

1910.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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# REPORT

BY THE

# Superintendent of Public Charities

FOR THE

Year ended June 30, 1910.

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.*

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PERTH:

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1910.



## Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities for the Year ended June 30, 1910.

To the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit a report dealing with the work of the Charities Department for the year ended June 30, 1910.

The two distinct sections of the work of the Department are:—

- (1) General Relief. This includes the granting of assistance, either monetary or in kind, throughout the State to the destitute, the aged, and the infirm, who are in need of help.
- (2) Homes for the Aged. The work of the Department includes the admissions, the discharges, and the general supervision of such Homes.

As regards General Relief, the policy adopted is, and has been—

- (1) Strict, careful, and systematic investigation, so regulated that each case may be treated individually, and
- (2) As far as possible granting assistance to accord with the needs of the applicant.

These may be looked upon as the two cardinal principles underlying the system carried out. In all cases personal investigation is made, and reports from reliable sources received. All cases are revised from time to time. This prevents, as far as possible, those who may be looked upon, as some are, "chronic loafers" from continuing as recipients of relief for any lengthened period. The great bulk are, however, genuine applicants, who are in need, owing, it may be, to sickness, the death of relatives, or advancing years. All such cases receive every consideration, and are dealt with in a sympathetic manner. Great care must be exercised in granting Government assistance for destitution, as without such care and discrimination the effect of granting such relief may be demoralising both to the individual and the community. There is always some tendency in granting relief, especially if granted for some temporary disablement or lack of employment, to destroy thrift and economy in family life, and reduce that individual spirit of independence and self-respect which should be cherished. Government funds are looked upon by many applicants for relief as a source which can be easily tapped, and in determining the sufficiency of the allowance requires very careful thought, both as a protection to the community and the individual applicant.

### THE NUMBER ASSISTED.

There were assisted, either in money or in kind, throughout the State for the year ended June 30, 1910, 664 men, 797 women, and 1,311 children, a total of

2,772 in all. The adults showed a decrease of 199, and the children a decrease of 131, a total decrease for the year of 330.

In this total there are two distinct classes included:—

- (1.) The aged and infirm, and
- (2) Those recipients whose assistance may be considered more or less of a temporary nature.

As regards the first class, there were 362 men and 275 women, a total of 637. This total includes all individual cases assisted during the year. At the close of the year the numbers were considerably reduced owing to the fact that a number are now receiving the Commonwealth Old-age Pension.

The second class consists of several divisions, the more important being:—

#### (1) Women who are Destitute.

This is one of the more important of the divisions, as it includes widows and deserted wives with children to support. The latter class unfortunately continues to increase, although Western Australia does not seem to fare worse than some of the other States. During the year 449 women with 1,311 children dependent upon them received assistance. The average, as will be seen, is about three children per mother. The payments in these cases mean practically boarding out the children to their mothers, and assisting to keep the home together. Money paid by the State in the support of deserted wives and children requires to be watched very closely. Careful investigation takes place in all cases before money is granted. The tendency in cases of this type is for relatives who may have formerly assisted renouncing their family obligations and ties of relationship. In some cases it has led to misrepresentation and wrongful declarations. The amount paid to mothers to assist in the maintenance of their children does not equal the amount paid to foster-mothers under the State Children Act. The payment of such an allowance would not be advisable, as the payment to foster-mothers to care for other people's children is not the same as helping a mother to perform her natural duty towards her own children. The promoting of industry and thrift on the part of a mother and the assistance by elder children must not altogether be stifled. In addition to the women with children to support there were 73 elderly women, who through sickness or otherwise were temporarily incapacitated from work, also assisted.

