

To His Excellency the Right Honourable John Rushworth, Viscount Jellicoe, Admiral of the Fleet, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Member of the Order of Merit, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Dominion of New Zealand and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

As Commissioner appointed under the Public Service Act, 1912, I have the honour to submit the following report, as required by section 15 of the Act.

REPORT.

Since the last report it has been the unpleasant duty of the Commissioners to pursue a policy of retrenchment.

Many of the officers retrenched were eligible for and were granted retiring-allowances under the Public Service Superannuation Act. Others who were almost near the retiring-age, but who would not otherwise have been eligible for a pension, were provided for by amending legislation, which made provision for the granting of a retiring-allowance to an officer (a) whose age is not less than fifty-seven years ; or (b) whose age is not less than fifty-two years, if his length of service is not less than twenty-seven years ; or (c) whose length of service is not less than thirty-two years.

The total reduction in the staff (classified and temporary, excluding workmen) during the year ended 31st March, 1922, was 1,093 officers, their annual salaries being £395,006.

Reduction in Classified Staff.

The number of permanent classified officers in the Service on the 1st April, 1921, was 7,353 ; total annual salaries, £2,088,229 : on the 31st March, 1922, was 6,781 ; total annual salaries, £1,804,483 : thus showing a reduction in *classified* staff during the year of 572, and in salaries of £283,746. Details of the reduction are shown in Table III.

The reduction would have been greater but for the necessity for the appointment of 144 additional officers to certain Departments, and the permanent appointment of 46 employees previously on the temporary staff. These additional appointments were principally in the following Departments :—

				Number of Officers.	Salaries. £
Agriculture	..	..	..	8	1,510
Education	..	..	..	9	1,195
Land and Income Tax	..	..	..	8	695
Lands and Survey	..	..	..	9	825
Mental Hospitals	..	..	..	35	6,492
Printing and Stationery	..	..	..	7	1,582
Prisons	..	..	..	5	1,150
Health	..	..	..	57	10,090
Public Trust	..	..	..	10	1,400
Public Works	..	..	..	15	3,675
State Forest Service	..	..	..	5	1,130