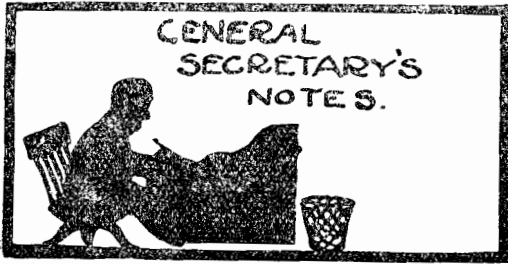


The Customs Journal.

No. 554

January 16th, 1926.

Fortnightly.



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

It is not at all unlikely that, with our modern tendency to coin new words for every occasion, the term "Woppy" will soon be almost the only means of identification for the new Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Insurance Scheme.

"Woppy" appears to have caused quite a lot of controversy amongst the A.P.O.'s since its first sudden appearance on the pay-sheets. I have been inundated with demands to explain the law in this matter, and I find the task almost as harassing as the study of departmental regulations. An attempt to master the details of his position under the new Act would be excellent practice for any examination candidate.

However, I am able to inform those concerned that officers are compulsorily insurable only when salary, plus bonus and pensionable emoluments, does not exceed £250 per annum. I understand that the deciding figure is arrived at by taking an average of salary, etc., for the past three years. As soon as it has been ascertained which officers are insurable and which are not, any deductions in respect of W.O.P.I. will be repaid to those officers who are found to be exempt. It will readily be realised that in a Department such as ours, where services are paid for, to a great extent, by a system of emoluments of all kinds, some little time must elapse before the task of sorting things out can be completed. There is no reason to doubt that proper adjustments will be made as early as possible.

Probably many members are considering the question of becoming voluntary subscribers to the pension scheme. These I would advise to delay their decision until a further announcement is made in the "Journal" columns. There is no need for hurry, in view of the fact that a period of six months is allowed before the closing date for applications. Before that date some decision will be arrived at regarding the scheme

for widows' pensions which is now being discussed by the Staff Side of the National Council. This scheme is for Civil Servants only, and provides for contributions from the Government as well as from the insured person. The benefits proposed are greater than those offered under the Act, and therefore it would be wise to wait and see if the scheme is accepted by the Government.

* * * *

There was a fear in some quarters that the "New Civilian" would injure contemporary Service journals, but I have no doubt that those who have been sensible enough to become subscribers to this new periodical will heartily agree that quite the reverse will be the case. Far from harming the other journals, it will in course of time have a valuable stimulating effect. One of the great causes of apathy amongst Civil Servants has been a somewhat narrow outlook due to the lack of opportunity in individual Associations for the ordinary members to get a glimpse of what other Associations are thinking. That defect will be a thing of the past if the "New Civilian" fulfils the promise of its first issue.

The influence of a journal that can publish live and informative articles by leading Association officials from all sections of the Civil Service is bound to have a good effect in broadening the views of members in the various Associations, and must result in a more enlightened interest being taken in one's own particular journal.

A case in point is an article by Mr. W. J. Brown, which appeared in the first issue. In view of the fact that many of our members are urging for our salary claim to be taken to Arbitration, this article must be of very great interest to all Waterguard Officers. We know that Mr. Brown is an authority on the subject of Civil Service Arbitration, but this is the first occasion that an expression of his opinion has been easily available for all our members.

Members of the P.S.A. would do well to study his reasons for advising an abandonment of claims by individual associations; and his conclusion that the only way out is by "boldly challenging the validity of the industrial comparison and by affirming, in a way that no Government could ignore, the obligation of the State to provide a reasonable minimum of subsistence for every man and woman in the public service."

Consequent critical articles in the "Customs Journal" would probably be abundant, and interesting.

* * * *

I notice that one of the London evening papers recently published a long account of

Rummage operations by Customs Officers aboard a Soviet ship at Millwall Dock. The search was for Communist literature, and the following description of the rummage crew is interesting:

"A rummage crew is a selected body of men who, carrying electric lights, may search a ship from stem to stern, prying into the holds, and look, if necessary, into any part of the ship's machinery."

What a good job it was that the Boarding A.P.O. did not "breeze in" to this picture of efficiency, and so spoil everything with his pantomime "lobby's" lantern.

* * *

Judging from the venom displayed by some of the newspapers in attacking the Civil Service on the question of the 7-hour day, it would seem that the activities of the Defence Committee must have touched a raw spot. One wonders why large and glaring headlines are given in these papers to a subject so stale as the 7-hour day, and yet an important matter like the Albert Hall meeting was practically not published.

The only conclusion one can come to is that the question of Civil Service hours affords an opportunity to mislead public opinion on a matter which makes it difficult for anyone to disprove false statements. Forced to abandon the "fabulous salary" stunt, these newspapers are now falling back on the old "three hours for lunch" bogey. Still, I suppose one must not criticise too harshly when lofty-minded newsmen are so steadfast in their duty of moulding public opinion.

* * *

Recently, in the House of Commons, Captain Wedgwood Benn remarked that "We know there is no depth to the idiosyncrasy that the Customs House official cannot arrive at when he is called upon to collect revenue."

At a later date, during a debate on the Cutlery Duties, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade was asked how the Customs officials were going to discriminate between dutiable and non-dutiable articles. The answer was an assurance that there was no need for anxiety, because the Customs Department was one of the most efficient in the Civil Service.

It is amusing— is it not?

* * *

Knowing that Southampton is regarded as being very much up-to-date in local Whitley procedure, I was rather surprised to see the letter by "Fairplay" in the last "Journal" issue. It is not my intention to criticise the arguments contained in the letter, except to say that "Fairplay" appears to have a fair amount of right on his side.

