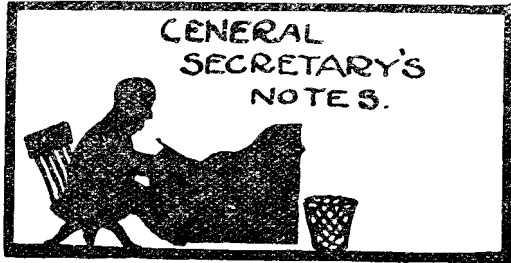


The Customs Journal.

No. 569.

August 14th, 1926.

Fortnightly.



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

The last issue of the "Journal" had a decided sparkle about it which was a marked contrast to what we have experienced lately. This improvement was caused by the fact that a few energetic gentlemen decided to entertain us with interesting contributions. One cannot but admire the industry and public spirit of the man who, anonymous, and perhaps exiled in some remote part of the kingdom, sets himself the task of writing constructive and entertaining articles for the good of the cause.

It requires much enthusiasm to sacrifice leisure hours for this purpose, and all honour is due to the men who are so enthusiastic.

We have reached a stage in Waterguard progress where a live "Journal" is more necessary than ever it has been. The work of the Department is developing rapidly, and it is urgent that the columns of the "Journal" should reflect the important truth that we are quite able to operate successfully in any sphere to which that development will eventually bring us.

There are many in our ranks well qualified to assist in attaining this object. The material to work upon is ample, and there are few things more wealthy in subject matter of universal interest than active Waterguard life, with its ever changing scene of action and variety of experience.

It must be admitted that the dearth of regular contributors to the "Journal" is due to the fact that we are not so fortunately circumstanced as most people. Unsettled hours, and the enervating effect of the ever-recurring night watch, are responsible to a great extent. Nominally we have a 48-hour week, but in effect we work many more hours than other established Civil Servants before we can obtain anything like adequate remuneration. Also, we are not favoured with special consideration in respect

of the devitalising results of night work. We are thus unique amongst the general run of night workers, who usually are allowed rest days. Nor is this deficiency compensated for by increased annual holidays—even weekly half-holidays are extremely rare. For some unfathomable reason the Waterguard Officer, though he suffers abnormal wear and tear on both bodily and mental powers, does not have as long a period of annual leave as is enjoyed by officials on similar salary scales and occupied on work enabling a regular and well-ordered mode of existence.

With these conditions it is not altogether surprising that our members seem to lack time and energy to spend on expressing themselves in the "Journal" columns. It cannot be too strongly pointed out, however, that only determined effort will improve those conditions—and the effort must be directed towards demonstrating that we are worthy of the things to which we aspire.

* * * *

General Order 55/1926, which came into effect on August 1st is, practically speaking, a Waterguard Order. It has had a fair amount of criticism, but that, of course, is inevitable in the case of regulations dealing with silk and lace duties. In actual practice it is now necessary to weigh all silk articles imported for duty by passengers, whether it is elected to pay by weight or ad valorem. In view of the objection of many passengers to having their goods handled more than is absolutely necessary, one can expect that officers employed on baggage duty will have to excel themselves in diplomacy when dealing with people who insist on paying any rate of duty in order to obviate the weighing process.

The Waterguard has proved itself well able to cope with all the awkward situations that have arisen in connection with these new duties, and there is no doubt that the latest regulations will be applied as skilfully as have the others.

G.O. 55 implies the possession of a great deal of initiative by those who have to apply the regulations contained therein, and one cannot help wondering what kind of a sensation would have been created by the issue of a similar Order twenty years ago. We have, indeed, made long and rapid strides.

* * * *

The coalowners show no signs of terminating the lock-out of the miners, and the men do not seem disposed to agree to the conditions under which the owners would allow them to return to work, and so the trouble continues.

It seems curious to find the miners' leaders, who have been pilloried as blackguards and rogues, negotiating with eminent representatives of the churches, and even coming to agreement with them. It's a topsy-turvy world where this can happen. It was only to be expected that the churches would be told to mind their own business. The whole affair brings to mind Samuel Butler's famous satire "Erewhon."

The situation is having a disastrous effect on numerous wage-earners, and Waterguard Officers are included amongst them. In the coal ports slackness of work has been followed by curtailed staffs, and the loss in overtime is considerable. Loss of overtime is, to a Waterguard Officer, tantamount to a reduction in salary. Many officers are finding it something of a struggle to subsist on bare salary and are anxiously looking forward to a settlement of the dispute. Let us hope, even from selfish motives, that a sane agreement will soon be reached.

* * * *

Evidently the Government is so pre-occupied with industrial affairs outside the Service that it is not disposed to give too much time to Civil Service grievances. The Premier has, in fact, intimated that he is too busy to receive a deputation from the N.S. Side in connection with Arbitration and the misapplication by Departments of National Agreements.

There has also been much delay in clearing up the question of border line cases in connection with the re-assessment of war bonus. The suggested arbitration tribunal has not yet materialised.

* * * *

As several members will be awaiting news regarding Earmarked Appointments, I am able to state that the N.S. Side has sent a letter to their solicitors outlining special cases and asking for advice. Further information will be made available as early as possible.

* * * *

In view of the statement by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons regarding C.S. Associations, it is necessary to assure members that the P.S.A. was not urged to contribute to the strikers' fund during the General Strike. Nor was it suggested in any way that this Association should take any part in the struggle.

The P.S.A. is governed by its own Constitution, and is too busy with its own affairs to meddle in other people's. Unpleasant rumours should be reported to Headquarters, when suitable action will be taken.

* * * *

The Assistant Secretary tells me that there are still a large number of members to whom he supplied Staff Annuals, who have not yet forwarded the necessary cash settlement. In passing, I might mention that this is a private transaction, Mr. Powell having offered to handle these annuals when the P.S.A. decided not to order large numbers.

