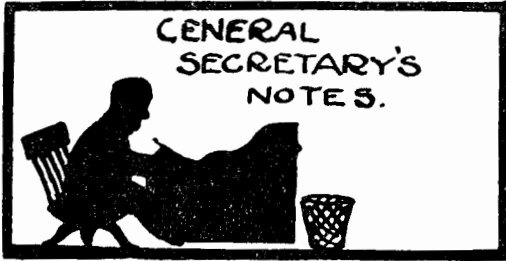


The Customs Journal.

No. 571.

September 11th, 1926.

Fortnightly.



Communications relative to this column should be addressed to Mr. J. Merron, 167, Clive Road, West Dulwich, London, S.E.21.

Before these notes go into print I expect to be taking my ease at a small out-of-the-way village in the wilds of Lincolnshire. This fact will be the only excuse for any omission of important or up-to-date items of news.

There is one very interesting Civil Service event which, to my regret, I shall be unable to comment upon, and that is the cricket match between the Australians and the Civil Service. At the moment of writing, the weather is enough to make any cricket enthusiast feel gloomy, and one can well imagine the anxiety of those who have set their hearts on being present at Chiswick on the great day.

* * * *

The Waterguard Department, having produced a man of Jack Booker's talent on the football field, had great hopes of providing the C.S. cricket team with a player in this match. These hopes have now been fully realised, and members will no doubt have read of the doughty performance of Tom Knights. Mr. Knights has, by the way, been recently promoted to P.O. at Newhaven.

* * * *

Apropos my recent reference to the slackness of trade in the coal ports, and the consequent reduction of Waterguard attendance at these places, correspondents inform me that the fall-

ing off in trade at coal ports is amply compensated by greatly increased trade at other ports, resulting from the lock-out of the miners. The ports referred to are those where foreign coal is imported, and there is plenty of evidence to show that in many cases Waterguard staffs are working at high pressure.

My correspondents make the complaint that the authorities have not displayed the same anxiety to adjust staffing arrangements at these overworked centres as they did in regard to places where the staff could be cut down.

This may be quite true, but I am sure gentlemen who have written to me would be both startled and surprised had a questionnaire been sent out to the various ports concerned asking if the normal staff could cope with the abnormal work. That kind of thing is simply not done.

Regarding reduced attendances, I think the Waterguard representatives on the local Staff Sides are to be congratulated on their spirit of sweet reasonableness.

Without exception, they heroically looked facts in the face and admitted Official Side arguments.

What we must not lose sight of, however, is that there is no reason to believe that the Official Side would not be equally just to any arguments put forward by the Staff Side regarding the places where work has increased. The only fault to be found with the powers that be is that they are not over-anxious to hunt for such arguments. In any case, local Staff Sides can always save them that trouble by supplying the necessary evidence. The proper course of action is very obvious.

* * * *

I hear that in Glasgow there is little chance for an A.P.O. to acquire practical knowledge of P.O.'s work, because "acting duty" is a thing almost unknown. Apparently it is the practice to overcome any temporary scarcity of P.O.'s by the simple process of extending the

normal size of the stations. I have heard so many growls of discontent from various correspondents in this quarter that I begin to wonder when the local Staff Side representatives will be able to do something.

I am sure the matter could easily be adjusted by discussion across the Whitley table.

* * * *

The expected drop in cost-of-living bonus has come at last. We lose two twenty-sixths of the original bonus, and this is equivalent to one-eighth of the actual bonus. The bonus now payable is based on the index figure, 70.

The figures for the last six months are: 72, 68, 67, 68, 70, 70—giving an average of 69.

One effect of the reduction is that more A.P.O.'s will be brought within the scope of compulsory insurance. It is also worthy of note that the minimum salary of a P.O. is now below £250, including bonus.

* * * *

I have just received a very interesting and attractive booklet from the Civil Service Housing Association. Any member contemplating either buying or selling a house should be in possession of a copy. Members desiring to be supplied should send their names to me.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH WALES.