But, surely, if the majority of Southampton officers agree with him, there should be no difficulty about giving the matter Whitley treatment.

* * *

The Waterguard Staff will have received the news of the retirement of Sir Sydney Parry, K.B.E., C.B., with feelings of regret. He was

a well-known figure to many Waterguard Officers, and expressions of appreciation of his sympathy, patience, and courteous manner are frequently to be heard. The Waterguard will not easily forget; and he takes with him the goodwill and good wishes of the whole staff.

* * *

I hear that many ex-Service A.P.O.'s are anxious as to their future prospects of promotion in view of the fact of their possession of Modified War Certificates. The matter is receiving attention from the Association, and in due course the position of all ex-Service men will be made quite clear.

J. MERRON.

Preventive Staff Association.

GLASGOW.

A district meeting of the above was held at Mavisbank, Glasgow, on Wednesday, December 23rd, at 7 p.m. Mr. Wm. Corbett, P.O., of Greenock, was elected chairman.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. Local grievances were discussed first, and suitable action taken. The new education scheme for A.P.O.'s was examined at some length, and adopted by the meeting, with a proviso that no monies be loaned from Association funds. The following resolutions were carried:—

"That the Executive Council should again make a move to open up negotiations with regard to our reconstruction and leave scheme."

"That complaints are still rife in respect of uniform and uniform caps."

A successful meeting was brought to a close at 9.45 p.m. with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Corbett, the chairman.

* * *

LEITH.

A meeting of the Leith District of the Preventive Staff Association took place in the Liberal Club on Wednesday, December 9th. Mr. Angus presided over a good attendance, several members coming in from outports. Various local matters were discussed. It was proposed that district members should be asked to contribute fourpence per head towards the expenses of the Local Defence Committee, whilst all present were reminded of the importance of attending the Mass Civil Service Meeting in the Usher Hall on Friday, December 18th.

One member remarked that the Circular concerning "Paired A.P.O.'s" failed to reach the officers concerned, but the misunderstanding was cleared up and the matter was referred to the officers in question for any solution they might have. The question of Rummage Allowance was also discussed, and it was resolved: "That this meeting is not in favour of a Rummage Allowance." It was also proposed: "That the Executive Council be instructed to press for a revision

of the seniority of post-war entrants, not including ex-Service boy messengers or boy messenger entrants prior to 1920, so that all seniority will count from the date of entry into the Service."

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. McDowall, A.P.O., Grangemouth, on his attendance, and he was asked to convey to his port the meeting's appreciation of their regular attendances locally. After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, an interesting meeting broke up at 10.15 p.m.

* * *

NOTICE.

* * *

LEITH DISTRICT.

Association officials please note! All communications, etc., should in future be sent to Mr. E. N. Cheyne, A.P.O., 25, Noble Place, Leith Links, Leith, who is now District Secretary for the Leith District.

* * * *

TYNE AREA.

The P.O. Grade Councillor is now Mr. B. J. Herrington, 28, Malvern Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

—————

Love's Labour.

—————

In the bilges, in the slime;
Covered in dirt, smothered in grime
Went three of a crew,

A clue they discovered and like three fanatics
Decided at once to change their tactics.

They followed this clue for all it was worth,
And like the fox soon went to earth
Into the bunkers,

They spitted here and spitted there,
Nearly caving in despair
When at last, with a triumphant shout,
The spit stuck fast—failed to come out.

"Get it," said he who had used the spit,
Pulling it out and tightening his grip,
He prodded again while his mates gathered
round,

Thinking at last that something was found.

Nailed securely as tight as a drum
A square box they brought to the surface;
Across their vision sailed bottles of rum,
For such is the luck of the Service.

With jenny and chisel they opened the lid;
Inside were bricks and a baby's new bib,

lying on top was a piece of paper
With these words written on—
"Whoever opens ye old square box
Finds the goods all gone,

Cheerio, Customs."

J.W.B.

Civil Service Confederation.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY.

1.—**BILLS IN THE HOUSE:** The short session of Parliament raised a number of matters of interest to the Civil Service, but, for one reason or another, the position with regard to all of them was exactly the same when the House closed in December as when it started in November.

In the first place, there was a certain amount of legislation which affected the Service, directly or indirectly. Among these measures was the Sheriff Courts and Legal Officers (Scotland) Bill, which had been approved by the staff in principle, but on which there were very serious differences of opinion on details. The Government started the session with the intention of passing this measure, but on its introduction it was made perfectly clear that these strong objections existed, and as a Money Resolution was necessary, the Government soon realised that the chances of inducing the House to accept the Bill without much opposition were hopeless. For the moment, therefore, it has abandoned the Bill, though doubtless it will come up again in February when the House meets again.

The Petroleum Bill, which would have added to the duties of the Home Office staff, was likewise abandoned for the time being. It was thought originally to be an agreed-on measure, but at the last moment objections were put forward by Scotch interests as to the amount of fees to be paid for services rendered. The Weights and Measures Bill, promoted by the Board of Trade, also met with a similar fate. The Rating and Valuation Bill duly passed, but as there is complete elimination from the Assessment Committees of any of the actual staff of the Inland Revenue Department, it cannot be said much to affect the Civil Service one way or another.

2.—**NATIONAL ECONOMY:** It was also thought when Parliament reassembled that there would be a very great deal of discussion on aspects of national economy. This can hardly be said to be the case. There was only one economy debate on the closing of Pembroke and Rosyth Dockyards. The Government adhered to their policy, and no new facts emerged from the debate except a veiled reference to the possibility of an English dockyard being similarly treated in the near future. This is customarily, but not on official authority, supposed to refer to Sheerness.

