

1932.
NEW ZEALAND.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1932.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 90 of the Pensions Act, 1926.

The COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS to the Hon. the MINISTER OF PENSIONS.

SIR,—

Pensions Department, Wellington, 31st August, 1932.

I have the honour to furnish herewith, for the information of Parliament, the report of the Department relating to war, old-age, widows', Maori War, miners', epidemic, blind, and sundry pensions, and family allowances for the year ended 31st March, 1932.

The following comparative statement relates to the annual value and gross payments of all pensions administered by the Department for the past two years:—

PENSIONS IN FORCE : ANNUAL VALUE AND TOTAL PAYMENTS.

Class of Pension.	As at 31st March, 1931.			As at 31st March, 1932.		
	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1930-31.	Number.	Annual Value.	Total Payments, 1931-32.
		£	£		£	£
War.. .. .	21,025	1,236,188	1,245,499	21,041	1,242,480	1,261,778
Old-age	28,995	1,212,673	1,158,788	32,317	1,353,360	1,277,107
Widows'	4,566	336,039	325,998	4,709	345,471	340,162
Maori War	170	8,330	9,102	143	7,007	7,582
Miners'	876	62,575	58,441	991	74,035	69,785
Epidemic	138	6,229	6,322	111	4,998	5,580
Blind	330	16,072	15,796	360	17,179	16,710
Boer War	59	2,552	2,620	56	2,279	2,483
Sundry pensions and annuities..	114	9,301	10,624	115	9,383	9,388
Civil Service Act, 1908 ..	27	8,389	9,251	23	6,857	7,861
Family allowances	4,617	69,930	63,608	7,332	101,608	90,100
Totals	60,917	2,968,278	2,906,049	67,198	3,164,657	3,088,536

Cost per head of European population : 1930-31, £2 0s. 3d. ; 1931-32, £2 2s. 5d.

From the figures shown in the preceding tables, a large increase, with a consequential increased cost of expenditure, is revealed in the number of civil pensions in force, notably old-age and miners' pensions and family allowances, and the following figures indicate more clearly what an abnormal increase has taken place during the past two years :—

	Old-age Pensions.	Widows' Pensions.	Miners' Pensions.	Family Allowances.
Average annual increase in number of pensions over ten years ended 31st March, 1929	612	89	34	*
Increase in number of pensions for year ended—				
31st March, 1930	799	41	19	105
31st March, 1931	2,086	193	97	749
31st March, 1932	3,322	143	115	2,715

* Came into force 1st April, 1927.

The underlying cause of this increase is the financial and industrial depression which the Dominion has been experiencing during this period, and a return to normal increases of pensions can only be looked for with the return to prosperous conditions generally. Economic necessity has undoubtedly brought forward many applicants who in normal times would not have been required to seek aid by way of pension or family allowance.

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, 1932.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.	Payments, 1931-32.
Great Britain	War	1,624	£ 83,716	£ s. d. 52 0 0	} 122,161
"	Army and civil ..	728	50,664	70 0 0	
Australia	War	518	22,597	43 12 6	24,626
India	Army and civil ..	71	16,007	225 0 0	20,023
South Africa	War	2	115	57 8 6	92
"	Civil	28	3,127	112 0 0	2,706
Crown Colonies	"	26	7,661	295 0 0	8,932
Canada	War	2	360	179 19 7	630
Totals		2,999	184,247	..	179,170

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The claims lodged during the year totalled 3,443, which, with the 279 outstanding from the previous year, made a total of 3,722 dealt with. Of these, 3,040 were accepted and 350 rejected. Of the rejected claims 146 represent cases where the income of the family was in excess of the limit allowed. 389 new claims from Maoris were finally dealt with during the year, 260 being granted and 129 rejected.

The total children of the 7,332 allowances in force as at 31st March, 1932, and those in excess of two in a family numbered 34,546 and 19,882, the average per family being 4·71 and 2·71 respectively.

The total amount paid during the year was £90,100, while the total annual value of all allowances in force at the close of the year was £101,608.

Weekly Rates at which Allowances granted.

Weekly Rate.	1s.	2s.	3s.	4s.	5s.	6s.	7s.	8s.	10s.	12s.	14s.	16s.	18s.
Number granted	6	1,127	10	946	9	508	..	264	105	52	7	4	2

Numbers according to Size of Family.