A District Meeting was held at the Old Arcade Hotel, Cardiff, on August 26th, with Mr. G. A. Warne in the chair.

The two Councillors, Messrs. G. E. N. Griffiths and A. W. Densley, were present, and gave a report on their work at the recent Conference. Their explanations of the important matters discussed were very lucid, and were followed by considerable discussion. The question of the seniority of ex-Boy Messengers who entered the Service during the period 1919—1922 occupied considerable time.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Councillors.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Association officers and members are asked to note the change of address of Mr. C. H. Goodliffe, District Organising Secretary of the South Wales Area. Future communications should be addressed: "Brynmor," 77, Penhwad Street, Grange, Cardiff.

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AND FURTHER EDUCATION.

We have before us the hand-book of the L.C.C. containing particulars of classes in connection with the Civil Service Council for Further Education. The classes begin on Monday September 27th. The institutes maintained by the L.C.C. which are situated in the vicinity of the Whitehall area, provide instruction in all subjects likely to be of service to public servants, whatever position they are filling or may be called upon to fill. The classes are held in buildings in the immediate neighbourhood; they may be held in the offices of the Government department itself, if more convenient to a number of students sufficient to justify the formation of a special class for any section. If required, day classes can be conducted for night workers in Government departments at H.M. Stationery Office, Prince's Street, S.W.1 (next to the Westminster Hospital), at G.P.O. North, and other centres. Times are arranged to suit the requirements of students, but usually the classes commence at times varying from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m.

The curriculum is divided into three sections:—

- 1.—Commercial and Professional;
- 2.—Literary and Cultural;
- 3.—Courses organised for women only.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Heads of the Institutes, or of the Secretary of the Civil Service Educational Council, Mr. A. C. Winyard, Civil Service Educational Council, Civil Service Commission, Burlington Garden, W.1, or Parliament Mansions, Victoria St., S.W.1 (telephone No., Victoria 3073).

VOCATIONAL DEPARTMENTAL EDUCATION.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

In conforming strictly to constitutional procedure, the operation of the much-talked-of and long-looked-for scheme of tutorage has suffered considerable delay, but much as we deplore the hold-up at this juncture, the feeling of disappointment shared by the instigators will be greatly intensified should the scheme lose any of its popularity by this unforeseen eventuality.

At long last the word "Go" has gone forth, and the London Branch has been asked to put the scheme into operation. In order to clear the air of any misunderstanding, I had better explain that instructions given to the London Branch prior to this have only been in the nature of exploration of ways and means, and it is only now that the result of these explorations have been adopted by the country, that the London Branch can get down to the real business of the selection of the four officers who will comprise the Central Control Committee, i.e., three experts on the Regulations and a Secretary. In the hands of these worthy gentlemen will rest the make or break of the scheme that offers solution to one of the most important problems the P.S.A. has had to face.

I intend refreshing the memory of members on the details of the scheme by publishing the Report of the London Branch (adopted by the Executive and the Council):—

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

Terms of Reference.

"To explore the possibilities and, if practicable, submit a scheme for the operation, of Vocational Education in the Waterguard Service."

This Sub-Committee, having obtained the views and statistics of each District, and generally explored to the full the possibility of initiating a scheme of Vocational Education in the Waterguard Service, is of the opinion:—

That there exists a growing demand for this type of education.

That the proper application of such a scheme would mean increased status and efficiency of the Service.

That in the initial stages, attention should be confined to the education of Asst. Preventive Officers for Preventive Officer-ships.

That a centralised control operated under the Board's recognition, would reduce to a minimum the contentious and enigmatical parts of the Regulations.

That the Executive Committee should take immediate steps to secure such recognition.

Scheme.

The following is submitted as a basic scheme:—

1.—To confine immediate attention to a system of correspondence classes.

2.—To institute three successive courses—Preliminary, Intermediate, and Advanced. The difference between the courses to be decided by the type and numbers of questions set per quarter.