#### (2) Children.

There were, as already stated, 1,311 children assisted during the year. These are not State children in a sense, as they have not been committed under the



State Children Act, although they are assisted in their maintenance from State funds. In some instances it has been necessary to bring them under the Act and have them committed to the care of the Department. These children are not under supervision, although their parents are seen from time to time, and their premises occasionally inspected. I believe it would be advisable to have all children who are assisted by the State on the grounds of destitution to be regularly inspected to ascertain that the money granted to assist in their maintenance is being properly expended, and that they are being cared for as they should be.

### (3) Sick Men.

There were 86 of this class, a decrease of five. They include men who have been discharged from hospitals, and who, in numerous cases, require temporary assistance. In the case of single men they are generally admitted temporarily into a Home, but there are others who are married men with homes who require assistance until they are able to work or to find work. There has been a large expenditure in railway fares in bringing such men from long distances throughout the State to a Home or to the Coolgardie Sanatorium. The latter institution has meant a very considerable increase to this Department in railway fares, as the most of the men admitted are professedly destitute and unable to pay their fare.

### (4.) Unemployed Men.

This class numbered 162, a decrease of 68 compared with the previous twelve months. The reduction may be accounted for from the fact that work has been plentiful. Unemployment has been caused largely by sickness or over-indulgence in drink. The latter class are continuously moving about looking for employment. Not much heed would be given to such men were it not for the wives and children many of them have to support. Another class which might be included under this heading are single men who receive a few rations to help them to get into the country to find work. They numbered this year 54, compared with 87 for the previous year. They are not a particularly deserving class, and are generally those who come to Perth every now and again for a "burst-up," get stranded, and require assistance to get out of it. It should be mentioned that all men granted assistance on the grounds of unemployment must produce a Labour Bureau ticket showing that they have been calling at that office to look for work.

### MONETARY ASSISTANCE.

There has been an increase in the number of those who have benefited from such assistance from 605 last year to 735 this year, a total increase of 130 for the year.

The classification is as follows:—

(1) Old age .. .. .	242	(242)
(2) Sickness or permanent infirmity .. .. .	18	(16)
(3) Destitute widows and deserted wives .. .. .	124	(90)
(4) Children of destitute widows and deserted wives .. .. .	350	(254)
(5) Unemployed men (temporary) .. .. .	1	(3)

The figures in brackets are last year's totals.

There will probably be a reduction this year in the number of those assisted under the heading of "old

age," as some of those included have already received a Commonwealth Old-age Pension, and others will probably be eligible soon. The increase for the year, it will be seen, is principally in classes (3) and (4), which really means the assistance granted to widows and deserted wives to help to maintain a home for themselves and children. This class shows a considerable increase. In addition 203 persons, including children, received rations. The actual number of individual cases who were granted money payments was 345 (243).

The payments were as follows:—6 at 15s. weekly; 1 at 14s. weekly; 4 at 12s. 6d. weekly; 1 at 12s. weekly; 56 at 10s. weekly; 2 at 9s. weekly; 2 at 8s. weekly; 15 at 7s. 6d. weekly; 42 at 7s. weekly; 2 at 6s. weekly; 182 at 5s. weekly; 3 at 4s. weekly; 7 at 3s. 6d. weekly; 7 at 3s. weekly; 7 at 2s. 6d. weekly; 1 at 50s. monthly; 6 at 20s. monthly; 1 at 8d. daily.

### RELIGION.

Those professing to belong to the Church of England numbered 653, Roman Catholic 477, Wesleyan 113, Presbyterian 93, Congregational 27, Baptist 22, Lutheran 20, Salvation Army 17, Unknown 13, 7th Day Adventist 6, Jewish 6, Church of Christ 5, Free-thinkers 5, Agnostics 2, Greek 2, and 1,311 children.

### NATIONALITY OF THOSE ASSISTED.

Five hundred and sixty-seven of those assisted were English, 303 Australian, 202 Irish, 196 West Australian, 68 Scotch, 54 European, 14 New Zealand, 10 American, 9 Tasmanian, 7 West Indian, 6 Indian, 6 were born at sea, 2 Chinese, 2 Canadians, 1 South African, 1 Ceylonese, 13 unknown, and 1,311 children.

