CHAPTER 37.

An Act to provide for the dissolution of the Statutory Committee established under the Naval and Military War Pensions, &c., Act, 1915, and for the transfer of their powers, duties, and functions to the Minister of Pensions, and for purposes connected therewith.

[21st August 1917.]

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:

Dissolution of Statutory Committee.

5 & 6 Geo. 5. c. 83.

1. As from such date as may be fixed by His Majesty by Order in Council (hereinafter referred to as the appointed day), the Statutory Committee constituted by the Naval and Military War Pensions, &c., Act, 1915 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) shall be dissolved, and there shall be transferred to the Minister of Pensions all the powers, duties, and functions of the Statutory Committee except such as are by this Act transferred to the committee to be constituted under this Act, or as are conferred on the Statutory Committee by the provisions of the principal Act which are repealed by this Act, and the enactments relating to the powers, duties, and functions so transferred shall apply accordingly, subject to the following modifications:—

(i) References to separation allowances payable out of public funds shall be construed as references to separation allowances payable out of money voted by Parliament for navy and army services:

(ii) References to funds at the disposal of the Statutory Committee shall be construed as references to moneys provided by Parliament for the purposes of the Ministry of Pensions.

Constitution and powers of special grants committee.

2.—(1) The Minister of Pensions shall as soon as may be after the passing of this Act constitute for the purposes of this Act a committee, which shall be known as the special grants committee and shall consist of such number of persons, not being more than twelve, as the Minister shall determine.

(2) In appointing the members of the committee the Minister of Pensions shall have regard to the desirability of including among their number persons who have acquired special knowledge as members of the Statutory Committee, or of any sub-committee thereof, or of a local committee.

(3) As from the appointed date there shall be transferred to the special grants committee those functions of the Statutory Committee which are specified in paragraphs (*a*), (*b*), (*f*), (*g*) and (*h*) of subsection (1) of section three of the principal Act, and all questions which may arise with respect to the amount of any grant or allowance to be made under paragraphs (*c*), (*d*),

(*e*) or (*k*) of the said subsection shall stand referred to and be determined by the special grants committee.

(4) The special grants committee may, subject to the approval of the Minister of Pensions, make regulations with respect to their proceedings and the exercise of the functions transferred to them under this Act, and the power of the committee to make regulations under paragraph (*b*) of subsection (1) of section three of the principal Act shall be exercised subject to the approval of the Minister.

(5) The special grants committee shall render to the Minister of Pensions such information, advice, and assistance as he may require in connection with any matters arising under this Act.

Transfer of staff and funds.

3.—(1) As from the appointed day there shall be transferred and attached to the Ministry of Pensions the persons employed under the Statutory Committee in or about the execution of the functions of the Statutory Committee under the principal Act, and the Minister may from time to time assign to the several persons so transferred, in such manner as he thinks right, any of the business of the Minister, whether or not such business relates to the functions transferred to the Minister under this Act, and those officers shall perform such duties in relation to such business as may be directed by the Minister:

Provided that such persons shall while they continue in office be in no worse position as respects their tenure of office, salary, and superannuation allowances than they would have been had this Act not been passed.

(2) Out of the funds belonging to the Statutory Committee derived from or representing money provided by Parliament, there shall be transferred to a special account to be opened for the purpose, in accordance with directions to be given by the Treasury, to be called "the Ministry of Pensions (Special Grants) Account" (hereinafter referred to as "the special grants account") the sum of five hundred thousand pounds, and the balance of such funds shall be paid into the Exchequer.

(3) All other property belonging to the Statutory Committee shall be transferred to the Royal Patriotic Fund corporation, and shall be held and applied by them upon the trusts and for the purposes upon and for which it was held and applicable by the Statutory Committee.

Expenses and accounts of special grants committee.

4.—(1) The cost of any grants or allowances the amounts of which are under the provisions of this Act determined by the special grants committee shall so far as not defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament be defrayed out of the money standing to the credit of the special grants account.

(2) Payments out of and into the special grants account shall be made, and all other matters relating to the account and to the money standing to the credit of the account (including the investment of any such money), shall be regulated in such manner as the Treasury direct.

(3) At the end of every financial year, accounts of the payments into and the expenditure defrayed out of the special grants account shall be made up in such form and with such particulars as may be directed by the Treasury, and shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General as public accounts in accordance with such regulations as the Treasury may make, and shall be laid before Parliament with a report thereon.

Short title, repeal, and saving.

5.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Naval and Military War Pensions, &c. (Transfer of Powers), Act, 1917.

(2) The enactments mentioned in the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

(3) Nothing in this Act shall affect any schemes, regulations, orders, or grants made by the Statutory Committee, but all such schemes, regulations, and orders shall, until altered or revoked by the Minister of Pensions or by the special grants committee, with the approval of the Minister of Pensions, as the case may require, continue in force with this modification that references therein to the Statutory Committee shall be construed as references to the Minister of Pensions or the special grants committee, as the case may require, and any grants made by the Statutory Committee shall continue to be payable.

Section 5 (2).

SCHEDULE.

ENACTMENTS REPEALED.

Session and Chapter.	Short Title.	Extent of Repeal.
5 & 6 Geo. 5. c. 83.	The Naval and Military War Pensions, &c., Act, 1915.	Section one. Subsection (6) of section two. Paragraph (*i*) of subsection (1) of section three, and subsections (3), (4), (5), and (7) of the same section. Subsection (3) of section six.
6 & 7 Geo. 5. c. 4.	The Naval and Military War Pensions, &c. (Expenses) Act, 1916.	The whole Act, so far as unrepealed, but subject as respects section two to the proviso to subsection (3) of section ten of the Naval and Military War Pensions, &c. (Administration Expenses) Act, 1917.
6 & 7 Geo. 5. c. 65.	The Ministry of Pensions Act, 1916.	Section three.
7 & 8 Geo. 5. c. 14.	The Naval and Military War Pensions, &c. (Administration Expenses) Act, 1917.	Section two and section seven.