3.—To make a fixed fee for each course, viz.,
 Preliminary ... 5/0 per quarter.
 Intermediate ... 12/6 per quarter.
 Advanced ... 20/0 per quarter.

(A percentage of each fee to be deducted to defray expenses of the Central Committee.)

4.—The number of tutors to be at least eight.

5.—To allocate to tutors sufficient pupils to ensure them, as far as practicable, equal remuneration.

6.—The Central Committee in London to be composed of four persons, who shall be elected by the Council from nominees submitted by the London Branch. Two members to retire annually and be eligible for re-election.

7.—The Central Committee to draw up, have printed and sent to tutors a set of questions for each course, periodically.

8.—The tutors to distribute, receive back, check and reply to papers in direct communication with the pupil, the pupil bearing the cost of postage each way.

9.—The tutor to be the only medium between the Central Committee and the pupil.

10.—The tutor to seek rulings on all contentious points from the Central Committee, which in turn will reply with authoritative answers.

11.—All applications from prospective pupils to be made to the Secretary of the Central Committee, accompanied with the relative fee.

12.—The Central Committee to be responsible to the E.C., which will have full control of all phases of the scheme, including finances. The Secretary to prepare a financial statement each quarter and submit same, accompanied by a report, to the E.C.

13.—The Central Committee will at all times expect the hearty co-operation of the tutors in the framing of questions.

Recommendations.

The Committee has fully considered all suggestions submitted, and now makes the following recommendations for the guidance of the Central Committee:—

The scheme should commence operation immediately.

The tutors should be asked to forward question papers already in their possession, for the inauguration of the scheme.

The Central Committee should explore the possibilities of "special" courses and the interchanging of pupils with tutors.

Arrangements should be made for oral classes to be held where the number of advanced pupils would justify.

A preliminary pamphlet should be issued, as soon as possible, in order to stimulate interest in the project, utilising the "Customs Journal" as a medium of circulation.

An instructional pamphlet should be drawn up and issued to each pupil on enrolment—to guide him on his future studies.

A register of pupils of each course should be kept.

Only those officers who are members of this Association should be allowed to participate.

In order to place the scheme on a sound financial footing, the Association should favourably consider making a loan when necessary.

The E.C. recommends to the Council that, after deducting 16 per cent. from the incoming fees, 84 per cent. should be equally divided between the members of the Central Committee and the tutor.

* * * *

A word to the London members. You have the honour, and, with the honour, the responsibility of selecting the Central Control Committee. Do this job well, and you will be doing a service to the Waterguard that will never be forgotten, and you will earn the gratitude not only of the present members, but of future entrants.

And a final word to all members, more especially A.P.O.'s. Give this project every ounce of support. Even if the scheme does not meet you at every point, do not turn it down. Remember that we must go slow at the start. No scheme could be formulated that would not bear improvement.

Support this—make it go—and what it is now (just a scheme) will assuredly become an institution.

W. H. POWELL.



To those who are forced for various reasons to take their annual holiday at a period when a summer holiday is out of the question, a booklet, lately received, offers suggestions which, to say the least, are attractive. We are often greeted during the summer months with the slogan "See your own country first." In the winter, however, although the attractions of our own country are undoubted, the balance certainly does rise somewhat in favour of visits abroad, and the Civil Service Travel Association is not behindhand in suggesting tours during the autumn and winter to such places as the Riviera, Genoa, Rome, Florence and Venice. Among the number of suggestions in the booklet is the one referring to the Winter Sports in Switzerland. A thirteen days' tour to Chamonix, at the foot of Mont Blanc, is announced to commence on Tuesday, December 21st, Friday, December 31st, and Tuesday, January 11th next at a cost of eleven guineas. The booking deposit of 5s. (first instalment of the fare) should be sent to the Secretary, Civil Service Travel Association, 6, Endsleigh Gardens, London, W.C.1, and we have no doubt that a card sent to the same address will secure the booklet mentioned.