### EXPENDITURE OF OUTDOOR AND MONETARY RELIEF THROUGHOUT THE STATE DURING THE YEAR 1908-9 AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1910.

	1908-9.	1909-10.
	£ s. d.	£ . d.
Outdoor Assistance other than money, Perth .. .	1,935 9 3	1,717 16 4
Outdoor Assistance other than Money, Districts outside Perth .. .	3,188 12 10	2,663 7 5
Monetary Assistance throughout the State .. .	4,029 7 1	2,797 15 2
	9,153 9 2	7,178 18 11

The total decrease for the year amounted to £1,974 10s. 3d.

### HOMES FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM.

There are three Homes for the reception of aged, infirm, and destitute men and women:—

- (1.) The Home for Men, Claremont.
- (2.) The Home for Men, Fremantle.
- (3.) The Home for Women, Fremantle.

All admissions into these Homes receive careful consideration. Orders for admission are only given from the Head Office after personal inquiries, unless in the case of former inmates or those received from country districts admitted on a report from the Resident Magistrate or the Police.



#### Admissions for the Year.

The new admissions for the twelve months ended June 30, 1910, numbered 285, being 116 fewer than for the previous year.

#### Total Number in the Homes.

There were 516 inmates in the various Homes on June 30, 1910. This is a decrease of 213 compared with the previous twelve months. The daily average number in residence throughout the year was 578.

The deaths numbered 88, a decrease of 5.

The total number of inmates dealt with throughout the year numbered 1,159.

#### Birthplaces of the Inmates.

England 226, Ireland 127, Scotland 40, Europe 27, Victoria 28, West Australia 30, New South Wales 11, South Australia 9, America 6, India 6, New Zealand 2, Tasmania 1, Java 1, and 2 children.

#### Number of Years in the State.

Over 60 years, 12; 51 to 60 years, 60; 41 to 50 years, 98; 31 to 40 years, 44; 21 to 30 years, 51; 11 to 20 years, 199; under 10 years, 50; children, 2.

#### Age of Inmates.

Over 90 years, 3; 81 to 90 years, 37; 71 to 80 years, 138; 61 to 70 years, 145; 51 to 60 years, 104; 41 to 50 years, 51; 31 to 40 years, 22; 30 years or under, 14; children, 2.

#### Condition.

Married, 59; widowers, 82; widows, 27; single, 145; children, 2.

#### Classification.

General debility, 264; paralysis, 42; partly imbecile, 41; rheumatic, 30; injury to limbs, 25; partly blind, 23; heart, 23; totally blind, 18; tubercular disease, 11; bedridden, 11; cancer, 9; maternity cases, 8; loss of limbs, 7; convalescent cases from hospitals, 2; children, 2.

#### THE HOME FOR MEN, CLAREMONT.

There were resident in this Home on June 30, 1910, 381 inmates, a decrease of 123 compared with the previous twelve months. The daily average number in residence throughout the year was 386, a decrease of 52 compared with the previous year on the daily average.

#### New Admissions.

The new admissions numbered 159, which is 51 less than the previous year.

#### Deaths.

There were 63 deaths, being 17 less than the previous year. Twenty-one died from senile decay, 9 from morbus cordis, 8 from cancer, 6 from phthisis, 5 from cardiac failure, 4 from dropsy, 3 from diarrhoea, 2 from aneurism, 2 from apoplexy, and one each from diabetes, syphilis, and hæmorrhage. There were 4 over 80 years, 23 over 70 years, 17 over 60 years, 10 over 50 years, 6 over 40 years, and 3 under 40 years.

#### The Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year was £7,718 3s. 3d. The average cost per week per inmate was 7s. 8¼d., a decrease of 5d. compared with the previous year. The average cost per inmate per annum was £19 19s. 10¼d.

