

WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCES APPEALS.

Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1937	..	..	..	..	18
Appeals lodged during 1937-38	..	..	..	..	55
					73
Appeals dismissed during 1937-38	..	..	..	..	41
Appeals upheld during 1937-38	..	..	..	..	23
Appeals withdrawn and struck out, 1937-38	..	..	..	..	3
					67
Appeals outstanding on 31st March, 1938	..	..	..	..	6
Percentage upheld, 34.3.					

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The claims lodged during the year totalled 1,021, which, with the 152 outstanding from the previous year, made a total of 1,173 to be dealt with. Of these, 774 were accepted and 313 rejected. Of the rejected claims 117 represent cases where the income of the family was in excess of the limit allowed. Three hundred and eighty-one new claims from Maoris were finally dealt with during the year, 244 being granted and 137 rejected.

The total children of the 6,853 allowances in force as at 31st March, 1938, and those in excess of two in a family numbered 32,302 and 18,596, the average per family being 4.71 and 2.71 respectively.

The total amount paid during the year was £106,402, while the total annual value of all allowances in force at the close of the year was £94,168.

Weekly Rates at which Allowances granted.

Weekly Rate.	1s.	2s.	3s.	4s.	5s.	6s.	7s.	8s.	9s.	10s.	11s.	12s.	14s.	16s.	
Number granted	..	7	390	6	176	7	94	..	49	1	25	1	14	3	1

Numbers according to Size of Family.

Number of Children in Excess of Two.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
Number of families ..	386	178	102	59	28	15	3	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 £4	Over £4
Number of families ..	14	76	291	362	31

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of administration for the year amounted to £110,494, the principal items of expenditure being £56,944 for salaries of officers of the Department, who numbered 286 as at 31st March, 1938; £28,661 and £4,869 paid to the Postal Department for payment of pensions and postage and telegrams respectively; £5,690 for salaries and other expenses of the War Pensions Appeal Board; and £2,477 for salaries of the War Pensions Board.

The percentage of cost of administration to the total pension payments made of £6,522,976 (including £210,446 paid on behalf of other Governments) was 1.69, or 4.1d. in the pound.

LEGISLATION.

The scope of the old-age and invalidity pensions legislation has been widened during the financial year by sections 29 and 30 of the Finance Act, 1937, and by the Pensions Amendment Act, 1937.

The provisions of section 29 of the Finance Act, 1937, increased the period of absence from New Zealand allowed to an applicant for invalidity pension from six months during the preceding ten years to twelve months, plus one month's absence for every year of residence in excess of ten years.

Section 30 of the Finance Act, 1937, provided that any applicant whose incapacitating condition originated elsewhere than in New Zealand should, if actually resident in New Zealand on 4th September, 1936 (the date of the passing of the Pensions Amendment Act, 1936, which enacted the original invalidity-pensions legislation), be eligible for an invalidity pension on the completion of ten years' residence, and, if not actually resident in New Zealand on that date, on the completion of twenty years' residence.

The Pensions Amendment Act, 1937, reduced the period of residence in New Zealand required by an applicant for old-age pension from twenty years to ten years for every applicant who was actually resident in New Zealand on 15th March, 1938, the date of the passing of the amendment.