

Retiring and other Allowances.—Pensions for £15,544 18s. per annum were granted during the year as follows: For age or length of service, £10,933 17s. per annum to fifty-five members (fifty-one male and four female members); for medical unfitness for duty, £1,137 1s. to fifteen members (thirteen male and two female members); to widows and children of deceased members £1,602 per annum to eighty-nine widows, and £1,872 per annum to one hundred and forty-four children.

The largest retiring-allowance granted during the year to a contributor was £600 and the smallest £3 5s. per annum, while the average was £172 8s. 9d.

Those officers who retired during the year would have been entitled to receive the sum of £21,608 1s. 8d. accrued compensation under the Civil Service Act, 1866, had they not become participants in the benefits of the Superannuation Fund, making a total of £341,130 5s. 3d. since the initiation of the scheme, for which the Consolidated Fund would otherwise have been liable. This amount may fairly be set against the subsidies paid to the fund, amounting to £396,500.

Forty-nine retiring-allowances were discontinued by death, and forty-three for other causes—viz., nine widows remarried, thirty-two children reached the age of fourteen, and two allowances granted to officers were discontinued on their re-employment.

The annual amount payable at the close of the year was £110,166 5s. 4d., as shown in the statement attached.

Income.—The total income for the year was made up as follows:—

	£
Members' ordinary contributions	150,806
Transferred from other funds	93
Contributions from Government	48,000
Fines, &c.	258
Interest	55,703
Total income for year	£254,860

Outgo.—The pensions paid during the year to contributors who have retired and to dependants of deceased contributors amounted to £102,899 13s. 6d.—viz., £92,921 6s. 1d. to members, and £9,978 7s. 5d. to widows and children.

Refunds of contributions to contributors who have left the service amounted to £21,051 0s. 10d., while the refunds under section 42 to personal representatives of deceased contributors amounted to £10,733 11s. 5d.

Seven contributors who were retired elected to accept a refund of their contributions under section 38, amounting to £946 7s. 1d., in lieu of retiring-allowances. Refunds of contributions under section 32 (*ee*), owing to the death of contributors while in the Public Service who were entitled to compensation from the Consolidated Fund, amounted to £1,293 19s. 8d. during the year.

Other refunds under section 32 amounted to £5,095 1s. 10d.

Six contributors were transferred to other funds in accordance with the provisions of section 48 of the Amendment Act of 1908, and their contributions, amounting to £195 19s. 9d., were accordingly transferred to such other funds. The salaries of the staff (excluding that of the Secretary, paid out of the Consolidated Fund, as provided under section 25 of the Act) and other office expenses were £762 18s. 5d. and £280 11s. 2d. respectively. The Public Trustee's commission on interest collected amounted to £1,392 17s. 5d. Medical fees for reports under section 36 amounted to £46 4s. The travelling-expenses of the elected member of the Board amounted to £5 4s. 4d. The total outgo for the year was £144,757 18s. 2d.

Accumulated Funds.—These amounted at the end of the year to £1,125,705 10s. 4d., being an increase of £110,102 0s. 11d. as compared with the previous year.

Balance-sheet.—On the 31st December the total assets of the fund, which include provision for the outstanding accounts, amounted to £1,141,323 3s. 11d. The balance-sheet appended gives full particulars as to the liabilities and assets.

Investment of the Fund.—During the year the sum of £20,000 was invested in $4\frac{1}{2}$ -per-cent. inscribed stock, war loan, whilst the balance of the investments were in mortgage securities at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The total investments of the fund at each rate of interest were as follows:—

	£	£
Inscribed stock— $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	30,000	
Debenture securities:—		
$4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	46,350	
5 per cent.	48,016	
$5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	11,423	
$5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	6,100	
		141,889
Mortgage securities:—		
$4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.	4,000	
5 per cent.	9,946	
$5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	906,448	
6 per cent.	6,348	
		926,742
Total		£1,068,631

The rate of interest earned on the mean funds was £5 4s. 1d. per cent., compared with a return of £5 3s. 3d. per cent. for the previous year and £5 1s. 2d. per cent. for 1916.