

The following summary illustrates how the temporary staff has been steadily reduced since 1919 :—

			Total Number of Temporary Employees.	Total Annual Remuneration. £
1st April, 1919	..	..	2,089	284,160
1st April, 1920	..	..	1,455	301,425
1st April, 1921	..	..	986	213,897
1st April, 1922	..	..	465	102,637
1st August, 1922	..	..	434*	92,322*

* Excluding persons temporarily employed on electoral work.

ADJUSTMENT OF SALARIES AND VARIATION OF THE COST OF LIVING.

The following is a review of the adjustment in remuneration paid to officers to meet the variation in the cost of living since 1916 :—

Up to £315 per annum :—

From 1st April, 1916, bonus granted as under :—

	Per Annum.
	£ s. d.
Married officers and widowers or widows with dependent children under fourteen years of age	15 0 0
Single officers and widowers or widows with no children dependent	7 10 0
Juveniles (under eighteen years of age)	3 0 0

From 1st April, 1917, bonus renewed as under :—

Married officers and widowers or widows with dependent children under fourteen years of age	15 0 0
Single officers and widowers or widows with no children dependent	7 10 0
Juveniles (under eighteen years of age)—	
If living at home	3 0 0
If living away from home	7 10 0

From 1st October, 1918, bonus increased as under :—

Married officers and widowers or widows with dependent children under fourteen years of age	30 0 0
Single officers and widowers or widows with no children dependent	15 0 0
Juveniles (under eighteen years of age)—	
If living at home	6 0 0
If living away from home	15 0 0

From 1st April, 1919, a general regrading of the Service was carried out, and the amount previously paid by way of bonus was incorporated with salary.

From 1st January, 1920, bonus granted as under :—

Up to £500 per annum—

	£ s. d.
Married officers and widowers and others with children or others entirely dependent on them	15 0 0
Single officers and widowers or widows without dependants	7 10 0

1st April, 1920 : Bonus granted 1st January, 1920, dropped, and salaries of all officers increased as follows :—

	Per Annum.
	£ s. d.
Officers receiving £145 and under	20 0 0
Officers receiving over £145	50 0 0

When this latter adjustment in remuneration was made there was an understanding that the salary would be adjusted in the event of the cost of living falling.

In January, 1922, the Public Expenditure Adjustment Act was passed, the following portion of the recital to which gives an indication of the reason for its introduction :—

“Whereas the rates of remuneration of certain persons employed, whether permanently or temporarily, in the Government Service . . . have from time to time since the first day of April, nineteen hundred and sixteen, been increased, firstly by way of a bonus or grant, and afterwards by way of an increase in the rates of salaries or wages, such increase of remuneration being given partly in respect of special services and partly on account of the increased cost of living due to