

Associated with the immigration policy, and to assist in providing accommodation for workers, the Government has established numerous hostels in various districts. This policy has contributed materially in providing labour for essential industries. The Labour and Employment Department operates or is interested in twenty-seven camps and hostels, and a further ten camps or hostels are projected.

SOCIAL SECURITY FUND

The total expenditure from the Social Security Fund last year amounted to £42,997,000. Revenue of the Fund, apart from the transfers from Consolidated Fund, amounted to £29,437,000. The credit balance of the Fund at 31st March, 1949, was £8,682,000.

For the current year it is estimated that social security taxation will realize £31,600,000, and it is proposed to provide £12,000,000 from the Consolidated Fund. Including provision for increased benefits amounting to £1,800,000, the estimated expenditure from the Fund will amount to £46,224,000.

The following gives a summary of the anticipated receipts and payments of the Fund for the current year:—

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		£
Monetary benefits other than family benefits	22,260,000
Family benefits	14,800,000
Medical and hospital benefits	8,059,000
Administration expenses	793,000
Emergency benefits	312,000
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		£46,224,000
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ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		£
Social security charge	31,600,000
Miscellaneous receipts	36,000
Transfer from Consolidated Fund	12,000,000
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		£43,636,000
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Expenditure in excess of receipts will be met from the cash balance carried forward in the Fund last year.

Reciprocity of Social Security

Reciprocal arrangements with Australia for payments of social security benefits to persons who move from one country to the other were recently brought into operation.

Proposals for a reciprocal agreement with United Kingdom are under discussion, and it is hoped that negotiations can be completed in time for authorizing legislation to be passed this session. This agreement is to apply to age, universal superannuation, widows', and orphans' benefits.