There were many questions asked dealing with aspects of economy, but none of them can be said to have elicited much new information. It will be remembered that at a Civil Service meeting in Lancashire, Commander Ashbury, M.P., stated, on what he claimed to be Treasury authority, that no cuts were intended in the remuneration of the Civil Service. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was subsequently in the House asked specifically by Colonel Woodcock, M.P., "Whether, in order to allay the appre-

hension of Civil Servants regarding the possibility of a reduction of their remuneration, he would consider the possibility of making an early statement on the subject." Mr. Churchill merely replied, "Yes, sir." He was then pressed by Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., as to whether he had seen Commander Astbury's statement "attributing to the Chancellor the statement that he did not intend to reduce salaries." Mr. Churchill's reply was as follows:—

"Yes, I have seen that statement. All these matters must be under the consideration of the Cabinet in the next few weeks, but I expect before Christmas, or at any rate early in the New Year, we shall be able to make a statement of our general policy in this matter, but at the present time the Cabinet claim the right to examine without restriction every aspect and branch of public expenditure."

This was all that could be extracted from the Chancellor on that occasion, or indeed on any other. The Cabinet always fell back upon the amendment that its Special Committee was still considering the whole question, and the House rose without any guidance of any sort, as to what was being done, or as to what was likely to be done.

It is, though, fairly clear that the next session of Parliament will be largely a "National Economy Session," and the staffs of the Civil Service should, therefore, be on the alert, even more than ever, to protect their own interests, since occasion for their action in some direction or other may well be provided.

3.—PUBLIC SERVICES — HIGHER APPOINTMENTS: Since the document may be used controversially, Civil Servants may be warned to secure a copy of White Paper No. 187, price 3d., entitled "Appointments in the Public Service." It deals with appointments carrying remuneration of £2,000 a year and upwards, and its contents may be used by critics of the Civil Service. The leaflet explains why there is a substantial increase in the total of officials so salaried, since it is mainly attributable to the Diplomatic Service and to the Fighting Services, and not to the Home Civil Service.

4.—EQUAL PAY: The agitation for equal pay is slowly coming to a head. Members of Parliament are still being pressed to agree to the appointment of a Committee to investigate the working during the past three years of the partial experiment on these lines.

5.—THE CAMPAIGN BY THE CIVIL SERVICE: The campaign by the Civil Service, conducted by the Defence Committee of the National Staff Side, has met with very successful results, judging both by the meetings held and by the controversial publications in the newspapers. There are now four leaflets in existence, one entitled "Where does the money go?" having been recently added to the previous three:— (1) "The 'Huge Bureaucracy' Myth"; (2) "The Pay of the Civil Service"; (3) "What are the 'Civil Services'?"

C. S. Defence.

Many meetings of Civil Servants have been held in different parts of the country during the few weeks preceding Christmas. Most notable among these were the gatherings at Edinburgh, Southampton, Belfast and Newport (Mon.). A letter was subsequently sent to the Lord Provost from the C.S. Defence Committee (Edinburgh Area), with reference to a recent decision by the Edinburgh Town Council to record in their minutes a resolution regarding the alleged unfair maintenance of wages in sheltered industries. The following is an extract from the letter:—

"My committee wish me to point out that the resolution in question consists of unfounded and exaggerated ex-parte statements, all of which have been disproved and rebutted by various Government and Departmental Committees of Inquiry. The present Chancellor of the Exchequer, replying to a deputation from the Association of British Chambers of Commerce on the same day as the Edinburgh Town Council decided to record in its minutes the resolution complained of, stated: 'The only assistance which I get is from my colleagues of the Cabinet and from the able Civil Servants, without whose assistance affairs would be in the greatest confusion,' and in a reference to the size of the staffs, he added that 'there is no evidence to show that the work done per head is less than the work done in pre-war times.' Everything has become enormously more complicated.

"For your information I am also to point out that of the 6,000 Civil Servants in this city, considerably more than 50 per cent. are in receipt of a weekly salary, inclusive of cost-of-living bonus, of less than £3. That the Association of British Chambers of Commerce should seek to attack and diminish such standards to effect a lessening of taxation and to strike at the unsheltered industries of this country through the Civil Service, is a matter which causes the greatest indignation throughout the British Civil Service."

Southampton sent a deputation to wait upon the local Members of Parliament for the purpose of presenting the facts and figures concerning the pay and conditions of service of Civil Servants. Lord Apsley, in replying, said that he did not think that there was any idea within the House that the pay of Civil Servants should be interfered with. As regards the Press, although no doubt they were in a position to influence public opinion, he did not think that such reports as those which had been mentioned carried any weight whatever with members of that House. He could not give a definite pledge to oppose a reduction of staff if conditions should arise in the future which might make such a course appear desirable, but as regards the pay and conditions of service he was wholly in accord with the views which had been propounded by the deputation, and he assured them of his support should the need arise.

Regarding the attacks from Chambers of Commerce, he advised the deputation to do all they possibly could to put these bodies in possession of the facts of their case. It was his opinion that if they could present their views to the Chambers of Commerce as they had been presented to him that day, the Chambers would be prepared to rescind their resolution.

A very large meeting was held at the Newport (Mon.) Town Hall, on the lines of the Albert Hall meeting. It was stated that the C. and F. Department collected £300,000,000 annually in taxes and dues, and the cost of collection was 1.8 per cent. No business in the world would handle masses of money on such commission; no organisation would collect so cheaply. A resolution similar to London's was carried unanimously.