#### Detailed Expenditure for the Year ended June 30, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries .. .. .	1,679	1	1
Allowance to inmates for work performed .. .. .	301	13	7
Provisions .. .. .	4,381	12	4
Fuel and light .. .. .	376	2	5
Water .. .. .	15	5	5
Bedding, clothing, etc. .. .. .	557	4	4
Furniture .. .. .	56	12	1
Engine oil and fittings .. .. .	17	17	7
Medicines and appliances .. .. .	54	6	9
Forage .. .. .	135	18	11
Miscellaneous .. .. .	142	8	9
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£7,718</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

Mr. Wade, who has occupied the position of Master of this Institution for 23 years, retired from the Service on his pension in February. He has been succeeded by Mr. A. C. Rust, who commenced his duties on May 16. The management of a Home of this nature entails considerable responsibility and much personal and systematic care and attention. All officials must show constant vigilance to maintain properly the harmonious working and satisfactory treatment of the inmates. The great bulk of the inmates are old and infirm men without much hope for the future. These require special attention in order that their remaining days may be made as happy and as comfortable as they can be.

#### The Dietary.

This has received special attention. The food is well cooked, and every care is taken that the quality is of the best.

#### Medical Comforts.

These are under the control of the District Medical Officer, Dr. Blanchard, who has spared no pains to see that all men are treated with fairness and in accordance with their actual requirements, but at the same time with strict economy. The sick men are carefully and sympathetically cared for by the nurses.

#### Classification of the Inmates.

This important feature of Homes of this description is receiving the careful attention of the Master. The wards are so constructed that there is full scope for classification being carried out. The younger and more able-bodied should be separated from the older and more infirm. An attempt will be made to classify in accordance with character. This is somewhat difficult to strictly carry out, still it should be possible to separate, during the night at all events, those who are dissolute and whose moral character is known to be bad from those respectable men who have been unfortunate in life's struggle.

#### Reading Room.

This is now a well-equipped room where the old men can enjoy a quiet read and a smoke in comfort. There is now a large supply of books. At Christmas time Mrs. Muir, as she has done on many previous occasions, purchased a large number of excellent volumes from part of the money subscribed by the Civil Service to purchase extra tobacco for the old men.



### *The Garden and Grounds.*

These look well, and are a credit to the gardener. A Bowling Green has recently been laid out and will be used this season for the first time. There will be room for four rinks, and it is to be hoped that the old chaps may have many a pleasant game, and that they will also welcome visitors from time to time to take part. Vegetables have been grown to a considerable extent. The additional land it is proposed to purchase will provide much more scope for the growing of vegetables than has been the case hitherto.

### *The Work of the Inmates.*

This has recently been carried out more vigorously than heretofore, and a good deal has been accomplished. The firewood has been entirely supplied by the old men themselves from the adjoining bush. A large number of improvements on the river frontage are being carried out. The erection of pigsties, addition to fencing, and many other improvements have been carried out by the inmates under the supervision of the Labour Master.

### *Entertainments.*

To all those kind friends who have helped by concerts, lectures, and other entertainments to make the old folks happy and contented very sincere thanks are due.

### *Staff.*

The Staff consists of a Master (Mr. A. C. Rust), a Matron (Miss Speers), a clerk and storekeeper, one workmaster, two ward orderlies, one night-watchman, two engineers, two cooks, and two nurses.

### THE HOME FOR MEN, FREMANTLE.

There were resident in this Home on June 30, 1910, 98 inmates. The daily average for the year numbered 121, a decrease of 43 compared with the previous twelve months.

### *Admissions.*

The new admissions numbered 45.

### *Deaths.*

There were 15 deaths. Senile decay 7, heart disease 3, chronic nephritis 3, hemiplegia 2. One was over the age of 80 years, 8 over 70 years, 4 over 60 years, and 2 over 50 years.

