

The following figures relate to the war and other pensions paid by the Department during the year on behalf of other Governments :—

Government.	Class of Pension.	Number at 31st March, 1928.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.	Payments, 1927-28.
			£	£	£
Great Britain	War	1,768	89,530	51	161,419
"	Army and civil ..	787	55,039	70	
Australia	War and civil ..	550	24,357	44	24,954
India	Army and civil ..	83	22,789	275	28,823
South Africa	War	2	114	57	207
"	Civil	25	2,722	109	2,865
Crown Colonies	"	24	5,591	233	8,813
Canada	War	2	334	167	463
Totals	..	3,241	200,476	..	227,544

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The estimate of the number of applications which would be made has so far not been realized. At the end of the first year allowances had been granted in respect of 10,000 children in excess of two in a family, representing, in round figures, 3,000 families, the total children of which numbered 16,000.

It must be remembered that the experience in connection with the old-age pension and the widows' pension law was that in the early years of both these schemes there was on the part of certain classes of people either a lack of knowledge of the legislation passed to benefit them, or a diffidence to take advantage of such legislation. In regard to the family allowance at least another full year's working will be required to enable anything like reliable estimates to be adduced.

The claims lodged during the year totalled 3,980, of which 3,154 were granted and 579 rejected. Of the rejected claims, 411 represent cases where the income of the family was in excess of the limit allowed. In 74 cases the application was withdrawn or the necessary evidence was not forthcoming.

During the year, of the 3,154 granted, 25 were voided by the death of the father, and 123 were cancelled, leaving 3,006 in force at the close of the year.

The total children of the 3,154 granted and those in excess of two numbered respectively 16,066 and 9,758, the average per family being 5.09 and 3.09.

The total amount paid during the year was £37,652.

The total annual value of all allowances granted was £49,000, and of those in force at the close of the year £46,557. The latter averaged £15 9s. 9d. per annum each, or just a trifle under 6s. weekly, the maximum for three children.

Of the claims dealt with 302 were from Maoris, 265 being granted and 37 rejected.

The principal occupations of the fathers of the beneficiaries are :—

Labourer	1,350	Public servant	122
Farm hand.. ..	298	Waterside worker	101
Farmer	290		

The number in no other class of occupation reached 100. Invalids totalled 80, old-age, miners, and blind pensioners 20, and prisoners 19.

Weekly Rates at which Allowances Granted.

Weekly Rate.	Number.	Weekly Rate.	Number.
1s.	17	11s.	1
2s.	583	12s.	144
3s.	36	14s.	43
4s.	749	15s.	1
5s.	22	16s.	21
6s.	712	18s.	6
7s.	20	20s.	1
8s.	488		
9s.	8		
10s.	302		3,154

Weekly Incomes of Families.

	Number.		Number.
£1 and under	110	Over £3 and up to £4 ..	1,691
Over £1 and up to £2 ..	342	Over £4 and up to £5 ..	222
Over £2 and up to £3 ..	789		
			3,154

Numbers according to Size of Family.

Number of Children in excess of Two.	Number of Families.	Number of Children in excess of Two.	Number of Families.
1	549	7	51
2	751	8	26
3	706	9	7
4	542	10	1
5	343		
6	178		3,154