

### 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.

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).