**5.9. Position and Progress of the Northumberland and Durham Miners’ Permanent Relief Fund, 1862-1901.**

Note: Permanent relief or provident funds were established in various coalfields in the second half of the nineteenth century and were intended to provide benefits to the widows and ‘orphans’ of miners killed in their work, disablement benefits for miners who suffered injuries or occupational disease, and, in some cases, payments to old and infirm miners no longer able to work. These were ‘permanent funds’ because, unlike friendly societies or other agencies, they paid benefits indefinitely. The Northumberland and Durham Miners’ Permanent Relief Fund, founded in the wake of the Hartley Colliery disaster, was the first such permanent relief fund; it was also one of the most consensual and lasted well into the twentieth century after its counterparts in other coalfields had come to an end.

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| **Category** | **Figures** |
| Total Fatal Accidents | 4,946 |
| Married Members | 2,930 |
| Single Members, full membership | 1,254 |
| Half membership (under 16) | 762 |
| Permanently Disabled (accidents over 26 weeks’ duration) | 5,654 |
| On receipt of benefit at the end of 1900 – aged (and infirm) | 3,718 |

Source: Tyne and Wear Archives Service, CH/MPR/7, Copy of the Original Reports and Supplement of the Position and Progress of the Fund (1862-1900).