investments will be falling due during the next five years. With regard to the remaining 15 per cent. there are investments maturing up to as late as 1940, being principally invested in the form of city and borough debentures and deposits. As the average rate of interest earned upon these investments is 5 per cent., it would appear that they will be readily negotiable should necessity arise.

NOTE.—Detailed information concerning all moneys which have been paid to the various Patriotic Societies throughout the Dominion will be found in the Statement of Patriotic Funds (H.-46) which has been laid on the table of the House.

J. HISLOP, Under-Secretary.

Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington, 10th October, 1919.

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