Mercantile Marine.

MADE BY THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE JOINT COMMITTEE AND THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR FOR NORTHERN IRELAND ACTING JOINTLY UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE WIDOWS', ORPHANS' AND OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1925 (15 AND 16 GEO. 5, C. 23), RELATING TO SEAMEN).

1926. No. 115.

The National Health Insurance Joint Committee and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland acting jointly in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by Section 17 of the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act (Northern Ireland), 1925 (15 and 16 Geo. 5, c. 23), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland and after consultation with the Board of Trade, hereby make the following Special Order :—

1. This Order may be cited as the Contributory Pensions (Mercantile Marine) Order (Northern Ireland), 1926, and shall have effect as from 4th January, 1926 ;

2.—(1) In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires :—

"The Pensions Act" means the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act (Northern Ireland), 1925 (15 & 16 Geo. 5, c. 23) ;

"The Insurance Act" means the National Health Insurance Act, 1924 (14 & 15 Geo. 5, c. 38) ;

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1921, applies to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament ;

3. In calculating for the purpose of paragraph (*b*) of Section 5 and paragraph (*c*) of Section 8 of the Pensions Act (but not of proviso (iii) to the last mentioned Section) the average number of contributions paid by or in respect of an insured person within the meaning of that Act, a contribution shall be deemed to have been paid in respect of every week or part of a week during which a seaman is being conveyed to a proper return port in accordance with the provisions of Section 32 or Section 34 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, or of the Regulations as to Distressed Seamen, dated 16th April, 1921 (S. R. & O. 1921, No. 642), made under Section 40 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906.

This Order having lain before both Houses of Parliament for 10 *days in accordance with Section* 4 (1) *of the Rules Publication Act* (*Northern Ireland*), 1925, *duly came into force.*

4. In the case of a master or seaman serving on a foreign-going ship, no account shall be taken for the purpose of calculating the period within which payment of a sum on account of a pension may be obtained of any period during which he is absent from Northern Ireland by reason of serving on such a ship and paragraph (*b*) of Section 22 of the Pensions Act shall apply accordingly.

5.—(1) If a master or seaman has served on a ship and is insured for the purposes of the Pensions Acts in respect of such service, he shall be deemed, for the purposes of Section 23 of the Pensions Act, to have been resident and employed in Northern Ireland during the period of such service ;

(2) Any such master or seaman as aforesaid shall be deemed for the purposes of the said Section to have been resident in Northern Ireland during any period not exceeding six months after his discharge at a port elsewhere than in Northern Ireland.

Given under the Official Seal of the National Health Insurance Joint Committee this 26th day of April, in the year One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six.

(L.S.) *W. F. Wackrill,*
Secretary to the National Health Insurance Joint Committee.

Given under the Official Seal of the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland this 26th day of April, in the year One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six.

(L.S.) *H. Conacher,*
Secretary, Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

Given under the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 26th day of April, in the year One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six.

(L.S.) *G. C. Duggan,*
Asst. Secretary, Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland.