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Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

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NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

Clause.
1. Amendment as to proportion of contributions payable respectively by insured persons and employers and by the Treasury.
2. Amendment of s. 83 of principal Act.
3. Application of Reserve Suspense Fund and Central Fund towards making good deficiencies due to provisions of this Part of this Act.
4. Amendment of s. 68 of principal Act.
5. Transfer from Navy, Army and Air Force Insurance Fund to Exchequer.
6. Consequential amendments of enactments relating to national health insurance, and variation of reserve values.
7. Short title, construction and application of Part I.

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8. Amendment of s. 4 of Unemployment Insurance Act, 1925, 15 & 16 Geo. 5, c. 69.

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46–5 A
Clause.

10. Amendment of Ballot Act, 1872, as to division of register at polling station.

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12. Polls in Orkney and Zetland.

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15. Establishment of bankruptcy and companies winding-up fees, account and application thereof.

16. Provision as to fixing of fees.

17. Annual account of bankruptcy and winding-up proceedings.


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SCHEDULES.
DRAFT

OF A

BILL

To

Make provision for the reduction of the charges on public funds in respect of certain services and to increase the funds available for meeting such charges by means of the payment out of certain funds into the Exchequer of certain sums and otherwise, and to amend accordingly the law relating to national health insurance, unemployment insurance, the registration of electors and the holding of elections, bankruptcy and companies winding-up fees and certain other fees, education and postmarks, and for purposes related or incidental to the matters aforesaid.

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

PART I.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

1. (1) Section four of the National Health Insurance Act, 1924 (in this Part of this Act referred to as "the principal Act"), (which provides for contributions by insured persons, employers and the Treasury), shall be deemed as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-six, to have had effect as if for respectively the words from "as to seven-ninths thereof" to the
end of the section there were substituted the words
"in the case of men as to six-sevenths thereof, and in
"the case of women as to four-fifths thereof, from
"contributions made by or in respect of the contributors
"by themselves or their employers and as to the balance
"thereof from moneys provided by Parliament," and
for the purpose of the said section four as amended by
this section the cost of benefits shall, so far as relates to
additional benefits administered by a society, other than
additional benefits consisting of increases of sickness,
disability or maternity benefit, be calculated in such
manner as may be prescribed by regulations made by
the Minister of Health (in this Part of this Act referred
to as " the Minister ") with the consent of the Treasury.

(2) Nothing in this section shall affect the amount of
the sums which are to be credited to societies out
of moneys provided by Parliament under the proviso to
subsection (3) of section one of the National Health
Insurance Act, 1922, (which makes provision as to the
cost of medical benefit and administration expenses).

2.—(1) Subject to the provisions of section eighty-
three of the principal Act there may, out of the funds
out of which benefits are payable under the principal
Act, be applied for the purpose of meeting the cost
of medical benefit, the administration expenses of in-
surance committees and any expenses incurred by the
Minister in connection with the administration of bene-
fits a sum at such yearly rate as may be prescribed,
but not exceeding thirteen shillings per year in respect
of each of the total number (calculated in the prescribed
manner) of the persons who are entitled to medical
benefit as being or having been members of an approved
society, and there shall be paid for each year to insurance
committees on account of the cost of medical benefit and
their administration expenses, and to the Minister on
account of expenses incurred by him in respect of the
administration of benefits, sums not exceeding in the
aggregate the sum applicable as aforesaid, and not
exceeding as respects the administration expenses of
insurance committees the sum of sixpence, and as
respects the expenses of the Minister the sum of three-
pence, in respect of each of the total number aforesaid:

Provided that if the aggregate sum paid for any year
to insurance committees and the Minister under this
section in respect of each of the total number aforesaid is less than the sum applicable as aforesaid in respect of each of the said total number, the balance shall be carried forward and be treated as being applicable as aforesaid in any subsequent year.

(2) For the purpose of meeting any additional expenditure which may be incurred in the provision of medical benefit in Wales by reason of sparsity of population or difficulty of means of communication, provision may be made by regulations for the payment out of the National Health Insurance Fund to the Welsh National Health Insurance Fund of such sum as may be prescribed.