At the time of going to press I received two very sad items of news.

I am sure all those members who have benefited from the expert tuition of Mr. Herrington will join with the Council and other friends in extending to Mr. Herrington their sincerest heartfelt sympathies in his recent bereavement: the death of his wife.

The other item may appear to affect Liverpool only, but I am certain that the unexpected and equally regrettable death of an old social worker and Association well-wisher like Mr. J. Lee, P.O., of Liverpool, will be very widely felt.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

NEWPORT (MON.).

The second quarterly meeting for the year 1926 was held at the Queen's Hotel on July 23rd, with Mr. Cattell in the chair.

The matter of Association subscriptions was gone into, and a proposition for a reduction was put forward, followed by an amendment that no action be taken. It was argued that 6s. 6d. per member per quarter should bring in a sum much more than sufficient for the needs of the Association. A member suggested that no economy was attempted as shown by the fact that new offices had been acquired and yet the Conference was held at a hotel. The Councillor present replied by producing the balance sheet, and showing how that each item of expenditure was necessary and cut to a minimum, leaving only a balance of about £30 on last year's working. This made it impossible to cut the rate of subscription. He stated that all Committees were held in the new offices, which were, however, not large enough to accommodate the Council.

Mr. Griffiths also gave a brief report on the Conference.

Several matters of local interest were dealt with, the meeting closing at 10 p.m.

GLASGOW.

A district meeting was held at Mavisbank on July 7th, 1926. Mr. E. Robbins presided over a none too large attendance of members.

Much discussion arose over business arising from the minutes, and several questions were referred back for further consideration, as the replies to local grievances were rather vague.

The agenda for the annual Conference was read and keenly commented upon, and a resolution was passed to the effect that A.P.O.'s should be allowed to sit for examination for promotion to the rank of Preventive Officer at six years' service, successful candidates to retain their seniority and be appointed as vacancies occur.

It was urged that suitable action should be taken to ensure the issue of uniform when due.

Mr. J. Watters was appointed as one of the Whitley representatives vice Mr. M. Garvie, who has transferred to Lerwick.

C. & E. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.

The seventy-sixth meeting of the Council was held in London on July 28th, 1926, the chair being taken by Sir H. P. Hamilton, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

DISTURBANCE ALLOWANCE.

The Committee disagreement on this issue was now confirmed by the Council, the Official Side being unable to accept or consider further the Staff Side's modification of the original claim applying it only to men of seven years' actual or presumed service.

POSSIBLE REDUNDANCY OF STAFF.

There was nothing further to report at this stage and the matter was re-adjourned.

SENIORITY.

The Council adopted the report of the Special Committee appointed to consider and report on the position to be assigned on the seniority lists of the Headquarters establishment to the Executive Officers transferred from the National Health Insurance Audit Department.

FIXED OFFICIATORS.

The Staff Side having called attention to the delay in filling vacancies under the extended scheme, the Official Side stated that it was the desire to fill them if at all practicable. The matter was receiving close attention, and the decision would be conveyed to the Staff Side at the earliest possible moment.

Further centres for appointment of fixed officers were agreed upon on Local Committee reports.

EXTRA REMUNERATION.

The Official Side expressed their inability to accede to the proposed extension of the terms of reference to include reduction as well as cancellation of O.A.P. extra remuneration owing to assistance rendered to a successor in a Station. The Outdoor Service Sectional Committee will therefore consider the rates payable in exceptional cases in the latter category only.

SUGGESTIONS.

A further schedule of suggestions which had been forwarded to the Council by the Board, with an account of action taken in each instance, was noted.

AGENCY SERVICES.

The Staff Side alluded to movements and information possibly indicative of the Northern Irish Government's intention to take over the Agency Services, and were informed by the

Official Side that any fears on the subject were premature. Preliminary enquiries had been made, but the whole matter was in a very early stage. The final decision would rest with the Northern Irish Government, but the Staff Side would be consulted before any action was taken in regard to the staff.

OTHER MATTERS.

A number of Local and Office Committee decisions were considered, with results that have been communicated to the Committees concerned.

The Staff Side took the opportunity of welcoming Mr. E. A. Harris to the Council, as Chief Inspector, and expressed regret at the loss to the Department and the Council at the retirement of Sir J. Browning, the former Chief Inspector, and Mr. Bater, who simultaneously retired from the post of Deputy Chief Inspector. The Official Side entirely associated themselves with the welcome to Mr. Harris and the tribute paid to Sir J. Browning and Mr. Bater, who would both, they believed, greatly appreciate the message from the Council.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on September 22nd, 1926.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, July 26th, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. W. H. James presided over an attendance of twenty-eight.

On the motion of the Chairman, the Executive Committee passed a vote of sympathy and condolence with the Publicity Officer, Mr. Charles Watney, on the death of his wife.

It was reported that, in regard to the order issued by the Director General of the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, that entries should be made in the qualification returns of employees that they volunteered for emergency duties during the industrial crisis, a further order has now been issued cancelling the previous order and the entries which had been made under it in the qualification returns of employees.

Notifications were received that Mr. A. J. Cowherd and Mr. A. J. Ellis had been appointed as members of the Executive Committee, representing the Customs and Excise and Ministry of Labour Groups respectively, in room of Mr. R. L. Elkington and Mr. W. Edward Thomas, resigned. Mr. Cowherd and Mr. Ellis were also appointed as members of the Finance and Organisation Committee.

A request was received from the Civil Service Equal Pay Committee for the views of the

Executive Committee on the subject of taking the case for equal pay to the Arbitration Court, and it was agreed that this matter be referred to the General Purposes Committee for consideration and report.