The resolution was also passed in the same manner at the big meeting in Belfast. It was stated here that though the meeting in Albert Hall, London, was a great success, it was boycotted by those papers in the English metropolis who were conducting the propaganda against the Service, but he was glad to be able to announce that the "Belfast Telegraph" gave the proceedings a very fair report indeed.

* * * *

EDINBURGH AREA.

The following report of the meeting at Edinburgh has just reached us. The resolution contained therein is the same as that passed at Newport and Belfast.

A mass demonstration of Civil Servants was held in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, on Friday, December 18th. The doors opened at 6.30 p.m., and, notwithstanding the fact that the worst snowstorm experienced in Edinburgh for years was raging outside, the huge hall soon began to fill. This surely proves that the average Civil Servant has severed himself from his usual apathetic state, and is determined, even at the expense of his bodily comfort, to take up the cudgels on his own behalf.

An organ recital by Mr. S. Webster, Unattached Officer, Leith, kept the large company entertained until the Chairman, Dr. Drummond Shiels, M.P., took the chair at 7.30 p.m.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman commented on the foolish policy of a certain section of the Press, urged on by Chambers of Commerce and big business generally, in misrepresenting the Civil Service to the general public, and in trying to carry through a campaign to break up the standards and the security of employment of the Civil Servants.

Mr. W. J. Brown then moved the following resolution:—

"This mass meeting of all Grades of Civil Servants condemns the ill informed and prejudiced attacks in certain sections of the Press and elsewhere directed against Civil Servants and their conditions of employment, draws public attention to the fact that less than 50 per cent. of the Service receive full compensation for the

rise in the cost of living, and that gross underpayment exists amongst large sections of the Service; and pledges the Civil Service not only to resist to the utmost any attempt further to deprecate Civil Service standards of remuneration, but to prosecute by all available means the claim for reasonable standards of life for all those who serve the State."

In speaking to the resolution, Mr. Brown dealt with the attacks which had been made by a certain section of the London Press on the Civil Service. The first was that the Civil Service was over-staffed and under-worked, the second was that they were over-paid, and the third was that the cost of administration in this country was very much higher than it ought to be. In reply to these points, Mr. Brown said that they had to deal with pensions on a scale that was never known before the war, and they also had to deal with a financial burden which was eight times greater than before 1914. We had to remember that out of the £800,000,000 a year of expenditure, £550,000,000 went in paying for the last war and in preparing for the next war.

Mr. A. L. Houghton, Secretary of the Association of Officers of Taxes, and several other prominent officials belonging to different Civil Service Departments, spoke in support of the resolution.

The resolution, on being put to the meeting by the Chairman, was carried unanimously.

To the Preventive Officers, South Coast Area.

Gentlemen,—

Please accept my best thanks for the support you gave me during my recent candidature for the vacancy of Executive Councillor.

I shall strive my hardest to meet the wishes of my colleagues, and I would ask District and Local Secretaries to advise me of any questions arising in their Areas which appertain to Preventive Officers.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

S. T. G. SPENCER, E.C.

The late Mr. J. E. Rogers.

A letter has been received from Mrs. Rogers, in which she expresses deep appreciation for many kindnesses shown her late husband during his illness; and we are asked to convey her heartfelt thanks to all those who attended the funeral and for the wreath sent by the London Staff.



Having safely passed through another Christmas-tide, and having more or less successfully cleared our heads, the time has arrived for us to clear our throats, for there is much to be done. It is good for man to lay aside the weapons for a short while and to take part in domestic revelings. It is good for him to forget all bitterness for a season, if bitterness existed. It is good for him to say to the opposition, with the season of good will to all still fresh in his mind, "I wish you no harm, old man, though the fight has to go on."

However, we have come back to earth—many of us with a bump—and we observe with surprise that we are nicely into 1926. We have got to take up our work where we left it. No! not exactly that. Association officials have not had time to forget. They have been working all the time. We have seen them turning up to happy family gatherings when those gatherings have been on the point of breaking up and leaving them ere they had hardly commenced; all sorts of things like that. No! We take up our work at the point they have advanced it to.

Our great duty now is to let the public know, for the public knows little or nothing more than the Press tells it, and the Press knows little. We must tell the public. We stated our case at the Albert Hall, and stated it well. The public was startled; it was interested; and it naturally would be. The event was unique. But it must not be thought for one moment that it was merely a display of theatricals, for we were in earnest, and held that meeting with a definite purpose in mind. We wanted the public to know the truth.

But the public forgets!

Quite naturally it forgets. One isolated bang on the drum and nothing more. The traffic rolls on many interests pass before the eye—naturally, it forgets. We have to see that it does not forget. As time passes, the impression of our solidarity tends to disappear. The impression of sincere and resolute resistance that the defence campaign has made must be maintained, and the appeal must be repeated again and again lest it be ineffective.

We must be prepared, therefore, to work in complete harmony, not only among ourselves in one Association, but as one Association among many in the Civil Service. We have been attacked, we are on the defence, and we are fighting a common battle.

The Customs Journal Committee has, by the promotion of Mr. R. E. Dudley to Portadown, lost a very sincere and hard-working Secretary. Mr. Dudley has held this office since the management was removed to London, and his work has proved invaluable, not only to the "C.J." Committee, but also to the Association generally. He also performed much useful work on the recent Committee set up to report on the possibilities of Vocational Education. Our Committee will seem strange without him. We rejoice in the cause of his removal, and congratulate him heartily on his promotion. We wish Mr. Dudley all success, and hope it will not be long before we are able once more to work together.

