

C224682

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

1. In this paper, which has been prepared in the Treasury, the estimates of the United Kingdom Balance of Payments given in Cmd. 7324 (United Kingdom Balance of Payments, 1946 and 1947) have been revised and brought up to date. Provisional estimates for the first half of 1948 are included, and may be read in conjunction with the forecasts in the Economic Survey for 1948 (Cmd. 7344).

2. There are a number of additions and amplifications to the form of the tables in Cmd. 7324:

Table I, the current account with the whole world, shows details of imports divided into main classes. (The principal differences between the classification adopted here and in Table III, and the classification used in the Trade and Navigation Accounts are set out in the Notes to this table.) Under the heading of "Government overseas expenditure", normal expenditure (Item 2 (d)) has been separated from special transactions of a discontinuous nature (Item 2 (e)). An estimate of receipts from travel in the United Kingdom, business and private, is shown for the first time; as separation of tourist from business travel is impossible, the scope of the parallel entry on the payments side has been correspondingly enlarged to include business travel.

Table II is a new table which divides the current account summary among certain important geographical areas.

Table III is also new. It sets out expenditure on the main classes of imports by geographical areas.

Table IV is on the same basis as the capital account in Cmd. 7324, with minor changes.

Table V gives figures of the drain on gold and dollar resources, half yearly in 1946, and quarterly thereafter.

3. The notes appended to the tables are designed to indicate methods, amplify some of the figures in the tables and explain certain significant changes whose origin would not otherwise be clear.

The following symbols have been used:

... = Not available
— = Nil or negligible

16th September, 1948