A communication was received from the Engineers' Association of H.M. Office of Works stating that the Board of the Department had now made an offer to the Assistant Engineers, upon whose case the Confederation had advised, and that the Association proposed to accept this offer.

At the request of the Customs and Excise Federation it was agreed to urge the National Staff Side to make every effort to expedite the securing of an improvement in the present basis of the payment of lodging allowances.

On the subject of Sick Pay for Unestablished Classes, a letter was read from the Treasury declining to receive a deputation in regard to the claims of those Departmental Classes to whom the grant of sick pay privileges has so far not been extended. This letter was referred to the Special Committee of the Confederation on Sick Pay for Unestablished Classes for consideration, and with power to take action.

The question of the claim for the increase of the Retiring Gratuity to Unestablished Classes, on which proposals were forwarded by the Confederation to the National Staff Side some time ago, was raised by representatives of Group 8 (Organisations of Miscellaneous Grades), and it was reported that correspondence was taking place with the National Staff Side on this question.

A communication was received from H.M. Office of Works declining to receive a deputation from the Confederation in regard to a case in which superannuation rights for Sunday duty had been refused, and it was agreed that this matter be referred to the Parliamentary and Publicity Committee for action.

Reports were given of recent proceedings at Staff Side and Joint Meetings of the Civil Service National Whitley Council, and it was stated that the Staff Side had decided to put forward the nomination of Mr. Harold Laski for the Arbitration Court panel in place of Miss Madeleine Symons, resigned. The action of the General Purposes Committee of the National Staff Side concerning the General Strike had been endorsed by the Staff Side, and the Staff Side proposed to refer to constituent groups a resolution with regard to future action on "matters outside the scope of Whitleyism." After preliminary discussion on this suggested resolution, the debate thereon was adjourned until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

In response to a request received from the National Staff Side, Mr. T. Rees Jones, of the Association of Officers of Taxes, was nominated as an auditor of the Staff Side accounts for the year ended June 30th, 1926.

It was reported that in consequence of action taken by the Confederation, the members of the Geological Survey of Great Britain Draughts-

men's Association, Edinburgh Branch, had joined the Ordnance Survey Civil Staff Association. An application for membership in the Confederation was received from the Patrol Staff Association, Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, fifteen members. The suggestion had been made to this Association that it should combine with the Government Minor Grades Association, and the Executive Committee adopted a recommendation of the Finance and Organisation Committee that it be not admitted to direct affiliation with the Confederation.

An application for individual membership of the Confederation by four or five members of the former Association of Deeds Office Clerks (Special Class), Edinburgh, was not acceded to, and, arising out of this application, the Executive Committee agreed, as a general principle, that persons be not admitted to individual membership of the Confederation in cases where there are appropriate organisations within Confederation to which they could belong.

The Parliamentary and Publicity Committee reported that negotiations were still taking place with the Scottish Office in regard to the Sheriff Courts and Legal Officers' (Scotland) Bill, and that a substantial concession had been obtained, through the instrumentality of the Confederation, on behalf of its affiliated body, the Foremen's Association of India, regarding the grant of educational facilities for the children of European foremen in the Ordnance Factories in India."



Having been unavoidably delayed in publishing any account of the Conference in our last issue, it is only fair that the whole ground should be covered on this present occasion. We are, therefore, able, thanks to the unselfish burning of a large quantity of midnight oil on the part of the Assistant Secretary, to present the full report in this issue.

We also publish the N.Q.A. column which should have appeared in our last, but which, by an inadvertence on our part, was lost sight of at the time of going to press. We are able to assure readers that it was not owing to the untidy habits of the Editor. The omission was regretted, and we offer our apologies to our untiring friend, "Scrutator."

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

At Anderton's Hotel, London, on July 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th, 1926, the Council met in Annual Conference to review the work of the past twelve months, to receive reports of progress, and to lay down a policy for the future.

Faced with the heaviest agenda yet considered, Mr. E. P. Madden (President) opened his first Conference by extending to all new Councillors a hearty welcome, and expressed the hope that this Council would deal expeditiously with the items of lesser importance in order that sufficient time could be allocated to the more important matters to ensure the fullest possible consideration being given.

During this session numerous items were discussed, and in order to give members a slight idea of the volume of work dealt with, an alphabetically arranged list, showing the principal items, is given:—

Acting Allowance at Certain Small Ports.
Ad Valorem and Silk Goods—Assessment of Duty.
Amendments to Constitution.—Rule 4, 2 (d); Rule 4, 4 (a); Rule 4, 4 (c); Rule 6 (a), 6.
Assistant Secretary.
Balance of Council Representation.
Boots' Book-lovers' Library.
Circular re Volunteering.
"Customs Journal."—Annual Report, Dover
Resolution, Local Correspondents.
Election of Councillors—Notice.
Election of Officers.
Election of Representatives.
Electric Hand Lamps.
Employment of C.P.M. Grade.
Examinations—Notice of.
Examination Results.
Failed Assistant Preventive Officers.
Finance and Membership.
Half-day Holidays.
Honoraria.
Housing Association—Civil Service.
Interim Report.
Landing and Shipping Duties.
Launches and Boats.
Letter from Mr. J. Hall.
Misapplication of National Agreements.
Monthly Salaries—Method of Payment.
Monthly Salaries for A.P.O.'s.
Office—The P.S.A.
Payment for Acting—Sundays and Holidays.
Promotion by Merit.
Recruitment.
Representation of N. Ireland.
Rummage Allowance.
Seniority of Post-War Entrants.
Small Ports Allowances.

