

Brief statistics are appended to illustrate the growth of the activities of the Board of Pension Commissioners. The total number of pensions in force increased from 25,823 to 66,390 during the fiscal years 1918 to 1926, and the total liability from \$7,273,728, or an average of \$282 per pension, to \$33,065,471, or an average of \$498 per pension. While pensions paid to dependants during the 8-year period practically doubled in number, those paid on account of disabilities showed an increase of more than threefold. Liability under dependant pensions during the same period showed practically a threefold increase, while disability pensions had increased in 1926 to nearly seven times their 1918 total.

19.—Pensions in Force as at Mar. 31, 1918-1926.

Years.	Dependants.		Disabilities.		Total.	
	No. of Pensions.	Liability.	No. of Pensions.	Liability.	No. of Pensions.	Liability.
		\$		\$		\$
1918.....	10,488	4,168,602	15,335	3,105,126	25,823	7,273,728
1919.....	16,753	9,593,056	42,932	7,470,729	59,685	17,063,785
1920.....	17,823	10,841,170	69,203	14,335,118	87,026	25,176,288
1921.....	19,269	12,954,141	51,452	18,230,697	70,661	31,184,838
1922.....	19,606	12,687,237	45,133	17,991,535	64,739	30,678,772
1923.....	19,794	12,279,621	43,263	18,142,145	63,057	30,421,766
1924.....	19,971	12,037,843	43,300	18,787,206	63,271	30,825,049
1925.....	20,015	11,804,825	44,598	19,816,380	64,613	31,621,205
1926.....	20,005	11,608,530	46,385	21,456,941	66,390	33,065,471

The following figures of disability and dependant pensions of persons who are beneficiaries under the Pension Act are, as at Mar. 31, 1926:—

Total number of disability pensions, temporary.....	31,225
Total number of disability pensions, permanent.....	15,160
Total.....	46,385
Total number of dependant pensioners—	
Widows.....	7,811
Others.....	12,194
Total.....	20,005

Number of persons in receipt of benefits under the Pension Act as at March 31, 1926:—

Disability pensioners.....	46,385
Disability pensioners' wives.....	33,563
Disability pensioners' children.....	53,228
Disability pensioners' other relatives.....	1,033
Dependent pensioners.....	20,005
Dependent pensioners' children.....	10,314
Other relatives in addition to main dependant.....	2,026
Total.....	166,554

Scale of Pensions.—The scale of pensions paid to dependent and disability pensioners has been several times revised. Before the Great War the pension for total disability in the case of a private had been \$150 per annum. Since 1920 the total disability pension in the case of a private has been \$900, one-third of this being paid as a bonus during the 5 years from Sept. 1, 1921. This bonus was later