

Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Bill, 1947.Explanatory MemorandumGeneral.

This Bill is in nearly all respects the counterpart, in relation to Widows' and Orphans' Pensions, of the National Health Insurance Bill and follows the same pattern.

PART II

This part re-enacts, with certain minor modifications, the provisions of Emergency Powers (No.382) Order, 1946, made on 14th June last. Broadly speaking, excepted persons are non-manual employees of the State, local authorities and certain statutory companies, who are not insured under the National Health Insurance Acts but are insured under the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Acts and this clause provides that in their case, where sums purporting to be contributions under the Pensions Acts have been paid in good faith after the person has ceased to be insurable under the Acts, such sums will be accepted as contributions and confer on the person concerned the same rights in regard to insurance as if they were, in fact, contributions. Clause 5 extends the "free" insurance period in the case of excepted persons from 12 to 18 months, as in the case of persons insured under the National Health Insurance Acts. Clause 6 deals with the insurance of soldiers. Clause 7 relates to persons who left or may leave this country on or after the 3rd September, 1939, and who die or return before a date to be fixed by the Minister with the consent of the Minister for Finance and provides that, if certain conditions are satisfied in relation to contributions under the Pensions Acts before such persons left the State, the period of their absence will be disregarded for the purpose of determining their qualifications for pension purposes.

PART III

Clause 8 extends the power of the Minister for Finance in the matter of investment of funds held by him for the Pensions Investment Account to include all securities for which the Trustees are for the time being authorised by law to invest trust funds.

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Department of Social Welfare.

14th March, 1947.