Small Ports Committee.
Sports Council—Civil Service.
Staffing of Allowanced Small Ports.
Staff Strength.
Suggestions Committee.
Suggestion—List 142.
Training of Assistant Preventive Officers.
Uniform.
Vocational Education.
Waterguard at Aerodromes.
Waterguard Claims (Salary, etc.).
Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Scheme.
Work and Wait Rule.

ACTING ALLOWANCE AT SMALL PORTS.

The Executive has been concerned at the increasing number of Small Ports at which no payment for "acting" duty is allowed unless the A.P.O. left in charge actually performs work proper to the P.O. Grade during the period of "acting."

This matter has been contested on the Departmental Council in conjunction with port schemes and on the Sectional Committee, to which a special reference was sent, to no avail.

As an outcome of a discussion on Small Ports generally, a resolution was passed "That the Executive Committee explore the desirability of substituting P.O.'s for A.P.O.'s in charge at Small Ports."

AD VALOREM AND SILK GOODS.

Without doubt the most important agreement registered in the past year is the one that amends G.O. 36/25, making it generally known that in actual practice the Preventive Officer Grade normally does this work, thus giving full credit to the Grade responsible.

By the time this Report is published, the General Order giving effect should be issued.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

RULE 4, 2 (d) (Dover).

This amendment, designed to confine the voting at Conferences to Councillors representing areas thus excluding Association officials, was not adopted.

Views were expressed that the officers, being in close touch with all districts at all times, could be relied upon to vote only in the best interests of the members generally, and any restriction of their voting power could only be construed as lack of confidence.

RULE 4, 4 (a) (Dover).

This amendment, laying it down that the Executive Committee should comprise eight Councillors representing areas and the General Secretary or his deputy, was not seconded, and was therefore not discussed.

RULE 4, 4 (c) (Liverpool).

It was decided to adopt this amendment; thus the words "and of the 'Customs Journal'" will be inserted after the word "Association" in line 2 of this rule.

Many Councillors were of the opinion that such an insertion was superfluous inasmuch as the "Journal" is the property of the Association, controlled by a Sub-Committee under instructions from the Executive, and could therefore be deemed to be covered by the existing words "the business of the Association."

The insertion of the words, however, will in no way effect a change of procedure. The Journal Committee will still render its quarterly report and statement of accounts to the E.C.

RULE 6 (a), 6 (Gravesend).

This amendment, authorising the calling of Special District Meetings at the request of 25 per cent. of the membership, was adopted.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

In his review of the past year's work, the General Secretary expressed appreciation of assistance rendered by the holder of this new office. In this he was supported by several Councillors, but it transpired that the position of the Assistant Secretary as regards official duties was far from satisfactory. Only at considerable personal inconvenience could he carry on Association activity.

The Council has passed a resolution asking the London Branch to use every endeavour to remedy this state of affairs.

BALANCE OF REPRESENTATION.

The adoption of an amendment to the London resolution, "to delete the last portion," rendered the resolution unnecessary, as it was merely a re-statement of existing Association policy, but in order to create no misunderstanding, this was carried.

BOOT'S BOOK-LOVERS' LIBRARY.

It was reported that large numbers of P.S.A. members had taken advantage of the very favourable terms offered.

Forms are still available.

CIRCULAR RE VOLUNTEERING.

It seemed particularly appropriate that a resolution dealing with action taken by the General Purposes Committee (N.W.S.S.) in connection with the General Strike, which arose out of the coal crisis, should emanate from the Tyne.

It would have been useless with such a lengthy agenda to attempt at this Conference to cover the whole ground of this question and decide whether the G.P. Committee acted rightly or wrongly in issuing this Circular, so attention was concentrated on the one point—the vote of censure implied.

In the discussion the Defence Committee was cited as an instance of the working of the G.P. Committee in an emergency. The action taken then, even as that taken in the Strike, was with the intention of safeguarding the interests of Civil Servants.

Even if, in our opinion, they were wrong in this last venture, we should show a united front to the outside world and stand by our Committees.

An amendment expressing confidence in the G.P. Committee was carried.

"CUSTOMS JOURNAL."

The Annual Report of the Journal Committee proved that the valuable work performed in the past year showed a marked improvement both in volume and quality.

Of course, the Christmas Number stood out among the innovations attempted, and it should be noted with pleasure that the P.S.A. was, as usual, the first in the field. It is to be expected that other Civil Service periodicals will be following suit.

Members will be interested to know that it is decided to allocate at least one page to each district in the next Christmas Number; short stories are to be encouraged and illustrations of a high standard obtained.

Although the Dover resolution, asking for an increase in the "Journal" Grant of £100 for improvements, was not adopted, the general tone of the discussion was in favour of an increase, provided that the Executive approved after investigating each innovation. An amendment to this effect was carried.

Another interesting resolution was adopted and should give rise to keen competition for the job. "That Districts be asked to appoint 'Journal' Correspondents."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES.

President.—E. P. Madden.

General Secretary.—J. Merron.

Organising Secretary.—J. T. Sutton.

Assistant Secretary.—W. H. Powell.

(Note.—In connection with the next item the following resolution was adopted: "That an A.P.O. designate for the Executive Committee be elected at this Conference to replace Mr. Sutton in the case of his promotion during the next twelve months. Mr. Sutton to be co-opted by the E.C. under such conditions.")

Executive Committee.—Messrs. Madden, Merron, Sutton, Powell, A. W. Purdye (Gravesend), W. G. Thomson (Liverpool), A. Milne (Scotland), and J. A. O'Connor (Gravesend). Mr. S. E. D. Ball (South Coast) elected designate.

Waterguard Sectional Committee.—Messrs. Madden, Merron, Sutton, R. W. Booth (Hull), and Powell.