Please note that communications to the Secretary of the "Customs Journal" must, for the time being, be addressed to—

Mr. H. B. Peake,

Room 8a,

Custom House, Lower Thames St.,
London, E.C.3.

Matter for publication should be addressed, as usual, to the Editor. (See the usual notice appearing in each issue.)

Smuggling at Manchester.

On the 15th ult., the carpenter of the s.s. "Imber," from Rotterdam, was intercepted on leaving the dock premises and invited to step into an adjoining police cabin for examination. He was found to be in possession of 46 oz. of saccharin, which was concealed round his waist, and appeared before the Salford Stipendiary Magistrate on a charge of knowingly importing and unshipping uncustomed goods contrary to Section 135, Customs Consolidation Act, 1876. The prosecution was ably conducted by Mr. G. E. Jessey, C.P.O., who emphasised the gravity of the offence, for which the defendant was fined £32 6s. 9d., being treble duty-paid value, or 61 days' imprisonment. The fine was not paid. It was stated by the police that the accused had previously been convicted at that Court for smuggling in June last and fined £12 18s.

Messrs. E. S. Hicks, P.O., and H. Rutter, A.P.O., were the officers whose joint action led to the prisoner being detected on both occasions.



By "SEAGULL."

Is the generous issue of Launch Service Manuals to all concerned and unconcerned to be followed by a supply of Drill and Discipline instructions?

* * * *

Or does it mean that our dream of new Codes is shortly coming true?

* * * *

Deep-thinking Student: Pardon me, sir, what does a master do when he "clears out"?

Bored P.O.: Runs like ---!!

* * * *

A correspondent asks if a bull will go away if you stare at it. We should say it depends a great deal on the colour of your tie. Anyway, it's a toss up!

* * * *

Another wants to know which is the largest ape in the world. Well---er---we hardly like to say. Ask your sister; she may be more candid.

* * * *

Our misgivings on noting the address of the new P.S.A. office are somewhat allayed by the suggestion that there is plenty of water.

* * * *

Are they both laid on from the main, or has the Water Board ceased to function?

* * * *

Who is the officer who, upon taking duty on wine, entered it as 18° 2' N.E.?

◆◆◆◆◆

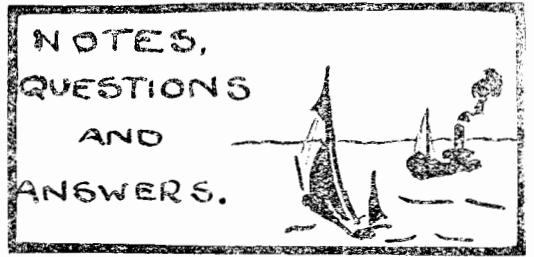
WELSH.

The Mistress of the House, addressing Cook: "Did I not hear you quarrelling with Mr. Jones, the milkman, this morning, Janet?"

"No, mum; I enquired after the milkmaid at the dairy; she's ill."

"Yes?"

"Says I, 'How's the milkmaid?' and he got 'is 'air off and said 'That's a trade secret.'"



All contributions relative to this column should be addressed to "Scrutator," c/o The Editor, 59, Etta Street, Deptford, London, S.E.8.

I am indebted to "Chubb" for a necessary correction in my table of duties published in Journal No. 552 of Dec. 19th, 1925. Having mislaid my copy, I am unable to say how the error occurred. The item was correct in the table issued a few months ago. I would ask these officers who are interested, particularly candidates for the next examination, to correct their copies as follows:—

The item "Chocolate (other than with liquid interior)" should be grouped with "Cocoa, etc.," duty £1 2s. per cwt. or 2.357d. per lb. (not £2 2s. per cwt., Chubb).

Whilst dealing with the table of duties, I notice that an asterisk has misfired in the Preferential column opposite "Sugar Goods, Dutiable Fruits, etc.," This refers to the footnote in G.O. 35-1925, quoted in the first column under these goods, and, incidentally, similarly quoted in the new Official Tariff, q.v. Please insert same.

* * * *

Once again I must refer unwillingly to immature spirits. First, I thank "Wenus" for his article on this subject, and other items as published in the last issue, also "Reasonable" for his letter (published below). My comments follow the letter.

Dear Scrutator, —Willingly I respond to your invitation to say a word concerning the ruling obtained re delivery of spirits. It was not a Board's reference, but received from headquarters in 1922. "Trader" will realise that one cannot divulge the signature thereto; suffice it to say that it is the signature of an examiner.

By way of explanation, "Sectus" in 1922 was advising students to deliver a reasonable quantity of Geneva, liqueurs, and perfumed spirits under par. 63 (b), Vol. II., Part x., regardless, I presume, of the words in brackets on page 2 thereof. The said spirits, we know, do not mature by reason of age, nevertheless they are subjected to the additional immature spirit duty and there may be some other reason why

the delivery quantity of spirits, by the Waterguard, is limited. I use "may be" discreetly.

In view of the divergence of opinion then obtaining on the subject, I submitted two questions (which my Collector kindly transmitted) to headquarters, and received the reply that "par. 63, Vol. II., Part x., does not apply to the Waterguard, and so far as they are concerned G.O.'s 21 and 28-1915 are still in force."

