

These applications should be sent by letter to the Officer in Charge War Expenses, Wellington, and should contain the following particulars:—

Regimental number, rank, and full name of soldier.

Reinforcement to which attached.

Date of discharge or decease.

Full name and address of applicant.

Soldiers' Financial Assistance.

New Zealand's initial efforts in connection with the war drew into the Expeditionary Force men who as a rule had small obligations, but the widening of the call eventually resulted in the enlistment of those who had regular obligations which could not be met out of their pay as a soldier. To meet this class—to bridge this gap between the soldier's pay and his obligations to his family so as to avoid undue hardship caused by military service—the Soldiers' Financial Assistance Board was set up, and the Government undertook to make grants as a free gift, with no obligation to refund the money.

The regulations were extended, after experience of the working of the system, to permit of payment of such obligations as interest and insurance covering a longer period than that actually served by the soldier. A half-year's interest, for instance, may be paid by the Board if it falls due during the soldier's service, in spite of the fact that he might only have served a few months before obtaining his discharge. There has been no attempt to cut down the assistance by adopting a strictly proportionate system of payment to length of service, the Board always interpreting the regulations in a liberal spirit.

In the case of the soldier's death, financial assistance is continued for a period not exceeding twenty-six weeks.

Retrospective Applications.—As a general rule financial assistance is only payable to a soldier, but as experience has shown that many men belonging to the Main Body and earlier drafts of Reinforcements were not aware, until their return to the Dominion, that grants could be received to meet the special obligations set out later, the Soldiers' Financial Assistance Board has been authorized to consider applications which were not covered by the earlier regulations, and to make such retrospective grants as in its opinion the merits of each case warrant.

As applications cannot be received indefinitely, the new regulations provide that the soldier already returned to New Zealand must apply *within three months* of the date of their gazetting—viz., 10th June, 1919; and, in the case of men still to be returned, *within three months of the date of their arrival* in the Dominion. It should be noted that whatever assistance is granted can only be in respect of liabilities incurred since the inception of the financial-assistance scheme on the 16th January, 1917.

The Soldiers' Financial Assistance Board has further been authorized, in approved cases, to grant financial assistance for a period of six months after the date of discharge.

Applications for financial assistance should be made to the Secretary, Soldiers' Financial Assistance Board, Sussex Chambers, Wellington. Grants are made for the following purposes:—

(a.) RENT (HOUSE OR ROOMS).—The term "rent" applies to furnished or unfurnished houses, or to furnished or unfurnished rooms.

Storage of Furniture.—Special rents will be taken into consideration according to the merits of the case.

Board and Lodgings.—Where the applicant pays an amount for board and lodgings only, the item will be considered according to the merits of the case.

(b.) INTEREST PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF LOANS OR MORTGAGES, OR IN RESPECT OF AGREEMENTS FOR THE