### *Expenditure.*

The expenditure for the year was £1,991 18s. 5d., a decrease of £534 6s. 8d. The average cost of each inmate per week was 6s. 3¼d., an increase of 4¾d., and the cost per inmate per year was £16 9s. 2¾d., an increase of £1 1s. 1¾d.

### *Detailed Expenditure for the Year ended June 30, 1910.*

	£	s.	d.
Salaries .. .. .	491	4	4
Allowances to inmates for work performed .. .. .	75	4	11
Provisions .. .. .	1,202	11	6
Fuel and light .. .. .	82	10	1
Water .. .. .	10	2	9
Bedding, clothing, etc. .. .. .	102	7	0
Furniture .. .. .	7	2	6
Medicines and appliances .. .. .	9	3	7
Miscellaneous .. .. .	11	11	9
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£1,991</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>

### *General Remarks.*

This institution has had an uneventful year. The behaviour of the inmates has been satisfactory. They are treated strictly, but kindly. They have numerous privileges. They have a good library, reading room, and games room, and are allowed out on leave each day. There is not much scope at this Home for the men to be employed. The best, however, is made of the small garden by irrigation, and a large quantity of superior vegetables is grown. The number of inmates at this Home has considerably decreased, and it is now possible to contain the whole of them at Claremount. There has been a number of entertainments by various kind friends. The usual religious services have also been held. The average cost of this Home comes out at 6s. 3¼d. per week per inmate. This result is largely owing to the care and efficient management of the Master.

### *Staff.*

Master and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. McIlwaine; 2 orderlies, and 1 cook.

### THE HOME FOR WOMEN, FREMANTLE.

This Home was opened on November 17, 1909, the inmates on that date being transferred from the old Home at Perth to this Home. The buildings now occupied were formerly used as an asylum for the insane, but have since been thoroughly renovated, rearranged, and adapted to the wants of a Home for aged women. They are now very complete and fulfil in a satisfactory manner all necessary requirements.

### *Number of Inmates.*

There were in the Home on June 30, 1910, 47 inmates, and in the Maternity ward in connection with the Home 10 inmates; a total in all of 57 inmates. The daily average number in residence throughout the year was 71.

### *Deaths.*

There were 10 deaths (8 Home and 2 Maternity). Five died from senile decay, 2 from hemiplegia, 1 from cancer, and there were 2 premature births. The ages were 2 over 80 years, 6 over 70 years, and 2 premature births.

### *Maternity Ward.*

A Maternity Ward has been established in connection with the Home. The accommodation is good, although further improvements to be carried out will add considerably to efficiency.

### *Admissions.*

There were 32 admissions into the Maternity Ward during the year, 25 being single girls and 7 married women.

### *Births.*

The Births numbered 26, and in addition there were 2 still-born children.

### *Number Remaining.*

There were remaining in the Maternity Ward on June 30, 1910, 8 adults and 2 children.

### *General Remarks.*

There is a highly qualified midwife (Nurse Gilbert) in charge. The District Medical Officer (Dr. Williams) visits, and his care and attention to the maternity inmates as well as the Home inmates generally cannot be too highly commended.

In connection with the Home a training school for midwifery has recently been established.



### The Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year was £1,889 10s. 4d., being an increase of £165 7s. 11d. on the previous twelve months. The average cost per inmate per week was 10s. 2¾d., and per year £26 12s. 3d., an increase in the former of 2s. 1¾d., and in the latter of £5 11s. 8¾d., compared with the expenditure for the previous twelve months.

The increase in the expenditure is largely accounted for from the fact that extra expense was incurred owing to the removal of the institution to Fremantle. It was necessary to obtain new bedding, additional medical requisites, and other articles.

A combined Maternity Home and Women's Home means a more expensive institution than an ordinary Home for aged men and women.