No General Order adversely affecting this ruling has since been issued, and until some other peremptory instruction is circulated I feel bound, in the light of my knowledge and of the existing instructions, to advise students, for examination purposes, to comply with G.O. 28-1915, pars. 1 to 4, as this Order has not been wholly cancelled; also, in further study, to avoid parts of Codes which in the main are alien to Waterguard work. This latter point, coupled with the local orders and practice at some ports, is the cause of the confusion and anxiety which "Trader" and others are experiencing.—

Yours, etc., Reasonable.

My reason for saying that I "unwillingly" refer to this subject once again is that, owing to rumours and rulings, this question cannot be satisfactorily settled until a definite Order, issued generally throughout the kingdom, is forthcoming.

'Tis all very well for, shall we say, Tom Jones, P.O., Lands End, and Jack Smith, P.O., John O'Groats, to get a ruling on some vague point, use it as his authority and pass it on as required, but generally speaking we, as Waterguard Officers, are guided by the Instructions and General Orders that are issued to us to enable unity of practice to replace "port practice," particularly as regards important regulations.

One only needs to refer to the article by "Wems" and the letter from "Reasonable" to realise that unity on this point does not exist throughout the kingdom. "Wems" says "Yes," because he has a ruling; "Reasonable" says "No," because he also has a ruling—and both these answers refer to this same subject. Personally, I have only the regulations to guide me.

From correspondence in my possession, it seems that, on this very subject, the opinion of a highly placed official altered from the negative to the affirmative between 1921 and 1923-4. So much for "rulings" that are not issued generally.

It is not a question, "Wems," of whether we are "as good as Landing Officers" in this respect, but a question of which is right and which is wrong.

Furthermore, I do not agree that it is clearly permissible for a Landing Officer to assess and receive the duty under par. 63 of Part x., Vol. II. Par. 62 prohibits the delivery of spirits that have not been warehoused for three years, except (sub-par. c) certain immature spirits on which the duties chargeable thereon, "accord-

in to age" have been paid. This sub-par. refers you to par. 63. In par. 63 we find that "the following immature spirits may be delivered on payment of the appropriate duty." Sub-par. (b) of this latter paragraph quotes Geneva, perfumed spirits and liqueurs. There is no mention of "any quantity being delivered without production of evidence of age. It is also to be noted that par. 63 suggests that Geneva, perfumed spirits and liqueurs "may" be immature. The first four words of the paragraph and sub-paragraph (b) cannot be separated. Therefore, the statement that the use of mature spirits is required in the process of manufacture is doubtful. What about a passenger having 4 gallons of liqueurs made at home with absolute alcohol, essence of peppermint, sugar, etc., etc.?

In this paragraph "liqueurs" is spelt with a small "l." Candidly I do not know anything about the maturity of spirits, but prefer to favour "Reasonable's" statement that "such spirit does not mature by reason of age."

Moreover, in par. 64 we find that a declaration of evidence of age is required, and if not forthcoming or satisfactory the Board's directions are to be sought.

Hence the reason for sending quantities in excess of those allowed by G.O. 28-1915 to the King's or Baggage Warehouse for assessment.

In "Journal" No. 549 I gave some reasons for complying with G.O. 28-1915 regardless of the rumours and rulings that are floating around, and shall continue to do so until some alternative Order is issued.

Two other letters on this subject are published below, together with my relative comments.

Sir,—Re "Scrutator's" reply re G.O.'s 21 and 28 of 1915, it now appears that the difference of opinion lays in the direction contained in Part 10, Volume 2. You say that the G.O.'s in question are only cancelled "so far as they relate to the work of Landing Officers."

My contention is that the direction in Part 10, Volume 2, is to cancel the paragraphs of the Importation Code and G.O.'s 21, 22, 28, of 1915, and G.O. 55-1916.

The Circulars of 1907 and 1915, so far as they relate to the work of Landing Officers.

The full-stop after G.O. 55-1916 makes all the difference in my opinion.

I trust you will not consider it useless to pursue the subject further, but give your opinion for the benefit of all on the interpretation given above.—Yours, etc.,

TRADER.

No, "Trader," you are quite wrong. Possibly pages 3 and 4 of G.O. 80-1925, which I have just received to-day, will convince you otherwise.

The fact that the G.O.'s and Circulars referred to in your letter are grouped together, but separated from the other items on page 2 of

Part X. shows that they (the G.O.'s and Circulars) are only partially cancelled.

Sir.—Would you kindly find space for the following in next issue of "Journal."

Regarding the recent question appearing in these columns regarding the admission of Geneva, perfumed spirits and liqueurs, perhaps the following may be of some help to those in doubt:—

Referring to "Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act, 1915, the following is quoted:

Sec. 1, b, iii.—". . . this restriction shall not apply to imported Geneva and perfumed spirits and foreign liqueurs."—Yours, etc.,

SPCR.

P.S.—The above is from Highmore's Customs Laws, page 376.

The point you quote is interesting, but does not settle our differences of opinion. Here is a question for you: "Why is the additional duty of 1s. 6d., 2s., 2s. 5d. per gallon levied on Geneva, Liqueurs and Perfumed Spirits respectively, when such goods are not warehoused?"

Some time ago I think I said that, although Highmore's gives us the law, the Revised Instructions, Code and General Orders are issued for us to comply with.

I shall endeavour to answer your other questions in the next issue.

I thank the above correspondents for their good wishes, which I reciprocate.

"SCRUTATOR."

Civil Service Confederation.

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARIES.

From the many evidences of the spirit of cohesion which reach us at Confederation Office, it is clear that during the last few weeks notable advances have been made in the strengthening of the organised power of Civil Servants. This has been stimulated no doubt by attacks upon the Service, and attempts to prejudice it in the eyes of the public. If, however, the answer of the Service is to be effective, it must be more than a rebuttal. Such spectacular controversy merely entertains the public; it does not move them.

