

Branch of Friendly Society registered.

Friendly Societies Department,
Wellington, 3rd February, 1920.

THE Ngahoa Lodge, No. 34, situated at Taumarunui, is registered as a branch of the Grand Lodge of the North Island of New Zealand of the United Ancient Order of Druids Friendly Society, under the Friendly Societies Act, 1909, this 31st day of January, 1920.

R. E. HAYES,
Registrar of Friendly Societies.

Branch of Friendly Society registered.

Friendly Societies Department,
Wellington, 3rd February, 1920.

THE Rose of Clinton Rebekah Lodge, No. 19, situated at Clinton, is registered as a branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of New Zealand Friendly Society, under the Friendly Societies Act, 1909, this 30th day of January, 1920.

R. E. HAYES,
Registrar of Friendly Societies.

*Population of the Dominion.**

RETURN of the Estimated Population of the Dominion of New Zealand on the 31st December, 1919.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Estimated population (exclusive of Maoris and residents of Cook and other Pacific islands) on 31st December, 1918	542,046	566,327	1,108,373
Increase during 1919—			
By excess of births over deaths	6,400	7,283	13,683
By excess of immigration over emigration (including members of Expeditionary Forces)	40,462	1,890	42,352
Estimated population (exclusive of Maoris and residents of Cook and other Pacific islands) on 31st December, 1919	588,908	575,500	1,164,408
Maori population, Census, 1916	25,933	23,843	49,776
Population of Cook and other Pacific islands, Census, 1916	6,552	6,245	12,797
Total estimated population of the Dominion on 31st December, 1919 ..	621,393	605,588	1,226,981

* Subject to revision.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The numbers and rates of births and deaths for the last ten years are as under:—

Year.	Numbers.		Rate per 1,000 of the Mean Population.	
	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.
1910	25,984	9,639	26.17	9.71
1911	26,354	9,534	25.97	9.39
1912	27,508	9,214	26.48	8.87
1913	27,935	10,119	26.14	9.47
1914	28,338	10,148	25.99	9.31
1915	27,850	9,965	25.33	9.06
1916	28,509	10,596	25.94	9.64
1917	28,239	10,528	25.69	9.58
1918	25,860	16,364	23.44	14.84
1919*	24,490	10,807	21.55	9.51

* Subject to revision.

Births in 1919.

The number of births registered in 1919 (24,490) is the lowest recorded in any year since 1906, when the mean population for the year was only 919,105, as compared with a mean of 1,136,390 in 1919. The rate for 1919 is easily the lowest on record, being 1.89 per 1,000 less than for 1918, which held the record previously.

The continued duration of the war, with its effect on the marriage rate, combined with the calling-up of married men for service overseas, is reflected in the rapidly falling birth-rate of 1918 and 1919. It might have been anticipated, however, that with the termination of actual hostilities in November, 1918, the birth-rate would reach its lowest point during September quarter of 1919, after which it would begin to show an improvement, and this is what has happened, as will be seen from the following figures. It is reasonable to expect that the improvement indicated by the figures for the last quarter of 1919 will be at least maintained in 1920.

Quarter ended	Number of Births registered.
31st March, 1918	6,354
30th June, 1918	6,647
30th September, 1918	6,526
31st December, 1918	6,333
31st March, 1919	6,061
30th June, 1919	6,136
30th September, 1919	5,832
31st December, 1919	6,461

Deaths in 1919.

Although, with the exception of the year 1918 (when the deaths were increased by 50 per cent. on account of the influenza epidemic of the last quarter), the number of deaths registered in 1919 is the highest on record, nevertheless the rate per 1,000 of mean population is not exceptional, and is indeed only 0.10 per 1,000 higher than for the average of the five years 1913-17.

Census and Statistics Office,
Wellington, 2nd February, 1920.

J. W. BUTCHER,
Acting Government Statistician.