Joint Committee C. and E. Associations.—Messrs. Merron, Purdye, O'Connor and Powell. C.S. Confederation Council.—Messrs. Purdye, O'Connor and Powell.

Departmental Council.—Messrs. Merron and Powell.

Suggestions Committee.—Mr. Powell.

Labour Party Annual Conference.—Mr. O'Connor.

ELECTRIC HAND LAMPS.

The question of the issue of these lamps to all A.P.O.'s is still before the Sectional Committee.

A new point was raised, however, as to the desirability of the existing type. The suggestions put forward have been forwarded to the representatives on this Committee.

EMPLOYMENT OF C.P.M. GRADE.

Following a lengthy discussion on this question, new instructions were given to the Executive.

It was reported that the Officer Grade Association is faced with a similar position in N. Ireland.

EXAMINATIONS.

Two points were raised under this heading: (1) inadequacy of notice of last examination, and (2) the delay in publishing the result.

The General Secretary's report convinced the Council on (1) that the shortness of notice in this instance was unavoidable (it did in fact operate to the advantage of the staff), and on (2) that the method of the examiners ensures the publication of the results at the earliest possible moment compatible with complete and efficient scrutiny and the correct allocation of places of merit.

FAILED A.P.O.'s.

Advantage is taken of this opportunity to assure the officers in this category that every effort is being made to improve their prospects. No stone will be unturned nor avenue left unexplored in this direction.

The matter is referred back to the Executive with instructions to explore the possibility of an increase in remuneration.

FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP.

It is gratifying to note that in spite of an increase in expenditure the balance of the Association Funds shows an appreciable increase.

Membership figures are still on the up grade, and it is reported that practically every new entrant has joined up.

On the whole, the Organising Secretary was able to report the condition of the Association to be very strong both in finance and membership.

HALF-DAY HOLIDAYS.

It came to the notice of the Council that in certain districts the granting of half-day holidays was the exception rather than the rule.

The General Secretary was instructed to take the matter up with a view to obtaining a more liberal application of this concession in these districts.

HOUSING ASSOCIATION.

The resolution, asking for Association Funds to be invested in the C.S. Housing Association, was, after some discussion, withdrawn.

LANDING AND SHIPPING DUTIES.

Following the report of progress, this matter was referred back to the E.C.

LAUNCHES AND BOATS.

Several more very serious cases of inadequacy of launches and boats on Waterguard service were reported to the Council. These facts will be noted by the representatives on the Sectional Committee, and it is hoped that the case when developed will have the desired effect, i.e., the removal of the unnecessary additional risks to be run by officers in the execution of their duties by compelling them to go afloat in vessels which, it is alleged, would not pass a Board of Trade test.

LETTER FROM Mr. J. HALL.

It is good to know that the thoughts of old officials are with us even when these stubborn pioneers have retired from the active list. On the third day of the Conference a letter from our late President was received, conveying sincerest wishes for a successful Conference and regretting the fact that he could not be with us.

A suitable reply was forwarded.

MISAPPLICATION OF NATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

At the request of the Vice-Chairman of the National Council this matter was placed on the agenda with a view to securing a supporting resolution on the subject.

The root of the trouble is that the Official Side of the National Council refuses to allow a discussion on the misapplication, by Departments, of National Agreements.

It is contended by the Official Side (N.W.C.) that this is appropriate to Departmental Councils, but the Departmental Councils state that they are not competent to discuss National Agreements. So the Staff Side is suspended 'twixt the two with no court of appeal or redress. This badgering backwards and forwards is undermining the finer principles of Whitleyism and must be stopped.

The P.S.A. Council adopted the following resolution:—"That this Council, representing 1,300 Civil Servants, deplors the fact that the Constitution of the National Whitley Council does not permit a discussion on the application of its agreements by the Departments, and heartily supports the National Staff Side in its efforts to remedy this."

MONTHLY SALARIES.

Two resolutions were considered together:—

(i.) From the Executive, asking that the terms of the Treasury Circular E. 5610, giving authority to Departments to make fortnightly payments during the first six months of transition from weekly to monthly salaries, be applied to the Waterguard.

(ii.) From Cardiff, asking that a plebiscite of the A.P.O. Grade be taken on the question of monthly salaries.

The two points at issue were: (1) to find a means of alleviating the financial stress involved in the transition from weekly to monthly payments on promotion to P.O., and (2) to remove the main cause of the opposition of the A.P.O. Grade to a reversion to monthly salaries.

It is contended that the application of the Treasury Scheme would meet both points; proving to be a remedy as regards the first point, and as regards the second point, removing the objection of the majority of A.P.O.'s.

The position at present is as follows:—

The Executive resolution was carried, and the effect, if we are successful, will be to ensure that A.P.O.'s on promotion to P.O. Grade will be given six months at fortnightly payments in which to adjust the domestic budget.

The Cardiff resolution was carried, and a plebiscite of the A.P.O. Grade will be taken.

Figures showing the effect of the application of the Treasury Scheme to Waterguard Grades have been supplied to the Councillors and will also be circulated to members when the plebiscite is taken.

THE P.S.A. OFFICE.

In a review of seven months' working of the Office the progress reported passed even the expectations of the optimists: all that was promised has been achieved, and further advantages, not predicted at the offset, have come to light.

As regards the cost to the Association (this is the most reassuring of all) the Organising Secretary proved that taking the cost of the Office at the heaviest period for lighting and heating, and deducting £20 that would be saved in various directions, the cost per annum would be as low as £50.

Authority has been given to the Executive to purchase (if deemed necessary) a rotary duplicating machine. Should this eventuality materialise (and there is every reason why it should) the Secretaries will be able to meet the ever increasing demands from Districts for more copies of circulars. Incidentally, the only duplicating machine in the possession of the Association at present is an old flat model.

