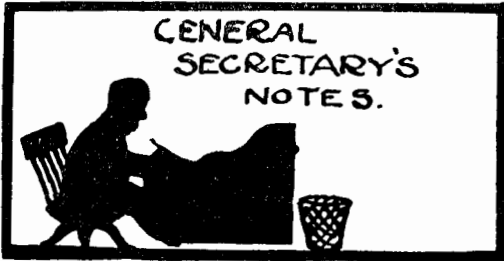


# The Customs Journal.

No. 567.

July 17th, 1926.

Fortnightly.



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

These Notes are being written almost on the eve of the Conference, yet, the weather is so sultry that one is tempted to forget the fact that very shortly three days of strenuous work will have to be undertaken, and that intense preparation will have to be continued up to the last. Inviting thoughts of a quiet and aimless stroll in the cool of the evening amongst shady trees must sternly be banished, or the consequences will be disastrous.

The banishment is not so easily accomplished, however, because it so happens that the most interesting topics in the Department at the moment are apparently connected chiefly with outdoor pastimes.

I have before me an interesting little booklet describing how to arrange for cheap and charming holidays on the Continent. Also I have quite a lot of correspondence relating to the organisation of Civil Service sports and games.

The booklet is issued by the Civil Service Travel Association, the Committee for which is composed of some of the most energetic men in the forefront of Civil Service activity. There is every reason to believe that the tours advertised are as good as they look, and, anyway, I would have no hesitation in advising members who are considering the holiday problem to get into touch with the Secretary, Mr. G. L. Samuelson, Civil Service Travel Association, 6, Endersleigh Gardens, London, W.C.1, where full information can be obtained. Every support should be given to movements of this kind within the Service, and there can be no doubt that great benefit is derived by members who do give their support.

So far as the question of Departmental sports is concerned, it would appear that the Customs and Excise Sports Club is undertaking a great "push." The Secretary of the Club recently

attended a meeting of the Customs and Excise Joint Committee in order to enlist the services of Association representatives in furthering the cause of sport in the Civil Service; and now a circular letter has been sent out to all Associations appealing for active assistance for the Sports Society. This letter will be discussed by the Conference, and it is hoped that a favourable view will be taken by the Councillors.

One factor which is bound to have a great deal of influence on the situation is the recent decision of the Chief Preventive Officers' Association to come forward with an offer of a trophy to be competed for by tug-of-war teams at the forthcoming Departmental Sports Meeting on July 26th. This decision can well be applauded, and it is interesting to note that the Waterguard Staff in London have quickly indicated their appreciation by taking immediate steps to train at least one team with a view to entering for the sports and carrying off the prize.

The Waterguard has a great deal to gain by taking active part in Service sports. We have many useful athletes within our ranks. It is true, of course, that there is no Department where the duties operate so much against individuals who desire to participate in organised sport, but it is equally true that, if every available facility for taking our part in these movements were made use of, the result in time would be that some method would be found for lessening the adverse effects on our social life caused by irregular hours of duty. It is to be hoped that the action taken by the C.P.O.'s will be a step in the right direction, and that it indicates complete departure from the days when the arriving at a decision to grant a Saturday half-holiday was a ceremonious affair, and when to ask for two in succession was to risk annihilation. During the past few years a considerably more broadminded view has, of course, been taken respecting our very occasional half-holidays, and therefore there is reason to hope that we have now seen the last of the petty irritations that have been connected with it.

\* \* \* \*

The reply of the Official Side of the Departmental Council regarding the question of the Staff Side as to whether the fact of volunteering or not volunteering during the General Strike would be noted on an officer's record will be well received by the Staff generally. The Staff Side were informed that no such record would be made. It would serve no good purpose to go into the pros and cons of the matter, and the simple reply can be regarded as very satisfactory. It is quite safe to say that very few indeed of those who offered their services during

the emergency had any other idea than to carry out what they considered to be a duty, and that no considerations of possible advancement prompted their action.

Waterguard Officers will no doubt be interested and pleased to hear that the name of Mr. J. P. Hausey, Waterguard Superintendent, Dover, was included in the King's Birthday Honours List. He has had conferred upon him the Honour of M.B.E. This makes yet another addition to the ranks of Waterguard officials who have had their services recognised in this manner.