* * * *

It was agreed by the Councillors at the Conference that the utility of the "C.J." would be greatly enhanced if each District had its own particular correspondent, and we take this opportunity of making it generally known that this is the wish of the Council. We would suggest that each District Secretary places this matter upon the agenda of the next meeting he calls, and that the meeting proceeds to elect an official correspondent, who will keep the "C.J." posted with all items of news, important and unimportant alike. It is well known that full use has never yet been made of our journal by the members of the Association generally, but a greater opportunity is afforded if items of interest could be handed to a local colleague for transmission, instead of to an unknown person who might be an ogre shaped more like a blue pencil than anything else. Still, be it known that we are quite human, and even make mistakes sometimes.

* * * *

Now that we are approaching autumn, readers can reasonably expect to see these pages begin to swell. Our girth is generally on the

small side during the summer, and the reason is not far to seek. The recent Conference, however, with the big programme it had to get through, has provided material enough for much serious thought, and there is plenty of work to get through during the coming months.

* * * *

The General Secretary, after his return from a well earned and much needed rest, will find his recuperated strength taxed fairly heavily. The increased efficiency of a machine calls for better quality in output as well as quantity; and there is no doubt that the P.S.A. is a more important organisation than ever it was. We have got to bear in mind that efficiency must not stop at headquarters, but must be reflected in each District, for of what use is the head if all the limbs are weak?



All contributions relative to this column should be addressed to "Scrutator," c/o The Editor, 91, Tressillian Road, Brockley, London, S.E.4.

Answers to questions given at Examination held on February 9th, 1926, Second Paper—

Question.

Question 4.—A passenger produces 5 packages of effects for examination, declaring and producing—

- ¾ lb. Cigarettes,
- 2 bottles of Perfumed Spirits, each .04 gall.,
- 6 pairs of Silk Stockings, valued at 10s. per pair.

In a package selected for examination you discover concealed among clothing—

- 7/16 lb. Tobacco, other sorts, and
- 3 bottles of Perfumed Spirits, each .03 gall.

He admits concealing the goods, and requests you to deal with the case. Describe your action and state the amount the passenger would be required to pay.

Answer.

Answer 4.—Thoroughly examine the whole of the effects. Allow delivery of the goods produced on payment of duty, or the owner may

abandon them. Detain the goods found concealed and offer the passenger the option of prosecution before a magistrate or of making a deposit of treble duty-paid value respecting the goods found concealed. The amounts required would be as follows—

(a) For delivery of goods produced—

¾ lb. Cigarettes at 12/7 per lb	..	£0 9 5
¾/100 gall. Perfumed Spirits at 123/5		0 9 10
*6 pairs Silk Stockings at 3/4 per pair		1 0 0

Duty required £1 19 3
 *See G.O. 55-1926 as to present Regulations of assessing this duty.

(b) Deposit required in lieu of legal proceedings—

7/16 lb. of O.S. Tobacco at 10/4½ duty and 1/6 value	£0 5 1
9/100 gall. Perfumed Spirits at 123/5 duty and 17/3 value	0 12 7
		£0 17 8
		3

Amount of Deposit £2 13 0

Full particulars are reported to the Board on Form 458.

SCRUTATOR.

APPEAL FOR Mr. J. BRAZIER, A.P.O., of Londonderry.

The following additional donations have been received since the last return—

Previously acknowledged	£42 5 6
Poole	0 10 0
Silloth	0 3 0
Montrose	0 2 6
Bristol, Avonmouth, Bridgwater, and Burnham	1 3 0
West Hartlepool	0 9 6
Middlesbrough and Stockton	0 10 0
Greenock	0 17 0
Bowling	0 2 0
Methil	0 15 6
Cardiff	0 5 6
Hull	0 13 6
Immingham	1 1 0
Appledore	0 3 0
Barnstaple	0 1 0
Yarmouth	0 15 6

Total 49 17 6
 Deductions re postage, etc. 0 5 1

Total paid to Mr. Brazier ... £49 12 5

The Committee wish to tender their thanks to all for their generous response to this appeal.