### Detailed Expenditure for the Year ended June 30, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries .. .. .	511	6	8
Allowance to inmates for work performed .. .. .	49	0	10
Provisions .. .. .	768	11	2
Fuel and light .. .. .	181	5	0
Water .. .. .	17	19	9
Bedding, clothing, etc. .. .. .	141	5	0
Furniture .. .. .	84	6	9
Medicines and appliances .. .. .	60	3	7
Miscellaneous .. .. .	75	11	7
Total .. .. .	£1,889	10	4

### General Remarks.

Although the Home has only been transferred since November, a great deal has been accomplished. The whole of the routine work of the institution is being carried out in a satisfactory manner. The arrangements made for the comfort of the old folks are very complete. The rooms specially fitted up for the sick and ailing are well arranged and well ventilated. The sick inmates receive very kind and considerate treatment from Nurse Knight, who is in charge. Recently a large hall was renovated and made suitable for concerts and other entertainments. The spacious grounds surrounding the buildings are being put in order, but, owing to their extent, it will be some time before much is accomplished. The Superintendent of the Fremantle Prison (Mr. George) is assisting with

his men in carrying out various important improvements. The garden is already in good order, with a qualified gardener in charge, and provides all the vegetables required by the inmates. A number of friends have provided concerts and other treats during the year. Ample provision has been made for the accommodation of the officials. This Home is managed in an economical and very satisfactory manner by the Matron (Mrs. Fraser) and her assistants.

### Staff.

Matron, Mrs. Fraser; Nurse and Sub-Matron, Mrs. Knight; General Assistant, Mrs. Dixon; Maternity Nurse, Miss Gilbert.

### Religious Services.

In all the Homes ministers of the various churches visit from time to time and conduct religious services. These services are much appreciated by the old people.

### The Temporary Shelter.

The Temporary Shelter for men, which was formerly established in a building in Pier Street, near the Women's Home, which has recently been discontinued, was removed in November to a newly-erected building in connection with the office, and placed in charge of the Caretaker.

Fifty-three individual men have been dealt with during the year.

### Burials.

There were 334 burials throughout the State at the expense of the Government. The total cost was £1,080 4s. 1d.; average per burial, £3 4s. 8d.; which is 10s. 9½d. less than the previous year.

### Earnings by Homes.

	£	s.	d.
Homes for the aged, refunds on account of maintenance, burial expenses, etc., credited to revenue .. .. .	379	8	8
Amount to be recovered from Imperial Government for maintenance of Imperial paupers .. .. .	394	2	2
Imperial paupers, refunds on account outdoor relief .. .. .	95	3	3
Total .. .. .	£868	14	1

### SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE ON INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RELIEF, AND COST PER HEAD OF POPULATION.

Mean population of Western Australia for the year ended June 30, 1910.	Total expenditure on Out-door Relief for year ended June 30, 1910.	Cost per head of population for Out-door Relief.	Total expenditure on In-door Relief, exclusive of lunatics, for year ended June 30, 1910.	Cost per head for In-door Relief.	Total cost In-door and Out-door Relief.	Total cost per head of population for In-door and Out-door Relief.
278,191	£ s. d. 7,178 18 11	d. 6.19	£ s. d. 10,727 10 5	d. 9.25	£ s. d. 17,906 9 4	s. d. 1 3.44

The cost of the head office administration is not included in the above figures.

### TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1910.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Salaries, Head Office .. .. .	1,156	3	9	Brought forward .. .. .	21,739	19	7
Old Men's Home, Claremont, salaries and upkeep .. .. .	7,718	3	3	Postage, Telephone Rent, Telegrams, and Stationery .. .. .	148	9	7
Old Men's Home, Fremantle, salaries and upkeep .. .. .	1,991	18	5	Maintenance of C. Vinneir in Kew Asylum .. .. .	24	0	0
Women's Home, Fremantle, salaries and upkeep .. .. .	1,889	10	4				
Relief, Outdoor and Monetary .. .. .	7,178	18	11		21,912	9	2
Transport, Travelling, and Incidental expenses .. .. .	725	0	10	Less Revenue .. .. .	872	1	7