PAYMENT FOR ACTING.

The terms of a resolution from London, seeking for remuneration on a more equitable basis for A.P.O.'s acting in a superior capacity on Sundays and Bank Holidays, were referred to the E.C. for exploration and report.

PROMOTION BY MERIT.

The Scheme submitted to the Council, embodying the principle of open competition, was not adopted.

An amendment was carried deleting the word "open" in the first paragraph. In support of this it was contended that it was not desirable that the present system of calling a certain number of candidates in proportion to the prospective vacancies should be abandoned.

Several other amendments were agreed upon, and finally on a resolution "not to adopt" the Scheme was rejected.

Instructions have been issued to the E.C. to draw up a new scheme based on the new points raised.

RECRUITMENT.

As this matter is still under discussion on the Sectional Committee, no pronouncement can be made at this stage.

The position at present is that having submitted a written statement in support of our claims, we now await the Official Side.

In order to safeguard against a possible influx of entrants from certain minor Grades, a resolution was adopted, "that all new entrants to the A.P.O. Grade should pass at an open competitive examination."

REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL—

N. IRELAND.

A resolution asking for increased representation for Scotland and N. Ireland, owing to the difficulty of keeping in close touch with members, was adjourned for one year. In the meantime, the Secretaries hope (with the aid of the new duplicator) to develop the system of dissemination of Association news and so remove the main grievance.

RUMMAGE ALLOWANCE.

In view of the overwhelming opposition from the Districts, the Council supported the E.C.'s recommendation that no further action be taken.

SENIORITY OF POST-WAR ENTRANTS.

Commensurate with the importance of the points at issue this subject figured largely in the deliberations of the E.C. during the past year. Many schemes have been fully considered, but each in its turn had to be abandoned.

The Council has now decided to put the matter to the members affected. A plebiscite will be taken on these three points:—

- (i.) The existing system.
- (ii.) Seniority determined by date of entry.
- (iii.) Seniority confined to yearly groups.

It is hoped that by this means the true feelings of the members affected will be obtained.

SMALL PORTS ALLOWANCES.

At the request of the London Councillors this resolution was withdrawn.

CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS COUNCIL.

In response to an appeal from this body, it was decided to offer every possible support to the Sports Council in its efforts to further the interests of sport in the Service.

Special attention is being given to the provincial aspect.

STAFFING OF ALLOWANCED SMALL PORTS.

It was reported that the instructions given at the last Conference had been carried out to the letter.

An agreement has been registered.

STAFF STRENGTH.

This matter has been referred back to the E.C. for further exploration and, possibly, remedial action.

SUGGESTED ALTERATION TO LIST 142.

Owing to the number of suggested alterations to this form, the E.C. has referred the matter to a small Sub-Committee with instructions to draw up a new list embodying all suggestions. The matter will eventually go to the Suggestions Committee.

TRAINING OF A.P.O.'s.

With but a slight amendment, i.e., the deletion of names of ports and substitution of "principal ports," the scheme was adopted.

This scheme, it will be remembered, enables a new entrant to serve his period of probation under the guidance of an instructing P.O. at the principal ports. In this way he will be initiated into the various phases of the work under expert tuition, instead of simply drifting along and gleaning information and gaining experience if and when he can.

UNIFORM.

Although this matter is still in the hands of the Sub-Committee, those points on which agreement has been reached have been put into effect. For instance, the reversion of the P.O. Grade to the twelve-monthly issue of jackets, vests and caps; the increase in length of jackets; the remodelling of the trousers, improved trouser buttons.

The two main points outstanding are: (1) the issue of mackintosh coats and (2) the remodelling of the overcoat.

Very little headway has been made as regards the first point, but on the second it was reported that two re-modelled overcoats would be made up and submitted. It is hoped to remove the P.O. complaint in respect of the collar, and the A.P.O. grievance as regards the tightness.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

The Scheme of Education for A.P.O.'s was adopted.

This scheme, embodying a system of organised tutorage on the regulations, will be put into operation as soon as the Central Committee has been elected by the London Branch.

WATERGUARD AT AERODROMES.

This matter is still before the Sectional Committee.

WATERGUARD SALARY, ETC., CLAIMS.

A very long discussion, lasting about two and a half hours, took place on the various items under this heading.

Instructions have been given to the Executive to explore the whole question in the light of the new points raised, draw up a draft claim, and submit same to the Districts for discussion and approval.

WATERGUARD CODES.

The position at present is that the Staff Side of the Sectional Committee is awaiting the Official Side decision on a suggestion that this matter be referred to a Sub-Committee for treatment.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSIONS.

The Council had placed before it a scheme assuring pensions to widows and orphans of deceased Civil Servants, but in the absence of actuarial advice, and in view of the fact that the Superannuation Committee (N.W.C.) is still handling this matter, it was decided to refer the matter back.

WORK AND WAIT RULE.

A case of the misapplication of the work and wait rule was reported from Southampton, and on a decision of the Council to refer the matter to the Executive for exploration and action, the Chairman reminded the meeting of the E.C.'s recommendation that cases of this nature should be submitted at once for separate treatment.

MISCELLANEOUS POINTS NOTED.

In the General Secretary's Report it was stated that the Secretaries attended over 160 meetings each during the past year, all of which have a direct bearing on Association activity.

* * * *

It has been recommended by the Executive that in order to obtain uniformity of practice, instructional booklets should be compiled and issued for the guidance of District officials.

* * * *

Twenty-five agreements, local and others, directly affecting the Waterguard were ratified by the Departmental Council during the past year.

* * * *

During the deliberations in Annual Conference the P.S.A. Council considered no less than 90 resolutions and amendments.