Number of Children in excess of two.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Number of families	1,106	959	520	266	108	65	8	5	3

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 £3 12s.	Over £3 12s.
Number of families	95	727	971	1,206	41

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration for the year amounted to £61,611, the principal items of expenditure being £31,688 for salaries of officers of the Department, who numbered 160 as at 31st March, 1932; £14,961 and £4,847 paid to the Postal Department respectively for payment of pensions and postage and telegrams; £3,084 for salaries and other expenses of the War Pensions Appeal Board; and £2,189 for salaries of the War Pensions Board.

The percentage of cost of administration to the total payments made of £3,267,706 was 1.89.

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, 1931	£ 785,531	£ 435,900	£ 24,029	£ 3,403	£ 6,761	£ 17,232,233	£ 18,487,857
Payments in 1931-32	73,260	30,809	2,739	560	819	1,153,591	1,261,778
Total payments to 31st March, 1932	858,791	466,709	26,768	3,963	7,580	18,385,824	19,749,635

The amount paid for the year ended 31st March, 1932, shows an increase over the preceding year of £16,279.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL LIABILITY AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1932.

Class of Pension.	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Average Pension.
Soldiers (permanent)	9,504	14	£ 498,387	£ 52
Soldiers (temporary)	3,472	36	258,802	75
Dependants of disabled soldiers	1,503	3,184	140,523	93
Widows (without children)	898	..	82,353	92
Widows (with children)	496	794	76,440	154
Other dependants of deceased soldiers—				
Parents	4,577	..	164,057	36
Other adult dependants	109	11	3,705	34
Guardians of children	482	676	18,213	38
Totals, &c.	21,041	4,715	1,242,480	59

WAR PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1932.

	Soldiers.		Wives and Parents of Soldiers.	Dependants.		Annual Liability.
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Temporary.	Widows.	Other Dependants.	
Great Britain.. ..	246	100	23	148	542	£ 57,830
Australia	254	198	27	51	169	40,033
Other countries ..	55	23	..	8	31	5,163
Totals	555	321	50	207	742	103,026

ECONOMIC PENSIONS PAYABLE AT 31ST MARCH, 1932.

Class.					Number.	Annual Value.	Average Annual Grant.
						£	£
Soldiers with permanent pensions	..	..	..	..	938	61,693	66
Soldiers with temporary pensions	..	..	..	..	1,157	77,957	67
Widows with children	..	..	..	..	97	2,900	30
Widows without children	..	..	..	..	119	4,341	36
Widowed mothers	..	..	..	..	179	4,778	27
Totals	..	..	..	..	2,490	151,669	61

WAR PENSION APPEALS.

Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1931	..	..	..	..	147
Appeals lodged during 1931-32	..	..	..	..	599
					746
Appeals dismissed during 1931-32	..	..	..	..	231
Appeals upheld during 1931-32	..	..	..	..	252
Appeals withdrawn and struck out, 1931-32..	..	..	..	..	34
					517
Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1932	..	..	..	..	229
Percentage upheld, 48·7 per cent.					

The total number of appeals dealt with to the 31st March, 1932, was 4,214, the percentage upheld being 48 per cent.

Of the 517 cases dealt with during the past year, 260 were heard at Auckland, 51·9 per cent. being upheld ; 102 at Wellington, 35·3 per cent. being upheld ; 114 at Christchurch, 54·4 per cent. being upheld ; and 41 at Dunedin, 46·3 per cent. being upheld.

Medical treatment of war pensioners during 1931-32 cost £77,405.

Railway concessions to war pensioners on maximum permanent disablement pension and those with locomotive disabilities on permanent pension in excess of 50 per cent. cost £1,760 during the year.

The loading paid on life - insurance policies of war pensioners due to war - service disability amounted to £176 for the year.

Temporary war pensions to soldiers decreased by 14, and permanent pensions to soldiers increased by 99 during the year.

The 432 deaths among war pensioners are made up as follows : Soldiers, 153 ; widows of soldiers, 5; other dependants, 274.

Disabled Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Act, 1930.