(3) This section in its application to Scotland shall have effect subject to the following modifications—

(a) the sum at such yearly rate as may be prescribed, but not exceeding thirteen shillings per year, as provided in subsection (1) of this section may also be applied towards meeting the expenses of the Scottish Board of Health in connection with the provision of a medical service for insured persons in such districts of Scotland (other than the highlands and islands within the meaning of the Highlands and Islands (Medical Service) Grant Act, 1913) as may be determined by the Board to be necessitous, and references in the said subsection (1) as supplied to Scotland to expenses incurred by the Board shall be construed as including the expenses aforesaid; and

(b) the maximum sums as respects the administration expenses of insurance committees and the expenses of the Board shall be such sums as may respectively be prescribed.

(4) This section shall come into operation on the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven.

3.—(1) If on the valuation of an approved society or of a branch of an approved society it appears to the valuer that a deficiency will be disclosed, he shall forthwith report the case to the Government Actuary, and on receiving any such report the Government Actuary shall proceed to estimate the amount by which the financial position of the society or branch has been made A.D. 1926.
A.D. 1928.

(1) As from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven, such part of any sums falling due to provisions of this Part of this Act and shall, as soon as he has estimated that amount, issue a certificate specifying what that amount is or, if that amount is greater than the amount of the apprehended deficiency, what the amount of that deficiency is, and shall transmit the certificate to the Minister.

(2) The Minister on receiving a certificate under this section may, if he thinks proper so to do having regard to all the circumstances of the case, cause a sum equal to the amount specified in the certificate to be credited to the society or branch out of any balance standing to the credit of the Reserve Suspense Fund, after due provision has been made for the payment of any sum charged on that Fund under or by virtue of any enactment, and if there is no such balance standing to the credit of that Fund or the balance is insufficient for the purpose of providing the whole amount specified in the certificate, the Minister may transmit the certificate with a statement as to the amount which cannot be provided out of the said Fund, to the National Health Insurance Joint Committee, and that Committee shall thereupon cause that amount to be credited to the society out of the Central Fund.

(3) Any amount to be credited under this section to a society or branch of a society shall be treated as having formed part of the assets of the society or branch at the date of the valuation.

4.—(1) As from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven, such part of any sums falling to be dealt with under subsection (2) of section sixty-eight of the principal Act as represents interest shall, instead of being so dealt with, be applied from time to time in defraying the amount, as estimated by the Treasury, of such part of the cost incurred by Government Departments in connection with the provision of insurance stamps and cards and the sale of insurance stamps as may be apportioned to national health insurance.

(2) Such part of the sums which under the said subsection (2) are to be carried to the Central Fund as may be required for the purposes specified in this subsection, instead of being carried to that Fund, shall,
after deducting therefrom the sums applied under the preceding subsection, be applied for those purposes as follows:

(a) There shall, out of the said sums, in the first place, be credited to approved societies in accordance with a scheme to be made by the National Health Insurance Joint Committee with the approval of the Treasury, such part of those sums as the Committee may direct, and any sums so credited shall be applied by the society, in such manner as the scheme may provide, for the purpose of preventing such members of the society as are in arrears from being or continuing to be suspended from benefit:

(b) The said sums shall, in the second place, be applied in defraying such proportion as is not derived from moneys provided by Parliament of any liability outstanding on the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and twenty-six (after exhausting all sums applicable thereto under section one of the National Health Insurance (Cost of Medical Benefit) Act, 1924), in respect of the cost of drugs, medicines and appliances supplied as part of medical benefit:

(c) In the third place, in the event of the interest mentioned in subsection (1) of this section being insufficient to meet the costs to be defrayed therefrom in accordance with the provisions of that subsection, the said sums shall be applied in payment of the deficiency:

5.—(1) There shall, in accordance with directions of the Treasury, be transferred to the Exchequer from the Navy, Army and Air Force Insurance Fund constituted under the principal Act the sum of one million one hundred thousand pounds.

(2) Section fifty-nine of the principal Act shall have effect as though the words "other than additional " benefits " in paragraph (e) of subsection (1) thereof were omitted therefrom, and, subject to the approval of the Treasury, provision may be made by regulations for granting out of the Fund to men of the forces to whom the said paragraph (e) applies such additional benefits as may from time to time be prescribed having regard to
the liabilities and assets of the Fund, as though the Fund were an approved society and the discharged men had been members of the society since the date of their entry or enlistment.