## COMMONWEALTH OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

The following Return shows the number of inmates who have left the Homes, having received a Commonwealth pension:—

	Claremont.	Fremantle.	Women's.	Total
Number of Inmates who have left the Home on Pension ... ..	149	64	10	223
Number of Pensioners resident in the Home on June 30, 1910 ...	31	10	4	45
Number of Inmates who have applied and been refused a Pension	26	8	3	37
Number of Inmates resident in the Home on June 30, 1910, apparently eligible for a Pension from age and length of residence in Australia ... ..	141	18	19	178*

\* Exclusive of those inmates referred to in Nos. 2 and 3.

1. From this return it will be noted that there were 223 inmates granted pensions, and that 45 pensioners were resident in the Homes on June 30, 1910.

2. This shows that there was an actual reduction of 178 inmates in the Homes compared with the previous year.

3. The reasons given by the pensioners for their return were principally sickness and the infirmities of old age, which made it impossible for them to remain outside a Home although paid a weekly pension of 10s.

4. Several of the pensioners recovered and again left the Home. These pensioners on leaving can claim from the Commonwealth authorities, under Section 47 of the Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act, payment for 28 days on leaving the Home, provided they have remained an inmate for that length of time.

The section reads as follows:—

"If a successful claimant of a pension is an inmate of a benevolent asylum or other charitable institution the pension shall become payable as from a date not more than twenty-eight days prior to the pensioner being discharged from or leaving the asylum or institution, but no payment on account of pension shall be made to him so long as he is an inmate of the asylum or institution."

In other words an old-age pensioner can enter a Home and be kept there by the State for 28 days free of charge. He can then apply for his discharge, leave the Home, and under this section receive 28 days' payment from the Commonwealth, spend the money in a day or two as he thinks fit, and apply again for re-admission. He can repeat this from time to time. No payment can be made either to him or to the State on his behalf while he remains an inmate of the Home.

5. Of the inmates who returned to the Home eleven were brought before a magistrate in order to have their cases re-heard, and to obtain if possible a recommendation under Section 31 (2) of the Act, which reads as follows:—

"If it appears to the magistrate that the claimant, although otherwise qualified for, is unfit to be entrusted with a pension, he may recommend that the claimant instead of

being granted a pension be sent to a benevolent asylum or charitable institution

6. For such cases, that is those recommended by a magistrate to remain in the Home, it was understood that a payment would be made to the State at the rate of 7s. per week. No payment was, however, made up to June 30, as we were informed by the Commonwealth authorities that as they were inmates of the Old Men's Home *when the magistrate made his recommendation* no payment could be made.

7. It would now appear that the New South Wales Government is about to be paid at the rate of 7s. 6d. per week for cases of a like nature, *i.e.*, those sent to an institution on the recommendation of a magistrate, and a further effort will be made to obtain similar payments to this State for similar cases, although it had previously been refused.

8. There were 37 claimants from the Homes refused pensions owing, in a number of cases, to their character not being satisfactory, and in others they were unable to furnish satisfactory proof of their age and length of residence in Australia.

9. On June 30, 1910, there were 178 inmates who, it would appear, had been sufficiently long in Australia and were old enough to claim a pension. A number of them are bed-ridden, and the others cannot find sufficient corroboration to have their claims dealt with.

10. Every effort is being made to obtain all necessary information in order that all those who are evidently entitled to a pension may obtain one.

#### Conclusion.

In conclusion I desire to cordially thank the Commissioner of Police and his officers, also resident magistrates and clerks of court throughout the State, for the valuable assistance they are at all times ready to give in the carrying on of the work of the Department.

To my own staff I must also acknowledge faithful services given at all times most ungrudgingly.

JAS. LONGMORE,  
Superintendent of Public Charities.

October 11, 1910.