Although this Act to provide for re-establishment of disabled ex-soldiers in civil employment or occupation became law in October, 1930, it was not possible, owing to lack of finance, to put the Act into operation until July, 1931, when local advisory committees representative of the returned soldiers of the Dominion, South African War veterans, War Funds Societies, organizations of employers and of workers, the New Zealand Branch of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John, and the Government, were set up in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. These committees appointed sub-committees in the smaller centres. To act in conjunction with the committees, an employment officer was appointed at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Up to the present the efforts of the committees and employment officers have been confined to the classification of applicants, to the finding of employment for disabled soldiers and to the providing of vocational training at technical schools. While the procuring of suitable employment for disabled men is difficult during the present economic depression, when there are thousands of able-bodied unemployed available, the committees and employment officers have been able, in addition to procuring work of a casual nature, to obtain positions for sixty-two men. As it is trusted that the corner of the economic depression has been turned, and that trade and industrial conditions will improve from now on, it is hoped that the efforts of the committees and employment officers will slowly but surely meet with better success, particularly so if it is possible at an early date to place some funds at their disposal to assist in the work of enabling these disabled ex-soldiers to regain their place in civil life.

STATISTICS IN REGARD TO CIVIL PENSIONS.

	Old-age.	Widows'.	Maori War.	Miners'.	Blind.	Epidemic.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1931 ..	28,995	4,566	170	{ 481* 395† }	330	138
New pensions granted, 1931-32	5,806	798	..	175	45	..
Deaths during 1931-32	2,188	8	27	56	13	..
Cancellations during 1931-32	296	647	..	4	2	27
Net increase or decrease	+3,322	+143	- 27	+115	+30	-27
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1932 ..	32,317	4,709	143	{ 583* 408† }	360	111
Total children in receipt of pension, 31st March, 1932 ..	..	9,695	..	..	..	165
Total European pensioners sixty-five years and over at 31st March, 1932 ..	25,716	..	..	..	..	..
Total female European pensioners sixty years to sixty-four years at 31st March, 1932 ..	4,991	..	..	..	..	..
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population ..	2.1	..	..	..	..	..
Total Maori pensioners	1,572	346	50	..	39	..
New claims lodged	7,079	922	..	236	71	..
New claims rejected	1,284	113	..	56	17	..
Number of children on whose account pension granted ..	..	1,829	..	..	..	..
Annual liability at 31st March, 1932 ..	£1,353,360	£345,471	£7,007	£74,035	£17,179	£4,998
Average pension per annum	£41 18s.	£73 7s.	£49	£74 14s.	£47 14s.	£45
Gross expenditure for year 1931-32 ..	£1,277,107	£340,162	£7,582	£69,785	£16,710	£5,580
Increase or decrease on figures of previous year ..	+£118,319	+£14,164	-£1,520	+£11,344	+£914	-£742
Cost per head of European population ..	17s. 7d.	4s. 8d.	1.3d.	11½d.	2.8d.	0.9d.
Credit from national endowment	£34,018	..	..	..	..	..
Credit from gold duty	..	..	..	£2,832	..	..
Refunds paid to Public Account	£2,641	£1,142	£4	£39	£59	..
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals ..	1,066	..	10	5	88	..
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these ..	£49,479	..	£416	£323	£5,059	..
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals ..	125	..	..	2	2	..
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these ..	£5,504	..	..	£94	£81	..
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1932 ..	£5,312	£2,449	£20	£220	£46	£37
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid ..	£1,707	£578	£4	£49	£26	..
Average of total family of pensioners ..	..	3.99	..	..	..	..
Average of family under fifteen years ..	..	2.06	..	..	..	..
Total claims lodged to date	120,117	16,710	1,893	2,373	632	..
Total claims established	94,357	14,203	1,698	1,955	469	972
Total claims rejected	25,099	2,429	195	397	150	..
Total number of children benefited	..	34,653	..	..	..	..
Total deaths	50,385	124	1,550	751	81	14
Total guardians appointed	..	293	..	..	..	..
Total cancellations	11,655	9,370	5	213	28	847
Grand total paid to date	£19,234,989	£3,629,620	£590,900	£574,258	£92,268	£463,457
Total credit from gold duty	..	..	..	£51,023	..	..
Total amount paid on account funeral expenses ..	..	..	..	£6,682	..	..
Total credit from national endowment ..	£695,878	..	..	..	..	..

* Miners.

† Widows.

Total European population at 31st March, 1932, 1,455,167.

PENSIONS GRANTED, DEATHS, AND CANCELLATIONS IN EACH YEAR, WITH NUMBER IN FORCE.