(3) Provision may be made by regulations for prescribing special transfer values applicable to men of the forces who join approved societies during service or within such period after discharge as may be prescribed.

6.—(1) The amendments specified in the second column of the First Schedule to this Act, which are consequential on other provisions contained in this Part of this Act, shall be made in the provisions of the principal Act and the other enactments relating to national health insurance which are set out in the first column of that Schedule.

(2) The amendments specified in Part I. of the said First Schedule shall be deemed to have had effect as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-six, and the amendments specified in Part II. of the said Schedule shall have effect as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven.

(3) Provision may be made by regulations for such variation of reserve values as appears necessary in consequence of the provisions of this Part of this Act.

7.—(1) This Part of this Act may be cited as the National Health Insurance Act, 1926, and shall be construed as one with the principal Act, and that Act and this Part of this Act may be cited together as the National Health Insurance Acts, 1924 and 1926.

(2) This Part of this Act shall, except as hereinafter provided, apply to Northern Ireland:

Provided that if provision substantially corresponding to the provision contained in this Part of this Act for making good out of the Reserve Suspense Fund deficiencies due to the provisions of this Part of this Act is made by the Parliament of Northern Ireland, His Majesty may by Order in Council apply for the purpose of deficiencies in connection with approved societies or branches of approved societies in Northern Ireland so much of the said section as relates to the crediting of amounts out of the Central Fund.
PART II.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

8.—(1) As from and after the fifth day of April, nineteen hundred and twenty-six, until the expiration of the extended period as defined in section four of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1925, the contribution payable under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1925, out of moneys provided by Parliament shall be a contribution of such an amount as may be determined by the Treasury to be approximately equivalent, having regard to the estimated proportions in which contributions are payable in respect of men, women, boys and girls, to the sum which would be produced by weekly contributions paid in respect of insured persons and exempt persons at the respective rates set out in the Second Schedule to this Act.

(2) Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of the said section four (except in so far as it relates to the meaning of the expression "the 1925 debt") is hereby repealed as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-six.

(3) This Part of this Act shall not apply to Northern Ireland.

PART III.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE.

9.—(1) One register only of electors shall be made in each year and the qualifying period shall be reduced from six months to three months.

(2) For the purpose of giving effect to the foregoing provision, the Representation of the People Acts, 1918 to 1922, shall have effect subject to the following modifications, that is to say:

(a) All provisions applicable to the autumn register shall apply as respects the yearly register, except that the yearly register shall remain in force until the fifteenth day of October in the next following year, and the provisions as to the preparation of two registers in each year and as to the spring register shall cease to have effect;
The provisions mentioned in the first column of Part I. of the Third Schedule to this Act shall be amended in the manner shown in the second column of the said Part I.; and to such other modifications as may be necessary for the purposes aforesaid.

It shall be lawful for His Majesty by Order in Council to make such adaptations in the provisions of any Act (including any local Act or any Act to confirm a Provisional Order) as may seem to Him necessary to make those provisions conform with the provisions of this Part of this Act.

Nothing in this section shall affect the preparation of the autumn register of nineteen hundred and twenty-six, and that register shall continue in force until the fifteenth day of October, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven.

At any election to which the Ballot Act, 1872, applies the returning officer may direct that the register or the part of the register containing the names of electors allotted to vote at a polling station shall be divided for the purpose of making separate issues of ballot papers to the electors:

Provided that the returning officer before giving any such direction shall be satisfied that if any such division of the register is made the proper conduct of the election will not be prejudiced.

Each part of a polling station at which any such division of the register is used shall be deemed to be a separate polling station for the purpose of the appointment of polling agents by the candidates.

Notwithstanding anything in the Ballot Act, 1872, the returning officer shall cause the ballot papers to be stamped or printed with the official mark prior to the polling, and so much of that Act as requires each ballot paper to be stamped with the official mark immediately before it is delivered to an elector and as requires the returning officer to provide each polling station with instruments for stamping on ballot papers the official mark, shall cease to have effect.

