

NOTES

REGINALD E. BEALES 1909–1980

Reg Beales died after a short illness on September 22, 1980, soon after his 71st birthday. He was chairman of the IARIW in 1975 and 1976 and a member of the Council from 1973 to 1978.

He started his working life in insurance and qualified as an actuary in 1934. He joined the Central Statistical Office in 1943, two years after it had been established. Among other things, he worked on statistical classifications and was the principal architect of the United Kingdom's first Standard Industrial Classification. Subsequently he was the U.K. representative on the U.N. group which established ISIC.

In 1949 he went to the Inland Revenue as a chief statistician and in 1952 became its Director of Statistics and Intelligence. In 1957 he returned to the CSO and for 15 years until his retirement was its Deputy Director.

Reg first became involved in national income accounting when he was at the Inland Revenue. He was especially concerned with the forecasting yields of taxes on income, and with the exploitation of tax data to provide estimates of personal and company sector incomes. His period of office covered the 1952–55 Royal Commission on Taxation and both here and in his services to the Board of Inland Revenue he was always impressive in his mastery of the complicated detail of the direct tax system.

When he returned to the CSO, in addition to certain general responsibilities, he became responsible for the national accounts. His main contribution to the work was his mastery of the details of the subject and his common sense approach to problems.

He was always very active in international statistical work and had many friends all over the world. He enjoyed very much the meetings of the Association and continued to take an active part in its activities after he had formally retired from the civil service. He was particularly pleased to have taken the lead in organising the Income and Wealth Conference at York in 1977.

Reg Beales served on the Council of the Royal Statistical Society from 1965 to 1969 and was a vice-president in 1967/68. He was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1961.