Year ended 31st March,	Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancellations.	In Force at End of Period.	Year ended 31st March,	Number of Pensions granted.	Deaths.	Cancellations.	In Force at End of Period.
<i>Old-age.</i>					<i>Maori War.</i>				
1899-1900	12,186	824	77	11,285	1913-1920	1,691	750	2	939
1901-1910	17,848	10,237	3,576	15,320	1921 ..	2	130	..	811
1911-1920	24,028	16,017	3,338	19,993	1922 ..	1	72	..	740
1921 ..	2,152	1,880	428	19,837	1923 ..	1	71	1	669
1922 ..	2,553	1,578	321	20,491	1924 ..	1	80	1	589
1923 ..	2,781	1,763	328	21,181	1925 ..	1	71	..	519
1924 ..	2,549	1,870	392	21,468	1926 ..	..	74	1	444
1925 ..	2,654	1,635	425	22,062	1927 ..	..	70	..	374
1926 ..	3,100	1,839	418	22,905	1928 ..	..	66	..	308
1927 ..	3,302	2,049	407	23,751	1929 ..	..	49	..	259
1928 ..	3,638	2,093	421	24,875	1930 ..	..	50	..	209
1929 ..	3,614	1,968	411	26,110	1931 ..	1	40	..	170
1930 ..	3,506	2,242	465	26,909	1932 ..	..	27	..	143
1931 ..	4,640	2,202	352	28,995	Totals..	1,698	1,550	5	..
1932 ..	5,806	2,188	296	32,317	<i>War.</i>				
Totals..	94,357	50,385	11,655	..	1916-1920	49,254	953	13,730	34,571
<i>Widows'.</i>					1921 ..	2,207	358	4,656	31,764
1912-1920	5,817	47	2,326	3,444	1922 ..	945	369	3,249	29,091
1921 ..	627	8	642	3,421	1923 ..	625	358	2,898	26,460
1922 ..	523	3	598	3,343	1924 ..	551	361	3,484	23,166
1923 ..	616	12	536	3,411	1925 ..	432	334	1,946	21,318
1924 ..	730	8	607	3,526	1926 ..	353	369	586	20,716
1925 ..	602	6	524	3,598	1927 ..	350	353	88	20,625
1926 ..	684	2	447	3,833	1928 ..	330	401	—6	20,560
1927 ..	705	6	562	3,970	1929 ..	398	360	—88	20,686
1928 ..	761	4	629	4,098	1930 ..	347	405	—111	20,739
1929 ..	823	5	584	4,332	1931 ..	431	387	—242	21,025
1930 ..	702	6	655	4,373	1932 ..	348	432	*—100	21,041
1931 ..	815	9	613	4,566	Totals..	56,571	5,440	30,090	..
1932 ..	798	8	647	4,709	<i>Miners'.</i>				
Totals..	14,203	124	9,370	..	1916-1920	683	133	135	415
<i>Blind.</i>					1921 ..	107	43	5	474
1925 ..	114	..	..	114	1922 ..	78	38	8	506
1926 ..	92	9	1	196	1923 ..	96	52	6	544
1927 ..	46	6	4	232	1924 ..	88	48	4	580
1928 ..	39	11	1	259	1925 ..	111	70	14	607
1929 ..	43	14	6	282	1926 ..	96	50	13	640
1930 ..	47	10	8	311	1927 ..	84	51	5	668
1931 ..	43	18	6	330	1928 ..	104	47	4	721
1932 ..	45	13	2	360	1929 ..	94	53	2	760
Totals..	469	81	28	..	1930 ..	86	59	8	779
<i>Family Allowances.</i>					1931 ..	153	51	5	876
1928 ..	3,154	25	123	3,006	1932 ..	175	56	4	991
1929 ..	1,437	39	641	3,763	Totals..	1,955	751	213	..
1930 ..	1,004	41	858	3,868	<i>Epidemic.</i>				
1931 ..	1,399	46	604	4,617	1920 ..	939	..	..	..
1932 ..	3,040	56	269	7,332	1921 ..	27	4	113	849
Totals..	10,034	207	2,495	..	1922 ..	6	..	172	683
					1923 ..	..	2	112	569
					1924 ..	..	1	111	457
					1925 ..	..	..	92	365
					1926 ..	..	1	51	313
					1927 ..	..	2	52	259
					1928 ..	..	3	47	209
					1929 ..	..	..	21	188
					1930 ..	..	1	27	160
					1931 ..	..	..	22	138
					1932 ..	..	..	27	111
					Totals..	972	14	847	..

* This represents 546 reinstatements less 446 actual cancellations.

J. H. BOYES,
Commissioner of Pensions.

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