The provisions of the Ballot Act, 1872, which are set out in the first column of Part II. of the Third
Schedule to this Act shall have effect subject to the amendments thereof specified in the second column of that Schedule being amendments consequential on or incidental or supplemental to the provisions contained in subsection (1) of this section.

12. Paragraph (14) of section forty-three of the Representation of the People Act, 1918 (which provides that the poll at any general or bye-election for the constituency of Orkney and Zetland shall remain open for two consecutive days), is hereby repealed.

13.—(1) This Part of this Act may be cited as the Short title, Representation of the People (Economy Provisions) Act, construction, and extent of 1926, and shall be construed as one with the Representation of the People Acts, 1918 to 1922, and those Acts Part III. and this Part of this Act may be cited together as the Representation of the People Acts, 1918 to 1926.

(2) This Part of this Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland.

PART IV.

EDUCATION.

14.—(1) For the purpose of removing doubts it is hereby declared that the Board of Education shall not, for the purpose of subsection (2) of section one hundred and eighteen of the Education Act, 1921, be bound to recognise as expenditure in aid of which parliamentary grants should be made to a local education authority any expenditure which in the opinion of the Board is excessive having regard to the circumstances of the area of the authority or the general standard of expenditure in other areas, or which in the opinion of the Board unreasonably exceeds any estimate of expenditure made by the authority.

(2) The grants payable to such local education authorities for higher education as do not provide training colleges may be reduced in any year, in such manner as may be provided by regulations made by the Board of Education, by a sum not exceeding seventy thousand pounds in the aggregate, notwithstanding that the total sums payable out of moneys provided by Parliament and out of the Local Taxation Account to those authorities, or any of them, in any year in aid of higher education would thereby be reduced.
A.D. 1926. to less than one-half of the net expenditure thereon of the authorities recognised by the Board for the purposes of subsection (2) of the said section one hundred and eighteen.

The expression "training colleges" in this subsection does not include training colleges in which only domestic subjects are taught.

Any regulations made by the Board of Education under this subsection shall be laid before Parliament as soon as may be after they are made.

PART V.

BANKRUPTCY AND COMPANIES WINDING-UP FEES, POSTMARKS AND MERCHANT SHIPPING FEES.

15.—(1) The dividends on investments under section ninety of the Bankruptcy Act, 1914 (in this Part of this Act referred to as "the bankruptcy investments dividends") and the fees and percentages charged for or in respect of proceedings under that Act (in this Part of this Act referred to as "the bankruptcy fees") and the dividends on investments under section two hundred and thirty of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908 (in this Part of this Act referred to as "the companies investments dividends") and the fees in respect of proceedings under that Act in relation to the winding-up of companies in England (in this Part of this Act referred to as "the companies winding-up fees") shall be paid into an account to be called "The Bankruptcy and Companies Winding-up (Fees) Account."

(2) All sums which at the date of the commencement of this Part of this Act are standing to the credit of any of the following accounts, namely, the accounts to which there have respectively been paid the bankruptcy investments dividends, the bankruptcy fees, the companies investments dividends and the companies winding-up fees, shall be forthwith transferred to the Bankruptcy and Companies Winding-up (Fees) Account.

(3) The Treasury may in each financial year, out of the moneys standing to the credit of the Bankruptcy and Companies Winding-up (Fees) Account—

(a) in aid of the moneys voted by Parliament for the salaries and expenses of the Board of Trade,
issue to the Board any sums which may be necessary to meet the charges estimated by the Board in respect of salaries and expenses either under the Bankruptcy Act, 1914, or under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, in relation to the winding-up of companies in England; and

(b) pay into the Exchequer a sum equal to the amount which in the last preceding financial year fell to be defrayed out of any other votes of Parliament in respect of any such salaries and expenses.

(4) An amount equal to the sums transferred under the foregoing provisions of this section to the Bankruptcy and Companies Winding-up (Fees) Account, less the sum of one hundred thousand pounds, shall, as soon as may be after the passing of this Act, be paid out of that Account into the Exchequer in such manner as the Treasury direct, and thereafter the amount standing to the credit of that Account on the thirty-first day of March in any financial year shall, after deducting therefrom an amount equal to one-third of the aggregate amount issued out of the said Account in that year under the provisions of the last preceding subsection, be paid into the Exchequer in such manner as the Treasury direct.