Most British people do not want a cheap and nasty Civil Service; and in the end the public will take the Service at its own valuation. The remarkable rally of the last few weeks shows that the Service is confident in itself. Generally it is true to say "they conquer who believe they can."

We cannot help perceiving, however, that as time passes the impression of our solidarity

on the public mind tends to disappear. Our case has undoubtedly been stated well. But it will be a mistake to rely upon the statement of the case simply. So much news passes fugitively before the eye of the newspaper reader; so many controversies arise and give way to new ones in the course of public affairs; that unless the impression of sincere and resolute resistance that our campaign has made can be repeated again and again, it will pass away, and our appeal will be ineffective.

We see the need for assiduous and tireless repetition of our claim to just and unprejudiced treatment by the State. We urge, therefore, that there should be no slackening of personal loyalty and activity in the weeks preceding and during the coming Parliamentary Session. To "get across" the public mind, it is necessary to be tireless and resourceful in the variety of ways in which opinion can be influenced. The first need is to believe in ourselves; and the second is to reiterate with great pertinacity the main points of the case.

In particular, it may be wise to urge our own argument rather than merely to answer points put forward against us. If we are being attacked it is for us to choose at least some of the grounds upon which our appeal to public opinion shall be made. The individual Civil Servant should make himself or herself familiar with the positive as well as the "defensive" side of the case. In this controversy it should not be assumed that the public knows anything. Nothing should be taken for granted. It should be supposed that we have to teach the public the whole case from A to Z.

With best wishes for the New Year,

PHILIP MILLWOOD,

General Secretary, C.S.C.

HERBERT BRYAN,

Assistant Secretary, C.S.C.

Obituary.

Mr. JOSEPH POTTS.

The death occurred recently at Southwick of Mr. Joseph Potts, at the age of 66 years. Mr. Potts commenced his career in the Service at Thames Haven, serving subsequently at Gravesend, North Shields and London, and finally at Shoreham, where he retired after eighteen years of that post. He was well known among a large circle of friends, as was evidenced by the presence of well-known people at the funeral and by the floral tributes. Members of the C. and E. Department present included the Collector, Mr. G. W. Cole, Mr. R. H. Maynard, Mr. A. Atherfold, Mr. J. Press and Mr. S. J. Gawn.

C. and E. Orphans', Widows', and War Memorial Fund.

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the Custom House, London, on Monday, January 4th, 1926. Mr. N. R. White, Vice-President, occupied the chair.

The Committee approved the Minutes of the last two meetings, the Statement of the Finances of the Fund as submitted, and elected 18 new members.

A letter from the Assistant Editor of Ham's Year Books, offering to give again free advertisement of the Fund in the 1926 issue, and one from the Secretary of the Manchester Branch of the C. and E. Federation offering to give the net proceeds of a Smoking Concert to be held on January 23rd, was read. The Secretary reported that he had sent letters conveying the thanks of the Committee in each case.

The Committee had before them reports by the Visiting Committee on eight applications for assistance from widows in necessitous circumstances. In each instance it was reported that assistance was necessary, and the Committee made the maximum grant permissible, viz., £15 in each case. They also considered a request for help towards the cost of treatment in a sanatorium from a member of the Department, who had contracted tuberculosis through service with the Army during the War. The Committee decided to accept full responsibility for the cost of this treatment as a charge against the War Relief Fund.

It was mentioned that the proceeds of the first 400 collecting boxes opened amounted to about £250.

The Committee resolved to hold a special meeting on the 18th inst. to consider what action should be taken with regard to the claim made by the Inland Revenue that the Fund was liable to Income Tax.

The probationer was hailed before the chief to explain why he was performing his duties so carelessly.

"Mr. Smith," said the chief, "of late your work has been very perfunctory.—"

Before the chief could continue, the probationer broke in: "Sir, I've been at this post for six months now, and, though I have tried my best, this is the first bit of praise I have received, and I thank you very much."

Prosecution.

LONDON.

At the Thames Police Court on 7th ult., before J. A. R. Cairns, Esq., Metropolitan Magistrate, J. Espinola, donkeyman, was charged with concealing 4 lb. of cigarettes on board s.s. "Cortes," from Antwerp, in London Dock. The accused pleaded guilty and was fined double value and duty, i.e., £6 12s. 8d. Prisoner paid the fine.

Mr. W. H. Croker, A.P.O., discovered the goods, under the supervision of Mr. S. Carter, P.O.; and the case was conducted in court by Mr. J. Clark, C.P.O.

"The New Civilian."

Number One of "The New Civilian," the accredited organ of the Civil Service, appeared on January 5th, and was rapidly sold out. Number Two is now on sale, and a reasonable margin has been provided, but those who require to be supplied with this valuable paper would do well to place a definite order to ensure its delivery. We have no hesitation in advising every member of the P.S.A. to procure a copy regularly. If it continues as it has started, "The New Civilian" will prove of inestimable value to every live Civil Servant, and recent events have shown how many "live" members there are in the Service.

No. 1 (to quote from the Editorial in No. 2) was largely sold on the reputation of its producers. The fate of No. 2 and all subsequent issues will be determined by the quality of the contents. The intention is to make "The New Civilian" the indispensable weekly for every Civil Servant, a task that gives promise of early accomplishment.

The leaflet contained in the last issue of the "Customs Journal" gives full particulars relative to supply, etc.

