

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, 1931.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.	Payments, 1930-31.
Great Britain	War	1,664	£ 86,915	£ s. d. 52 0 0	£ 158,551
"	Army and civil ..	768	56,035	73 0 0	
Australia	War	556	25,522	45 18 0	27,305
India	Army and civil ..	73	20,132	276 0 0	23,412
South Africa	War	2	115	57 8 6	118
"	Civil	29	3,410	118 0 0	4,094
Crown Colonies	"	27	9,370	347 0 0	9,495
Canada	War	2	398	199 3 0	599
Totals		3,121	201,897	..	223,574

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The claims lodged during the year totalled 1,727, which, with the 142 outstanding from the previous year, made a total of 1,869 dealt with. Of these, 1,399 were accepted and 191 rejected. Of the rejected claims 102 represent cases where the income of the family was in excess of the limit allowed. 236 new claims from Maoris were finally dealt with during the year, 187 being granted, and 49 rejected.

The total children of the 4,617 allowances in force as at 31st March, 1931, and those in excess of two in a family numbered 23,033 and 13,799, the average per family being 4·98 and 2·98 respectively.

The total amount paid during the year was £63,608.

The total annual value of all allowances in force at the close of the year was £69,930. The latter averaged £15 2s. 11d. per annum each, or just a trifle under 6s. weekly, the maximum for three children.

Weekly Rates at which Allowances granted.

Weekly Rate.	1s.	2s.	3s.	4s.	5s.	6s.	7s.	8s.	10s.	12s.	14s.	16s.
Number granted ..	6	405	7	429	2	273	2	147	75	30	18	5

Numbers according to Size of Family.

Number of Children in excess of two.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Number of families ..	381	443	282	150	81	37	19	6

Weekly Incomes of Families.

Weekly Income.	£1 and under.	Over £1 and up to £2.	Over £2 and up to £3.	Over £3 and up to £4.	Over £4.
Number of families ..	48	180	387	749	35

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration for the year amounted to £70,109, the principal items of expenditure being £35,907 for salaries of officers of the Department, who numbered 161 as at 31st March, 1931; £16,076 and £2,818 paid to the Postal Department respectively for payment of pensions and postage and telegrams; £4,675 for salaries and other expenses of the War Pensions Appeal Board; and £2,975 for salaries of the War Pensions Board.

The percentage of cost of administration to the total payments made of £3,129,623 was 2·24.

WAR PENSIONS.

SUMMARY OF WAR PENSION PAYMENTS.

	Payments made in						Total
	London.	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa.	Foreign Countries.	New Zealand.	
Total payments to 31st March, 1930	£ 739,709	£ 384,471	£ 21,507	£ 2,889	£ 5,947	£ 16,087,835	£ 17,242,358
Payments in 1930-31	45,822	51,429	2,522	514	814	1,144,398	1,245,499
Total payments to 31/3/31	785,531	435,900	24,029	3,403	6,761	17,232,233	18,487,857

The amount paid for the year ended 31st March, 1931, shows an increase over the preceding year of £37,751.