- E. M. PLOWMAN, P.O.,
- J. J. MURRAY, A.P.O.,
- P. A. RICHARDSON, A.P.O., Treas.

FIRST WINNERS OF THE TUG-OF-WAR CHALLENGE CUP.



Reading from left to right.—Back Row: Messrs. †D. J. Ferguson, M. J. Sullivan (trainer), J. Merron, W. H. Johnson. Middle Row: Messrs. †D. J. Brown, †R. A. Stocker, C. E. Egan (President, C.P.O. Association), †R. J. Steers. Front Row: Messrs. †D. J. Dowden, †R. Holderness. (†Members of the Team.)

RETIREMENT AT HULL.

A pleasing function took place at "The Lord Collingwood," on August 20th, when Mr. Butler (late P.O. at Hull) was presented with a handsome mahogany clock, sounding Westminster chimes, by his late colleagues at that port. A concert, arranged to mark the occasion, was appreciated and enjoyed by all who attended, the talent displayed being of a very high order.

Many fine tributes were paid to Mr. Butler, who deeply appreciated the esteem and goodwill extended towards him on his retirement from the Service.

IS IT COMING TO THIS?

A diminutive youngster had become separated from its mother in a crowd, and had in due course come under the care of a friendly policeman (policemen are generally called friendly in such circumstances).

"What's your name?" said the man in blue.

"Dunno," was the reply.

"Where do you live?"

"Dunno."

"Why didn't you keep hold of your mother's skirt?"

"Couldn't reach it."

THE HEALEY FUND.

The following statement has been sent to us for the information of subscribers to this fund:—

London District,
August 25th, 1926.

Gentlemen,—We, the undersigned members of the Committee of the Healey Fund, beg to publish hereunder a statement of account and the manner of the disbursement thereof:—

Wreath	£0 10 0
7 weeks at £2 per week	14 0 0
22 weeks at £1/10/0 per week	33 0 0
1 week at £1	1 0 0
Christmas Hamper of provisions, toys for children, 1 ton of coal	8 0 3
11 weeks at £1/10/0 per week	16 10 0
Balance—1 week at 8/-	0 8 0
	£73 8 3

Amount subscribed—£73/8/3.

- A. N. LAKE, P.O.
- W. H. ALMOND, A.P.O.
- W. J. HARTSHORN, Launch Service.

In connection with this fund, we have also received a letter from Mrs. Healey, in which she expresses the heartfelt thanks of herself and her children for the great kindness that has been afforded them in their great loss. This is addressed to all the friends throughout the United Kingdom who came to their assistance.

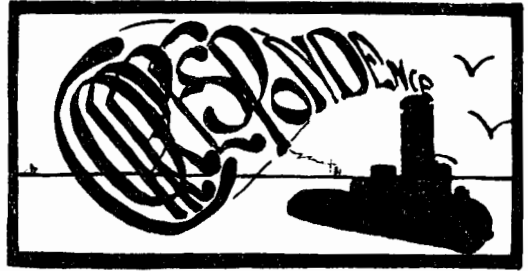
We are sure, also, that the subscribers themselves must feel gratified with the able manner in which the above committee has dealt with the trust committed to their charge, and with the painstaking method they adopted.

PRESENTATION AT DOUGLAS.

At the Custom House, Douglas, on August 25th, Mr. J. Costain, P.O., was presented with a handsome barometer to mark the occasion of his retirement from the Customs and Excise Service after a period of thirty-five years. The Collector, Mr. Gray, R.N.R., presided, and, after eulogising the good qualities of the recipient, hoped that Mr. Costain would be spared many years of well-earned contentment. He then presented the gift, Messrs. Atwill, Hickson, Bing, Mills and Blackburn having spoken in similar terms.

Mr. Costain expressed his thanks for the kindly references and handsome present, and gave a few experiences and anecdotes of his long service.

Prior to entering our Service, Mr. Costain was attached to the Manx Police.



