

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration for the year amounted to £63,819, the principal items of expenditure being £31,197 for salaries of officers of the Department, who numbered 171 as at 31st March, 1935; £18,183 and £3,264 paid to the Postal Department respectively for payment of pensions and postage and telegrams; £3,884 for salaries and other expenses of the War Pensions Appeal Board; and £2,118 for salaries of the War Pensions Board.

The percentage of cost of administration to the total pension payments made of £3,561,284 (including £222,931 paid on behalf of other Governments) was 1·79, or 4·3d. in the pound.

LEGISLATION.

Sections 13 and 14 of the Finance Act (No. 2), 1934, provided for the maximum rate of old-age pensions to be increased from £40 19s. to £43 per annum as from 1st April, 1934. The same legislation increased the income exemption from £39 to £41 and the limiting amount of income and pension for married couples from £121 to £127 per annum.

By section 15 of the same Act the income and pension limit of those South African War veterans in receipt of additional pension to the old-age pension under the provisions of section 45 of the Pensions Act, 1926, was increased from £79 19s. to £84.

STATISTICS IN REGARD TO CIVIL PENSIONS.

	Old-age.	Widows'.	Maori War.	Miners'.	Blind.	Epidemic.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1934 ..	37,507	4,619	86	{ 617* 119† }	438	68
New pensions granted, 1934-35	5,934	687	..	124	70	..
Deaths during 1934-35	2,744	2	21	48	24	..
Cancellations during 1934-35	556	799	..	29	10	34
Net increase or decrease	+2,634	-114	-21	+47	+36	-34
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1935 ..	40,141	4,505	65	{ 668* 115† }	474	34
Total children in receipt of pension, 31st March, 1935 ..	..	9,196	..	..	..	34
Total European pensioners sixty-five years and over at 31st March, 1935 ..	31,679	..	..	..	..	..
Total female European pensioners sixty years to sixty-four years at 31st March, 1935 ..	6,617	..	..	..	..	..
Total Maori pensioners	1,800	371	22	..	59	..
† Pensioners under section 7 (b), Pensions Act, 1926 ..	45	..	..	..	..	..
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population ..	2·6	..	..	..	..	..
New claims lodged	7,331	777	..	210	92	..
New claims rejected	1,309	95	..	75	28	..
Number of children on whose account pension granted ..	..	1,516	..	..	..	..
Annual liability at 31st March, 1935 ..	£1,583,413	£294,437	£3,185	£60,510	£22,151	£1,563
Average pension per annum	£39 8 11	£65 7 2	£49 0 0	£77 5 7	£46 14 8	£45 19 5
Gross expenditure for year 1934-35 ..	£1,519,889	£296,565	£3,607	£58,740	£21,227	£1,983
Increase or decrease on figures of previous year ..	+£168,907	-£5,455	-£915	+£1,930	+£1,921	-£1,307
Cost per head of European population ..	£1 0s. 6d.	4s. 0d.	0·6d.	9·5d.	3·4d.	0·3d.
Credit from national endowment	£37,374	..	..	..	..	..
Refunds paid to Public Account	£632	£148	..	..	£32	..
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals ..	1,113	..	6	6	115	..
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these ..	£49,343	..	£265	£381	£6,488	..
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals ..	166	..	..	1	..	..
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these ..	£6,264	..	..	£24	..	..
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1935 ..	£6,660	£1,359	..	£141	£54	£3
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid ..	£1,596	£365	£12	£21	£46	..
Average of family under fifteen years ..	..	2·04	..	..	..	..
Total claims lodged to date	141,121	19,116	1,893	2,857	883	..
Total claims established	111,334	16,324	1,698	2,249	651	972
Total claims rejected	29,120	2,747	195	590	226	..
Total number of children benefited	..	39,451	..	..	..	..
Total deaths	57,760	134	1,627	902	126	14
Total guardians appointed	..	364	..	..	..	..
Total cancellations	13,433	11,685	6	564	51	924
Grand total paid to date	£23,377,017	£4,539,522	£604,860	£752,371	£150,866	£472,927
Total amount paid on account funeral expenses ..	..	..	..	£8,168	..	..
Total credit from national endowment ..	£778,320	..	..	..	..	..

* Miners. † Widows of miners. ‡ Pensions may be granted to males sixty years and over and to females fifty-five years and over in cases where two or more children under fifteen are being maintained. The forty-five cases above comprise: European—Males, 60 and under 65, 37; females, 55 and under 60, 5; Maori—Males, 60 and under 65, 3.

Total European population at 31st March, 1935, 1,485,046.