16. In fixing the scales of the bankruptcy fees and of the companies winding-up fees regard shall be had to the sum which it is anticipated will on an average be required from time to time required to meet the aggregate amount of the charges in respect of salaries and expenses under the Bankruptcy Act, 1914, and under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, in relation to the winding-up of companies in England.

17.—(1) The Treasury shall in respect of each financial year cause to be prepared and laid before both Houses of Parliament within one month after the end of that year, or, if Parliament is not then sitting, within one month after the next meeting of Parliament, an account in such form and containing such particulars as the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor, from time to time direct,
A.D. 1926.

showing the receipts and expenditure during that year in respect of proceedings under the Bankruptcy Act, 1914, and proceedings in relation to the winding-up of companies in England.

(2) The accounts of the Board of Trade under the Bankruptcy Act, 1914, and in relation to the winding-up of companies in England shall be audited in such manner as the Treasury direct, and for the purpose of the account to be laid before Parliament under this section the Board shall make such returns and give such information as the Treasury may direct.

Application of Act to fees and expenses under the Deeds of Arrangement Act, 1914. 4 & 5 Geo. 5, c. 47.

18. The foregoing provisions of this Part of this Act shall have effect as if references therein to bankruptcy fees and the account, to which they have been paid, and to salaries, expenses and proceedings under the Bankruptcy Act, 1914, included references to any fees to be taken under the Deeds of Arrangement Act, 1914 (not being fees to be taken in the Supreme Court in respect of matters arising under that Act), and to the account into which any fees taken under that Act have been paid, and to salaries, expenses and proceedings under that Act.

19. For the purpose of removing doubts it is hereby declared that the marks to be used by the Postmaster-General for the purpose of cancelling stamps used for the payment of the postage chargeable on postal packets may consist of such words or devices as the Postmaster-General may in his discretion think proper, including words or devices constituting advertisements in respect of the use of which as postmarks payment is made by any persons to the Postmaster-General.

Fees under the Merchant Shipping Acts.

20. The amount of the fees to be charged under the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1923, shall be so fixed, and from time to time be so readjusted, that the aggregate amount produced by those fees as from the first day of April, nineteen hundred and twenty-three, up to any date shall be approximately equal to one-half of the amount certified from time to time by the Board of Trade to be the aggregate cost as from the first day of April aforesaid up to that date of the administration of the services in respect of which the fees are payable.
21.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1926.

(2) The enactments set out in the Fourth Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column to that Schedule.
FIRST SCHEDULE.

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS OF ENACTMENTS RELATING TO NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

PART 1.

Enactment to be amended. Amendment.

National Health Insurance (Cost of Medical Benefit) Act, 1924—
Section 1 (2) - - - For the words "of seven­ninths" where they occur in paragraph (a) and paragraph (b) of subsection (2) there shall be substituted the words "in the case of a man of six­sevenths, and in the case of a woman of four­fifths."

National Health Insurance Act, 1924—
Section 12 (6) - - - The words "two­ninths" shall be omitted, and after "there­of" there shall be inserted the words "which under the provisions of section four of this Act as amended by any subsequent enactment is required to be derived from moneys provided by Parliament."

Section 67 (1), as amended by paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Fourth Schedule to the Widows' Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925. The sums to be retained out of each weekly contribution shall be in the case of a man one penny and one-tenth of a penny instead of one penny, and in the case of a woman four-fifths of a penny instead of one penny and three-tenths of a penny.
Enactment to be amended. Amendment. A.D. 1926

National Health Insurance Act, 1924—cont.

The sums to be applied towards discharging the liabilities of the Minister to approved societies in respect of reserve values shall be in the case of a man seventeen-twentieths of a penny instead of one penny, and in the case of a woman eleven-twentieths of a penny instead of nine-tenths of a penny.

The sum to be carried to the Central Fund shall be in the case of both men and women one-sixteenth of a penny, and the sum to be carried to the Contingencies Fund shall be in the case of both men and women three-sixteenths of a penny.

