

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The claims lodged during the year totalled 1,560, which, with the 247 outstanding from the previous year, made a total of 1,807 dealt with. Of these, 1,437 were accepted and 213 rejected. Of the rejected claims, 138 represent cases where the income of the family was in excess of the limit allowed. 363 new claims from Maoris were finally dealt with during the year, 332 being granted and 31 rejected.

The total children of the 3,763 allowances in force as at 31st March, 1929, and those in excess of two in a family numbered 18,884 and 11,358, the average per family being 5·01 and 3·01 respectively.

The total amount paid during the year was £54,791.

The total annual value of all allowances in force at the close of the year was £57,304. The latter averaged £15 4s. 9d. per annum each, or just a trifle under 6s. weekly, the maximum for three children.

Weekly Rates at which Allowances granted.

Weekly Rate.			Number.	Weekly Rate.			Number.
1s.	..	..	9	10s.	..	..	96
2s.	..	..	356	11s.	..	..	1
3s.	..	..	12	12s.	..	..	47
4s.	..	..	384	14s.	..	..	18
5s.	..	..	8	16s.	..	..	4
6s.	..	..	317	18s.	..	..	1
7s.	..	..	5				
8s.	..	..	177				1,437
9s.	..	..	2				

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	..	..	344	7	..	..	20
2	..	..	388	8	..	..	5
3	..	..	333	9	..	..	1
4	..	..	187				
5	..	..	102				1,437
6	..	..	57				

Weekly Incomes of Families.

			Number.				Number.
£1 and under	..	..	101	Over £4 and up to £5	..	..	54
Over £1 and up to £2	..	..	244				
Over £2 and up to £3	..	..	359				1,437
Over £3 and up to £4	..	..	679				

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration for the year amounted to £73,545, the principal items of expenditure being £35,836 for salaries of officers of the Department, who numbered 173 as at 31st March, 1929, £14,656 and £2,734 paid to the Postal Department respectively for payment of pensions and postage and telegrams, £5,936 for medical fees, £4,099 for salaries and other expenses of the War Pensions Appeal Board, and £2,550 for salaries of the War Pensions Board.

The percentage of cost of administration to the total payments made of £2,936,586 was 2·50.

WAR PENSIONS.

TOTAL CLAIMS LODGED AND ANNUAL VALUE OF ALL PENSIONS GRANTED TO DATE.

Year.				Claims lodged.		Pensions granted.		
				Soldiers.	Dependants.	Number.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
1915-16	..	..	..	798	681	1,214	£ 56,488	£ 46
1916-17	..	..	..	3,958	2,017	5,316	285,707	53
1917-18	..	..	..	8,148	3,754	10,587	780,057	73
1918-19	..	..	..	14,749	5,292	16,954	1,167,081	68
1919-20	..	..	..	11,493	3,990	15,183	872,627	57
1920-21	..	..	..	1,081	1,878	2,207	163,713	66
1921-22	..	..	..	367	891	945	63,685	67
1922-23	..	..	..	198	635	625	43,867	70
1923-24	..	..	..	160	550	551	40,836	74
1924-25	..	..	..	197	505	432	31,241	72
1925-26	..	..	..	161	379	353	26,046	74
1926-27	..	..	..	218	378	350	26,369	75
1927-28	..	..	..	180	368	330	24,502	74
1928-29	..	..	..	231	407	398	30,545	77
Totals	..	..	..	41,939	21,725	55,445	3,612,764	65

NOTE.—The number of pensions granted as shown herein does not include children's pensions, the value of which, however, form part of the pensions payable to parents (or guardians), and are included in the annual value totals.