The name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication) should be given in all letters to the Editor, who accepts no responsibility for the views expressed.

A.P.O. SENIORITY.

Sir,—With regard to the ballot forms that were distributed during the last week, apparently the ex-Service men will soon be quite happy with their settled seniority. The ex-Service men will include those men who joined from 1919 to 1922, but, whichever way the ballot goes, might I ask where the ex-Boy Messengers of 1920 to 1922 will eventually come on the seniority list? From the wording of the ballot paper heading, these men would seem to have no interest in the matter, but it would hardly seem fair for a 1922 ex-Service man to take seniority over a 1920 Messenger and omit to give the Messenger the right to cast a vote in a matter which really does affect him. Trusting that something can yet be done,—Yours, etc.,

Ex-B.M.

CRICKET.

CIVIL SERVICE TEAM ENTERTAINS THE AUSTRALIANS.

The Chiswick ground of the Civil Service was the scene on Saturday and Monday last of an event that has been looked forward to in Civil Service circles for some time past, when a team selected from the Service met the Australian eleven. The weather was not too unkind, and there was a good attendance of spectators to watch the match. An added interest was the fact that the rival captains were brothers.

The Civil Service side won the toss and decided to put the Australians in to bat first. Whether this was a wise decision or no is a point upon which opinions differ, but at the close of play on the Saturday the Colonials were 440 up for the loss of 7 wickets. On the Monday they brought their score up to 454 for no further loss, and declared.

It is just possible that the C.S. side over-estimated the powers of their opponents, for their reply was out of all proportion to the score that had been set up for them to beat, the side being all out for 59. However, on following on they showed up to much better advantage, and collected a total of 93 for 3 wickets before stumps were drawn.

We are glad to mention that the Water-guard was represented in the person of Mr. T. J. Knights, who is a member of the staff in London.

Australians.—First Innings.

W. M. Woodfull, b Chapman	43
J. L. Ellis, c Sharland, b Chapman	8
J. M. Taylor, c sub, b Musson	201
H. L. Collins, lbw, b Cook	27
H. L. Hendry, retired hurt	5
J. Ryder, b Knights	26
A. J. Richardson, b Knights	1
W. H. Ponsford, lbw, b Chapman	7
S. G. Everett, not out	100
C. V. Grimmett, not out	11
Extras	25

Total (7 wickets, declared) 454

Bowling.—Chapman, 3 for 101; Sharland, 0 for 96; Webb, 0 for 17; Knight, 2 for 76; Cook, 1 for 49; Musson, 1 for 90.

* * * *

Civil Service.

First Innings.

W. T. Cook, c Everett, b Richardson	3
A. E. S. Rippon, b Everett	7
F. W. Musson, lbw, b Richardson	0
E. H. Bennett, c Ponsford, b Collins	19
W. L. T. Webb, run out	6
J. Tasker, c Everett, b Collins	4
R. S. Collins, c Ponsford, b H. L. Collins	5
A. P. Sharland, st Ellis, b Collins	1
T. J. Knights, b Collins	0
A. G. Chapman, not out	0
A. Ross, c Ponsford, b Collins	2
Extras	12

Total 59

Second Innings.

W. T. Cook, c Ryder, b Collins	38
A. E. S. Rippon, c Collins, b Richardson	2
F. W. Musson, c Grimmett, b Collins	34
J. Tasker, not out	5
A. P. Sharland, not out	6
Extras	8

Total (3 wickets) 93

Bowling.—First Innings: Everett, 1 for 8; Richardson, 2 for 20; Collins, 6 for 17; Mailey, 0 for 2. Second Innings: Ryder, 0 for 9; Richardson, 1 for 21; Everett, 0 for 15; Mailey, 0 for 17; Collins, 2 for 23.

Customs and Excise Orphans', Widows' and War Memorial Fund.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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Exceeding £100 and not exceeding £160	5/-
„ £160	£350 „ 10/-
„ £350	£500 „ 15/-
„ £500 per annum	20/-

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