

WAR PENSIONS.

In the gross payments under this head there has been, as was of course expected, a heavy increase in the total. The figures are as follow :—

	1917-18. £	1918-19. £
Payments made in New Zealand ..	495,060	1,159,455
Payments made in London ..	12,567	28,623
Payments made in Australia ..	2,925	10,870
Payments made in Canada ..	..	192
Other foreign payments ..	294	295
Allotments paid after casualty ..	4,494	120
Lump sums	105	200
Sundry	2	..
Totals	<u>£515,447</u>	<u>£1,199,755</u>

The total new claims to date, including those lodged during the year, are :—

	From Soldiers.	From Dependants.
Prior to the 31st March, 1918 ..	12,904	6,452
For year ended the 31st March, 1919 ..	14,749	5,292
Totals	<u>27,653</u>	<u>11,744</u>

The annual liability at the 31st March, 1919, was £1,615,827, and the average pension is £59. The following table shows the various classes of pension in force at end of year :—

	Number.	Annual Value. £	Average Pension. £
Permanent pensions to soldiers	1,316	69,669	53
Temporary pensions to soldiers	18,329	1,097,303	60
Temporary pensions to dependants (including 1,240 children)	1,076	55,940	52
Pensions to widows (including 2,209 children) ..	1,970	233,451	119
Pensions to other dependants	4,736	159,464	34
	<u>27,427</u>	<u>1,615,827</u>	<u>59</u>

The pensions granted to date, and the annual value thereof, are as follow :—

	Number.	Annual Value. £
1915-16	1,214	56,488
1916-17	5,316	285,707
1917-18	10,587	780,057
1918-19	16,954	1,167,081
	<u>34,071</u>	<u>£2,289,333</u>

It is estimated that an expenditure of £2,000,000 under this head will have to be provided for during the current year.

DEPARTMENT OF IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES.

The purchase of the Dominion's primary products by the Imperial Government has been continued during the past year.

The contract for the purchase of frozen meat commenced on the 3rd March, 1915, and from that date to the 31st March, 1919, the following shipments were made : 2,452,259 quarters beef, 8,392,329 carcasses mutton, 9,864,344 carcasses lamb.

The Imperial Government agreed to extend the contract for the purchase of frozen meat to the 30th June, 1920, under the existing terms with an additional condition to the effect that if there should be any accumulation of meat in store on the date mentioned the meat purchased by the Imperial Government should have