Section 68 (1) — “One-fourth” shall be substituted for “one-eighth” in both places where those words occur.

PART II.

Section 5 (2) — “Threepence” shall be substituted for “twopence.”

Section 24 (2) (ii) — For “nine shillings and six-pence” there shall be substituted the words “such sum as may be specified by the Minister as representing the annual cost at the time of medical treatment and attendance (including drugs, medicines and appliances).”

Section 57 (1), as amended by paragraph 3 of Part I. of the Fourth Schedule to the Widows’, Orphans’ and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925.

The sum of threepence shall be substituted for the sum of threepence halfpenny as the sum to be paid to the Minister of Health by the Admiralty, the Army Council and the Air
Enactment to be amended. Amendment.

1ST. gen. National Health Insurance Act, 1924—

Section 58 (3) - - - "Sixpence" shall be substituted for "fivepence halfpenny."

Section 59 (1) (a) - - "Sixpence" shall be substituted for "fivepence halfpenny."

Section 59 (1) (e) (ii) - "One-seventh" shall be substituted for "two-ninths."

Section 62 (3) - - "Twopence halfpenny" shall be substituted for "twopence" and "three-fifths" shall be substituted for "three-sevenths."

SECOND SCHEDULE.

Rates of Contribution on which the Amount of the Contribution Payable under the Enactments relating to Unemployment Insurance out of Moneys provided by Parliament is to be calculated.

Ordinary Rates.

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<tr>
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In the case of Persons under eighteen.

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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>In respect of a girl</td>
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<td>2¼</td>
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In the case of Exempt Persons.

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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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THIRD SCHEDULE.

PART I.


The Representation of the People Act, 1918 (7 & 8 Geo. 5. c. 64).

10 Section 6 - The following section shall be substituted:

"The qualifying period shall be three months ending on the first day of June and including that day:

Provided that in the application of this section to a person who is a naval or military voter, or who has been serving as a member of the naval, military, or air forces of the Crown at any time during the said three months and has ceased so to serve, one month shall be substituted for three months as the qualifying period."

15 Section 7 - For the words "for part of the qualifying period not exceeding four months in the whole" there shall be substituted the words "for part of the qualifying period not exceeding two months in the whole, or where the occupation of the person giving the permission commenced more than six months before the first day of June, for not more than four months in the whole during that period of six months."

30 Section 43 - For paragraph (18) the following paragraph shall be substituted:

"(18) Notwithstanding anything in this Act it shall not be necessary as regards any county or any registration unit therein, if the county council of the county so resolve, to show or distinguish in any register other than the register in those years in which..."
The Representation of the People Act, 1918 (7 & 8 Geo. 5. c. 64).

Section 43—cont.

County council elections fall to be held the names of persons entitled to vote as local government electors:

Provided that—

(i) a resolution under this paragraph shall not have effect as respects the register in any year unless it is passed before the fifteenth day of May in that year;

(ii) for all the purposes of the registration of local government electors in any county or registration unit therein to which any such resolution applies, the last preceding local government register shall remain in force until a new local government register comes into force.

In this paragraph "county" means a county exclusive of any burgh within the meaning of the Town Councils (Scotland) Act, 1900.

The Representation of the People Act, 1921 (11 & 12 Geo. 5. c. 34).

Section 1 - After the words "qualifying period" there shall be inserted the words "not exceeding two months at any one time or if the residence commenced more than six months before the first day of June during a part of those six months."

PART II.

Amendments of the Ballot Act, 1872.

Section 2 - The words "at the time of voting" shall be omitted, and after the words "with an official mark and" there shall
Section 2—cont.

be inserted the words "at the time of voting shall be," and after the words "can be identified" there shall be inserted the words "or which was not duly issued."

Section 4

At the end the following proviso shall be inserted:—

"Provided that nothing in this section shall affect the powers of the Returning Officer under the rules in Schedule one to this Act to examine the numbers on the backs of ballot papers for the purpose of identifying and rejecting ballot papers not duly issued."

Schedule I., Part I.

In rule 20, the words "with instruments for stamping thereon the official mark" shall be omitted.

In rule 24, the word "Immediately" shall be omitted, and after the words "either stamped or perforated and" there shall be inserted the words "immediately before it is so delivered."