It is announced that the famous Aberdeen Jew is dead. It was surmised at first that death resulted from lead poisoning, owing to the fact that a native of Aberdeen had given the deceased a half-crown piece, which was found tightly clasped in his hand. Medical evidence contradicted this rumour, and it was proved that the cause of death was heart failure, the coin being genuine.

Problems and Puzzles.

It was expected that we should have been able to publish in this issue the answers to the puzzles given in the Christmas number; indeed, the answers were forwarded to the Editor in order that demented readers might have their minds eased. However, owing mainly to the Editor's untidy habits, or something to that effect, the MS. has been mislaid, and frantic efforts to locate it have been unsuccessful. Readers are requested to have another go at them and to worry their friends until the next issue, when we hope to have explained things satisfactorily to Mr. Powell, and to have prevailed upon him to replace the missing links.

Meantime, the Editor regrets, etc., etc.

H.M. Civil Service.

The ANNUAL DINNER will take place at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2, on Friday, February 12th, at half past six for seven o'clock.

Sir Warren Fisher, G.C.B., Secretary to the Treasury, will preside. His Royal Highness Prince Henry, K.G., has graciously consented to be present. The Prime Minister and Members of His Majesty's Government, the representatives of English Literature, the heads of the Fighting Services, and other distinguished guests have accepted the invitation of the Service. The price of tickets is 12s. 6d. each, exclusive of wines, etc.

Application on the prescribed form, accompanied by remittance in full, should be addressed to the Joint Hon. Secretaries, Civil Service Dinner Committee, Room 208, Treasury Chambers, London, S.W.1, so as to reach them within the period January 11th to 23rd. Priority of application will be considered in the allocation of seats. Each applicant may also apply for a ticket for one guest. In case of a party, all the applications must be sent together and a plan of the seating desired should be attached.

It was a cold, frosty morning. Charlie met Tammas on the way to Union Street. "That's a cauld mornin', Tammas," says Charlie. "Aye!" replied Tammas. "There's a nip in the air—but I suppose that's all the length it'll get."

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

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CURRENT HUMOUR.

A BIG DEMAND.

A farm hand complained of having very bad pains in his ankles, so the farmer advised him to see the doctor. The following day he went to the doctor, who told him that he must bathe the affected parts in salt water. There was an excursion train during the week-end, so off he went to the seaside, where he could procure the necessary water free of charge, and on arriving he made straight away for the shore and got a bottle of briny. The bottle quite accidentally came to grief on the floor and he had to go back again for another bottle of the curative liquid. (Two hours later: low water.) As he approached the beach he exclaimed, "Hi, mister, how many people use this salt water treatment? I suppose you'll fill it up again to-morrow?"

* * * *

IRISH JUSTICE.

An Irishman in a Court of Law in Ireland continually interrupted the proceedings by shouting—

"Sor! The dhrain pipe in me house has busted and drowned all me cocks and hens."

No notice was taken for some time, but at last the magistrate remarked: "This is not the place for your grievance, you should go to the Civil Court."

After some time, the Irishman returned and continued his interruptions.

"Did I not tell you to go to the Civil Court," said His Honour.

"Yis, Sor!" said the Irishman.

"Well, what did they say?"

"Please, Sor, they told me to go to H—and keep ducks."

* * * *

ENGLISH AS SPOKEN.

Husband, who arrived at house where a party was being held: "I've only come to take my wife home."

Hostess: "Oh, my dear Mr. Longbottom, why didn't you come sooner."

* * * *

KNOWLEDGE.

"Can anyone tell me the earliest reference in history to a theatre?"

"Yes, Sir, we read in the Bible that Joseph was taken from the family circle and put into the pit."

* * * *

GOSSIP.

"There's no satisfying that there Mrs. Smif up our street. She told me she was left an orphan, and when enquiring like, I arsts 'er what she did wiv it; you ought to 'ave 'eard 'er carry on."

FIXING THE TIME LIMIT.

Major Shockington: "What would you call the limit in drinking, Colonel—when a man has had enough?"

Commander Boosey: "Sir, a properly bred man can never have enough."

* * * *

YIELDING TO TEMPTATION.

A Moralizer: "How weak one is and how easily one yields to temptation!"

A Husband: "I should say so. My wife went to an auction last week to buy a stove and she bought a refrigerator."

* * * *

IN FOUR LANGUAGES.

A story is told of a country coroner who was called upon to hold an inquest over the body of an Italian. The only witness was a small boy of the same nationality, who spoke no English. The examination proceeded thus:

"Where do you live, my boy?"

The boy shook his head.

"Do you speak English?"

Another shake of the head.

"Do you speak French?"

Another shake.

"Do you speak German?"

Still no answer.

"How old are you?"

No reply.

"Do you speak Italian?"

The boy gave no sign.

"Well," said the coroner, "I have questioned the witness in four languages, and got no answer. It is useless to proceed. The court is adjourned until further evidence can be obtained."

* * * *

GIVING THE SHOW AWAY.

A judge in New York asked a coloured citizen who sat in court: "Are you the solicitor for the defence?"

He replied: "No, Sah, I'se paid a solicitor to git me off, an' I'se paid him well, I'se only de pusson what stole de chickens."

* * * *

Rumour has it that a certain officer tasted the contents of a bottle which apparently contained whisky. Much to his disgust, it proved to be petrol. Now, instead of hiccoughing, he honks!

* * * *

A nervous curate had entered the tramcar and sat opposite to a lady with a small boy.

Boy (audibly): Look, mother, that man has got his collar on the wrong way, just like dadda did the—

Mother: Sssh! be quiet.

Boy (after pause): Mother, is he drunk?