

The following table shows the main items of expenditure and the number of men assisted :—

Item.							Number assisted.	Loans.	Free Grants.
								£	£
Business	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,924	618,144	...
Furniture	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,840	208,103	...
Tools	...	...	...	...	...	...	779	16,268	...
Training	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,319	...	133,185
Transportation and miscellaneous expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,269	...	7,987
Placed in employment	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,681	...	...
Granted sustenance allowances	...	...	...	...	...	...	930	...	4,457
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,742	842,515	145,629

Repayments.—Collections by the Department in reduction of loans advanced amounted on the 31st March, 1920, to the sum of £117,011, and an additional £5,178 had been collected as interest. In this connection it should be noted that loans for household furniture and tools of trade are granted free of interest, but grantees of business loans are required to pay interest at 5 per cent. per annum upon amounts owing in excess of £50.

The above extremely satisfactory results are largely owing, firstly, to the praiseworthy manner in which the returned soldiers who have been assisted in establishing themselves in small businesses have responded to the efforts on their behalf, and, secondly, to the exertions of the local committees, many of whom have given their services gratuitously.

WAR RELIEF FUNDS.

Collections accounted for by the War Relief Funds Office amounted to approximately £5,000,000—an average, on liberal lines, of £4 5s. *per capita*—which does not include gift goods despatched by the Internal Affairs Department, valued at £557,536.

Up to the 31st March, 1920, the following relief has been provided overseas by the people of the Dominion :—

	£
Belgian relief	354,491
Other Belgian funds	6,917
For other Allies	43,951
Relief in United Kingdom	22,301
British Red Cross	332,440
British Navy relief	123,922
New Zealand hospital ships	67,555
New Zealand Comforts Fund	180,713
New Zealand War Relief Fund	16,455
Regimental funds	13,345
Sundry small funds	9,886
Total	£1,171,976

To this may be added the following :—

	£
Gift goods	557,536
Remittance to various funds through Internal Affairs Department	69,318
Dominion schools' contribution to Belgian Children's Fund	18,364
Government subsidy to Belgian Fund	228,145
Total	£2,045,339

A detailed statement of the operations of the War Relief Funds Office will be found in the departmental annual report.