For rule 34, the following rule shall be substituted:—

"34.—(1) Before the returning officer proceeds to count the votes he shall, in the presence of the agents of the candidates, open each ballot box and, taking out the ballot papers therein, shall count and record the number thereof and verify the ballot paper account given by each presiding officer by comparing it with the number of ballot papers so recorded by him and the unused and spoilt ballot papers in his possession and the tendered votes list, and shall resell each sealed packet after examination. The returning officer shall thereupon mix together the whole of the ballot papers contained in the ballot boxes:

Provided that if, after counting and recording the number of ballot papers and verifying the number
Part I.—

recorded as aforesaid, the returning officer finds that there is a discrepancy between the number so recorded and the number stated in the ballot paper account and has reason to believe that the discrepancy has been caused by the insertion of ballot papers not duly issued, he may, before mixing the ballot papers together, examine the numbers printed on the backs of the ballot papers for the purpose of identifying and rejecting as invalid any ballot papers which have not been duly issued.

(2) The returning officer while counting and recording the number of ballot papers and verifying the number so recorded and counting the votes shall keep the ballot papers with their faces upwards and take all proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the numbers printed on the backs of such papers and shall, if he himself examines such numbers for the purpose aforesaid, take all proper precautions for preventing any other person from seeing such numbers during such examination.

In rule 36, after paragraph 4, the following paragraph shall be inserted:

“5. Not duly issued.”

At the end of rule 36 the following words shall be inserted: “he shall also report to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery the result of his verification of the ballot paper accounts, and shall, on request, allow any agents of the candidates, before such report is sent, to take copies of it.”

In rule 37 all the words from “but” shall proceed to the end of the rule shall be omitted.
### FOURTH SCHEDULE.

**Enactments Repealed.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session and Chapter</th>
<th>Short Title</th>
<th>Extent of Repeal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Edw. 7. c. 69.</td>
<td>The Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908.</td>
<td>Subsection (3) of section two hundred and thirty, sections two hundred and thirty-two and two hundred and thirty-four, and in subsection (3) of section two hundred and thirty-seven the words &quot;and to&quot; what account they are to &quot;be paid.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 &amp; 5 Geo. 5. c. 69.</td>
<td>The Bankruptcy Act, 1914.</td>
<td>Subsection (5) of section ninety-one, section ninety-one, in subsection (1) of section one hundred and thirty-three the words &quot;and to what account&quot; they shall be paid,&quot; and section one hundred and thirty-five.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 &amp; 13 Geo. 5. c. 7.</td>
<td>The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922.</td>
<td>Section two so far as unrepealed and Part II. of Schedule 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 &amp; 14 Geo. 5. c. 4.</td>
<td>The Fees (Increase) Act, 1923.</td>
<td>Section three.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 &amp; 15 Geo. 5. c. 38.</td>
<td>The National Health Insurance Act, 1924.</td>
<td>In paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section fifty-nine the words &quot;other than additional benefits&quot; as from the commencement of this Act; paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section sixty-nine as from the commencement of this Act; in subsection (5) of section seventy-six the words &quot;not exceeding one-half&quot; as from the commencement of this Act; subsection (2) of section eighty-three as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>15 &amp; 16 Geo. 5, c. 69.</td>
<td>The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1925.</td>
<td>Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section four (except in so far as it relates to the meaning of the expression &quot;the 1925 debt&quot;) as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-six; paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section four and Schedule 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 &amp; 16 Geo. 5, c. 70.</td>
<td>The Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925.</td>
<td>Paragraph 3 of Part I. of the Fourth Schedule as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven; and paragraphs 4 and 5 of the said Part I. as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-six.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions).

DRAFT OF A BILL

To make provision for the reduction of the charges on public funds in respect of certain services and to increase the funds available for meeting such charges by means of the payment out of certain funds into the Exchequer of certain sums and otherwise, and to amend accordingly the law relating to national health insurance, unemployment insurance, the registration of electors and the holding of elections, bankruptcy and companies winding-up fees and certain other fees, education and postmarks, and for purposes related or incidental to the matters aforesaid.

XXXII. (4.)

9th March 1926.