

ORGANIZATION.

The increased number of pensioners consequent upon the widening of the scope of the pensions legislation necessitated a review of the number of pension districts into which the Dominion is divided. As a result, new branch offices at Whangarei and New Plymouth are being opened, bringing the total number of branches to fourteen.

The extended activities of the Department made necessary an increase of staff, and this has rendered the accommodation of the Department's offices, particularly the branch offices, inadequate.

Several branch offices have already been moved to more commodious and convenient premises, and arrangements are being made, where necessary, to suitably accommodate the staffs of the remaining branches.

Better provision is being made also for the convenience of the public, and, where possible, special rooms are provided to ensure privacy when applicants are being interviewed.

STATISTICS IN REGARD TO CIVIL PENSIONS.

	Old-age.	Widows'.	Maori War.	Miners'.	*Invalidity.	Epidemic.
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1936 ..	43,309	4,369	43	{ 717† 134‡ 199† 68‡ }	507	10
New pensions granted, 1936-37	14,388	1,117	..	{ 58 20 861† 179‡ }	7,292	..
Deaths during 1936-37	2,974	7	7	58	201	..
Cancellations during 1936-37	589	726	..	20	107	7
Net increase or decrease	+10,825	+384	-7	+189	+6,984	-7
Pensions in force at 31st March, 1937 ..	54,134	4,753	36	{ 861† 179‡ 415 }	7,491	3
Total children in receipt of pension, 31st March, 1937 ..	..	9,666	..	415	2,123	..
Total European pensioners, males sixty-five years and over, and females sixty years and over ..	51,779	..	..	..	..	..
Total Maori pensioners	2,318	458	12	..	277	..
Total Asiatic pensioners	37	..	..	..	2	..
§ Pensioners under section 7 (b), Pensions Act, 1926 ..	71	..	..	..	..	..
Percentage of European pensioners to total European population ..	3.4	..	..	..	..	..
New claims lodged	17,191	1,676	..	375	11,337	..
New claims rejected	2,008	494	..	107	2,956	..
Number of children on whose account pension granted ..	..	2,416	..	..	..	..
Annual liability at 31st March, 1937 ..	£3,068,293	£464,879	£2,106	£87,838	£478,165	£76
Average pension per annum	£56 13 7	£97 16 2	£58 10 0	£84 9 2	£63 16 8	£25 6 4
Gross expenditure for year 1936-37 ..	£2,413,103	£412,280	£1,972	£83,253	£284,760	£253
Increase or decrease on figures of previous year ..	+£694,502	+£100,416	-£605	+£15,419	+£261,769	-£654
Cost per head of European population ..	£1 12s. 1d.	5s. 6d.	0.3d.	1s. 1.3d.	3s. 9.5d.	0.04d.
Credit from national endowment	£40,940	..	..	..	..	..
Refunds paid to Public Account	£711	£151	..	£14	£132	..
Number of pensioners in homes and hospitals ..	1,596	..	4	15	829	..
Amount paid to controlling authorities of these ..	£67,324	..	£186	£1,114	£33,440	..
Number of pensioners in mental hospitals ..	177	3	..	1	..	..
Amount paid to Mental Hospitals Department on account of these ..	£8,731	£70	..	£65	..	..
Unpaid instalments as at 31st March, 1937 ..	£9,340	£2,057	£33	£133	£3,659	..
Instalments forfeited and subsequently paid ..	£3,157	£574	£8	£66	£3,442	..
Average of family under fifteen years ..	..	2.03	..	..	..	..
Total claims lodged to date	166,163	21,588	1,893	3,451	12,303	..
Total claims established	132,198	18,137	1,698	2,658	7,998	972
Total claims rejected	32,392	3,333	195	766	3,206	..
Total number of children benefited	..	43,545	..	..	..	..
Total deaths	63,480	151	1,656	1,030	340	14
Total guardians appointed	..	409	..	..	..	..
Total cancellations	14,584	13,233	6	588	167	955
Grand total paid to date	£27,508,721	£5,263,666	£609,409	£903,458	£458,617	£474,087
Total amount paid on account funeral expenses ..	..	..	..	£9,662	..	..
Total credit from national endowment ..	£860,389	..	..	..	..	..
Invalidity appeals—						
Appeals lodged during 1936-37	..	..	..	..	657	..
Appeals dismissed during 1936-37	..	..	..	..	308	..
Appeals upheld during 1936-37	..	..	..	..	165	..
Appeals withdrawn and struck out 1936-37 ..	..	..	..	..	18	..
Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1937 ..	..	..	..	..	166	..
Percentage upheld	..	..	..	..	33.6	..

* Blind pensions formerly payable have been merged with Invalidity Pensions. † 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 seventy-one cases above comprise: European—Males, 60 and under 65, 61; females, 55 and under 60, 4; Maori—Males, 60 and under 65, 5; females, 55 and under 60, 1.

Total European population at 31st March, 1937, 1,502,737.