The number of headings under which discussions took place amounted to 71.

The quasi-verbatim report filled three reporters' books, and the transcription filled 95 pages of foolscap.

* * * *

In the foregoing it will be noted that many items are reported in extreme brevity. In some cases policy demands this brevity in publicity, but a word or line to your Councillor should be sufficient to obtain the fullest details of any subject.

W. H. POWELL,

Minute Secretary.

Mr. HERRINGTON'S BEREAVEMENT.

A large number of readers will hear with genuine sorrow of the death of Mrs. Frances Alice Herrington, at the age of 37, on August 3rd. We understand that Mrs. Herrington was staying on the south coast for the benefit of her health, and that the end came too suddenly for Mr. Herrington to reach her side from Newcastle before she passed away.

Our colleague is assured that we feel very keenly for him in his great sorrow.

Mrs. Herrington, who is interred at Dover, leaves three daughters.

◆◆◆◆◆
THE LATE Mr. J. H. LEE, P.O.

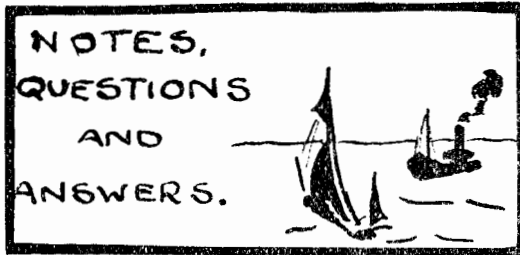
We very much regret to announce the death of Mr. J. H. Lee, P.O., Liverpool, who died rather suddenly on 29th ult. after an operation on the throat for lympho sarcoma.

Mr. Lee was interred at Everton Cemetery at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 3rd. Six of his brother Preventive Officers, in uniform, acted as bearers.

In addition to a good attendance of his colleagues and retired officers, there was a large number of persons representing various societies with which Mr. Lee was associated, and who also attended to pay their last respects.

The floral tributes were numerous, prominent among which was a very beautiful artificial wreath and stand, subscribed for by his brother officers and staff, as a mark of their esteem and respect.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Mrs. Lee and daughter in their sad bereavement from the whole staff at Liverpool.



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 February 9th, 1926.

SECOND PAPER.

Question.

2.—Calculate the single, double and treble duty-paid values of the two following seizures:—

- 1.—5 boxes of Cigars, other sorts, each 11 oz. net.
- 3 bottles of Geneva, each .157 gall. at 7 U.P.
- 13 lb. Cavendish Tobacco.
- 33 packets of Cigarettes, each 3 oz. net.

II.—5 ounces of Saccharin.

2 Silk Shawls, valued at 35s. each.

1½ gall. of Still Red Wine, n.e. 30 deg. in bottle.

* * * *

Answer.

2.—I.—

	£	s.	d.
3 7-16 lb. Cigars, O.S., at 15/7 lb. duty, 16/- lb. value	5	8	6
47-100 gall. of Geneva (Liquid), at 10/- gall. value	0	4	8
43-100 gall. of Geneva (Proof), at £3/17/11 gall. duty	1	13	6
13 lb. Cavendish Tobacco, at 11/10½ duty, 2/- lb. value	9	0	4
6 3-16 lb. Cigarettes, at 12/7 lb. duty, 4/- lb. value	5	2	7
Single duty-paid value	£21	9	7
Double duty-paid value	£42	19	2
Treble duty-paid value	£64	8	9

II.—

	£	s.	d.
5 oz. Saccharin, at 3/9 oz. duty, 15/- lb. value	1	3	5
2 Silk Shawls, at 11/8 each duty, 35/- each value	4	13	4
1½ gall. of Still Red Wine, N.E. 30 deg., at 4/6 gall. duty, 6/- gall. value	0	18	4
Single duty-paid value	£6	15	1
Double duty-paid value	£13	10	2
Treble duty-paid value	£20	5	3

"SCRUTATOR."

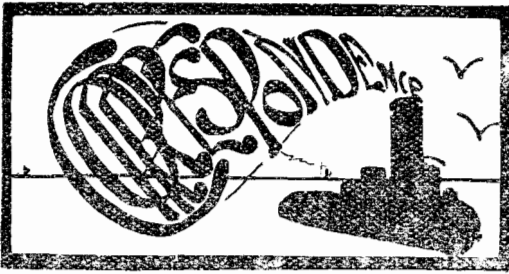
◆◆◆◆◆
PROSECUTION.

EXMOUTH.

At the Exmouth Police Court, on July 20th, the master of the French sailing vessel, "Reinde-Cieux," from Roscoff, with onions, 27 tons net register, was fined double value and duty, £12 4s. 4d., and 4s. costs, for importing and concealing seven bottles of brandy and two bottles of imitation rum, being 1.96 liq. gall., contrary to Sec. 186, C.C. Act, 1876. After the Court proceedings, the master was called upon, under Sec. 179, C.C. Act, to deposit the sum of £11.

The goods were discovered in a space under the bottom boards of the offender's bunk by Mr. T. Rowe, A.P.O., during the rummage which was supervised by Mr. W. H. Finley, P.O./c.

The prosecution was well conducted, on behalf of the Crown, by Mr. A. H. Melville, C.P.O., who pressed for the full penalty, in view of the fact that the offender was the master and owner of the ship.



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.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Sir,—Reading the reports in the "Journal" of P.S.A. meetings at various ports, there seems a strong desire on the part of most members to be supplied with the annual bound copies of General Orders and Circulars.

For myself, one issue of G.O.'s is quite sufficient to keep amended up to date, especially when there are four volumes of Codes, not including the Establishment and other official bound instructions.

