

Section 17 of the Finance Act, 1935, increased by $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. those dependants' pensions which had been reduced by $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. under the National Expenditure Adjustment Act, 1932. Economic pensions to ex-soldiers and their dependants were also increased by $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCES.

The War Veterans' Allowances Act, 1935, which came into force on the 24th October, 1935, made provision for the payment of allowances to veterans who served with a unit in actual engagement with the enemy and to members of the New Zealand Army Nursing Service who served overseas, if they are now unfit for permanent employment. A veteran includes a member of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, a member of any other of the British Forces who was domiciled in New Zealand at the commencement of the Great War, and a member of any New Zealand contingent raised for service in the South African War who was domiciled in New Zealand at the commencement of that war.

The following rates of allowances are provided: Unmarried veteran, £52 per annum; married veteran, £52 per annum, with an additional £39 in respect of his wife and £13 on account of each dependent child, the maximum allowance payable under the Act being £143 per annum. Income exemptions of £26 and £39 are provided in the cases of single and married applicants respectively.

STATISTICS IN REGARD TO CIVIL PENSIONS.

—	Old-age.	Widows'.	Maori War.	Miners'.	Blind.	Epidemic.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1935 ..	40,141	4,505	65	{ 668* 115† 119* 23† }	474	34
New pensions granted, 1935-36	6,476	696	..	{ 119* 23† }	55	..
Deaths during 1935-36	2,746	10	22	70	13	..
Cancellations during 1935-36	562	822	..	4	9	24
Net increase or decrease	+3,168	-136	-22	+68	+33	-24
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1936 ..	43,309	4,369	43	851	507	10
Total children in receipt of pension, 31st March, 1936 ..	..	8,901	..	335	..	10
Total European pensioners sixty-five years and over at 31st March, 1936 ..	34,205	..	..	..	..	..
Total female European pensioners sixty years to sixty-four years at 31st March, 1936 ..	7,156	..	..	..	..	..
Total Maori pensioners	1,901	395	14	..	66	..
‡ Pensioners under section 7 (b), Pensions Act, 1926 ..	50	..	..	..	..	..
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population ..	2.8	..	..	..	..	..
New claims lodged	7,851	797	..	219	83	..
New claims rejected	1,264	92	..	69	24	..
Number of children on whose account pension granted ..	..	1,678	..	..	..	..
Annual liability at 31st March, 1936 ..	£1,828,150	£321,605	£2,107	£73,331	£23,961	£501
Average pension per annum	£42 4 3	£73 12 3	£49 0 0	£86 3 5	£47 5 3	£50 2 1
Gross expenditure for year 1935-36 ..	£1,718,601	£311,864	£2,577	£67,834	£22,991	£907
Increase or decrease on figures of previous year ..	+£198,712	+£15,299	-£1,030	+£9,094	+£1,764	-£1,076
Cost per head of European population ..	£1 3s. 0d.	4s. 2d.	0.4d.	10.9d.	3.7d.	0.15d.
Credit from national endowment	£41,129	..	..	..	..	..
Refunds paid to Public Account	£830	£158	..	£8	£1	..
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals ..	1,139	..	4	13	110	..
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these ..	£51,134	..	£278	£914	£6,860	..
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals ..	161	2	..	1	..	..
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these ..	£6,664	£50	..	£61	..	..
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1936 ..	£7,723	£1,624	£13	£114	£75	£3
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid ..	£2,009	£482	..	£37	£71	..
Average of family under fifteen years ..	..	2.04	..	..	..	..
Total claims lodged to date	148,972	19,913	1,893	3,076	966	..
Total claims established	117,810	17,020	1,698	2,391	706	972
Total claims rejected	30,384	2,839	195	659	250	..
Total number of children benefited	..	41,129	..	..	..	..
Total deaths	60,506	144	1,649	972	139	14
Total guardians appointed	..	388	..	..	..	..
Total cancellations	13,995	12,507	6	568	60	948
Grand total paid to date	£25,095,618	£4,851,386	£607,437	£820,205	£173,857	£473,834
Total amount paid on account funeral expenses ..	..	..	..	£8,952	..	..
Total credit from national endowment ..	£819,449	..	..	..	..	..

* 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 fifty cases above comprise: European—Males, 60 and under 65, 39; females, 55 and under 60, 8; Maori—Males, 60 and under 65, 3.

Total European population at 31st March, 1936, 1,491,708.