This desire would mean two sets of G.O. amendments each month, and my sympathy would go out to the P.O. in charge at a small port, where his monthly budget would be four sets of amendments for G.O.'s alone, two personally and two official.

I believe each officer of the Preventive Staff is supplied with one copy of each G.O.; at least, all are in this part, and surely one copy is enough!

As an alternative, why not request to be supplied with a strong flexible cover-binding, sufficient for, say, two years' General Orders, the style of the cover being left to the wisdom of the Executive Committee.

Perhaps the following may be practicable: After each year's issue of G.O.'s, the officer may be allowed to send his personal copies to the Stationery Office for binding.—Yours, etc.,

"SPUR."

SUBSCRIPTION LIST TO Mr. J. BRASIER, A.P.O., OF LONDONDERRY.

The Committee desires to acknowledge the following donations from various ports toward the above fund:—

Belfast, £3 10s. 6d.; Ardrossan, 8s. 6d.; Preston, 7s. 6d.; Troon, 6s. 6d.; Londonderry, £1 2s. 6d.; Irish Free State (Waterguard), 15s.; Manchester, £1 16s.; Coleraine, 5s.; Holyhead, 16s.; Workington, 1s.; Dover, £2 1s. 6d.; Larne, 5s.; Maryport, 3s. 6d.; Irvine, 2s. 6d.; Folkestone, 17s.; Rye, 4s. 6d.; Ayr, 9s. 6d. Total: £13 12s.

A MYSTERY.

By G.O.M.

Having read in a daily paper of the discovery of a motor yacht adrift in the North Sea, and unoccupied, it is interesting to note how easily mystery surrounds the discovery of a vessel without a crew. Witness the still unsolved mystery of the "Marie Celeste." It occurred to me that the readers of the "C.J." might be interested to hear the true story, and perhaps try to solve the secret of a small yacht which was found adrift in the River Thames under somewhat similar circumstances.

Here it is.

About four o'clock on a Summer Sunday morning about two years ago the Customs launch was steaming down Long Reach when signals were made from a sailing barge lying at anchor. This barge had a small yacht secured astern. I boarded the barge and was informed that the yacht had been picked up adrift during the night, that the barge crew had boarded her, and noticing blood about had left her severely alone beyond making her fast to their stern. They were quite emphatic that they had interfered with nothing on board the yacht. She was a small craft, about 25 feet long and somewhat under 5 feet beam; a draft of about 1 foot, completely decked in with exception of a small cockpit aft. The cabin had a roof raised above the deckline about six inches forward to nine inches aft. This extended to the sides of the yacht. The top of the cabin was covered with green-painted canvas.

Boarding her over the bow, I was careful to notice anything that might supply a clue to the owners. This is what I observed. The sails were furled and covered. The anchor was down with about four fathoms of chain out. On the fore-deck were bloodstains. Big circular drops of blood extended right aft across the cabin top to the cockpit aft. I followed the drops and noticed they had been splashed about the cockpit very considerably. This cockpit had a small seat on each side; on each seat was a plate containing a mutton chop, green peas and new potatoes. A knife was on each plate and the meal had just been commenced. The plate on the starboard side had two or three drops of blood as large as two-shilling-pieces on it. There were no signs of a struggle beyond the drops of blood splashed about. The knife on each plate was free of bloodstains.

The cabin opened from the cockpit. It contained two bunks, both had been slept in, and on each were the clothes of the late occupant. Above one of the bunks a watch and chain was hanging. The clothes on one bunk were of superior quality, whilst those on the other were that of a working-class man, and in the coat pocket were National Insurance Cards. The pockets of both suits contained the ordinary effects one usually carries: letters, money, keys, etc. In fact, everything was in such a condition

that one would have expected to have found the owners in bed, but there was no sign of any occupants. Two pairs of boots were in the cabin.

There was not the slightest indication of a struggle. Going forward again I looked over the bow. The yacht was painted white, with a freeboard forward of maybe two feet. About one foot from the bow were blood smears for about a square foot. Apparently, bloody hands had been pawed up and down the yacht's side. On the edge of the deck were four finger marks in blood, and lying on a small rubbing streak, which ran round the outside of the yacht about nine inches below the deckline, was a complete human finger nail, apparently that of a man.

WHAT HAD HAPPENED?

We hope to publish the answer in our next issue.

PRESENTATION TO Mr. C. H. TWIST

At the Custom House, Gravesend, on the 21st ult., Mr. C. H. Twist, Preventive Officer, was presented with a handsome roll-top desk, suitably inscribed, to mark the occasion of his retirement from the Customs and Excise Service after 37 years' service.

Mr. Kacil, Preventive Officer, presided, and in opening the proceedings eulogised the many good qualities of the recipient and expressed the hope that Mr. Twist would be spared many years to enjoy his well-earned retirement.

Messrs. Heath, Purdye, Wright, Richardson, Jones and O'Connor all spoke in similar terms. Mr. Rowlands, Immigration Officer under the Home Office, said he was happy to associate himself with the remarks made by the previous speakers, and spoke in high praise of the amicable manner in which Mr. Twist had always worked with the Home Office officials stationed at Gravesend.

Mr. W. J. Blake, Chief Preventive Officer, made the presentation, and in an appropriate speech expressed his high opinion and sincere regard for Mr. Twist, with whom he had been associated for so many years. He had always found Mr. Twist a most reliable, conscientious and zealous officer, and hoped that both he and Mrs. Twist would live long to enjoy the fruits of his good and faithful service.

Mr. Twist was loudly cheered as he rose to respond. He expressed his thanks for the kindly references and handsome present, which he said would remind him of the kindly thoughts and wishes of his numerous colleagues and Service friends. He gave an interesting reminiscence of many experiences during his long and varied official career, which was greatly appreciated by all present.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

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

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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