Many members are looking forward with apprehension to the time when the next revision of the bonus is due to take effect. It is anticipated that a fall of two twenty-sixths, instead of the familiar one twenty-sixth, will operate, and there certainly is some ground for this anticipation.

Strictly speaking, this accelerated drop should cause satisfaction, because it brings us nearer to the time when we shall be able to weigh things in a more satisfactory manner on the basis of real wages. In spite of this logic, however, Waterguard wages, especially in the A.P.O. Grade, are so near the verge of inadequacy that the slightest fluctuation causes a considerable disturbance of the family budget. One must enjoy a fairly substantial salary scale before one is able to realise the beauties of a falling cost-of-living bonus.

J. MERRON.

## PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

### SOUTHAMPTON.

A meeting was held at the Bedford Hotel on July 9th for the purpose of discussing the agenda of the Council meeting to be held in London on July 14th.

In view of the important nature of the meeting, the very poor attendance of members was noticeable.

The agenda was fully discussed and views of members on the various subjects were expressed to the Councillor who was present.

Under the heading "Other business," the E.C. was instructed to bring before the Council the unfairness of the "work and waiting rule" as applied to Southampton, and a proposal "that the Hon. Board be approached to cancel the whole Order" was carried unanimously.

Suggestions for the improvement of Form 142 were discussed, and it was proposed that the names of all dutiable articles be enumerated on the list. The proposal was carried.

A very successful meeting, despite the poor attendance, was brought to a close at 10 p.m.

When you've got half-an-hour to while away don't pass it with the man who hasn't.

## WIDOWS', ORPHANS' & OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS ACT, 1925.

The following letter has been sent by the Treasury to the N.W.C., Staff Side:—

July 3rd, 1926.

Sir,—

With reference to Treasury Circular dated December 16th, 1925 (E. 14823/3), No. 23/25, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to inform you that they have had under review the accounting procedure to be followed in the case of those employees of the Civil Service referred to in paragraph 9 of that Circular who are compulsorily insurable under the Contributory Pensions Act, either for widows' and orphans' pensions (in the case of women for orphans' pensions) or for all benefits of the Act, and although excepted from Health Insurance under the provisions of paragraph (b) of Part II. of the First Schedule to the National Health Insurance Act, 1924, elect to become voluntary contributors under the combined schemes of health insurance and pensions insurance.

2.—In ordinary course such employees are insured under the Contributory Pensions Act in accordance with the procedure described in paragraphs 10 to 17 of Treasury Circular No. 23/25, and are further fully insured as voluntary contributors under the combined schemes of health insurance and pensions insurance (vide paragraph 19 (ii.) of that Circular); and it is left to them to submit their stamped cards (in respect of their voluntary insurance under the combined scheme) to the appropriate Health Insurance Department at the end of each half-year, with a form of claim for the refund of the duplicated pensions contributions, which are refunded by the Insurance Department after that Department is satisfied of the fact of duplication, e.g., by a certificate from the employing Department as to the number and rate of pensions contributions which have been (or will be) included in the half-yearly remittances in respect of the employees in question.

3.—With a view to obviating the inconvenience involved in the above procedure and the delay which must occur in repaying to the officers concerned the duplicated payments, it is now proposed that Departments should arrange for the payment of combined contributions of such employees, if they so wish, by means of stamps affixed to the insurance cards, for each week in respect of which pensions contributions are payable by the Department and for the deduction from wages or salary of the amount of the combined contributions, less the share of the pensions contribution payable by the Department. The amount of the combined contributions payable in the case of persons employed in Great Britain would thus be 1s. 6d. for a man and 1s. 1d. for a woman; and allowing for the employers' share of the pensions contribution under paragraph 9 of the Circular quoted, the

deduction from wages or salary would be 1s. 2½d. or 1s. 1½d. for a man and 11d. or 10½d. for a woman (the higher rates of deduction in each case applying to persons excepted from compulsory insurance for Old Age Pensions, and the lower rates to persons not so excepted).

4.—I am also to explain, however, that under section 12 (3) of the National Health Insurance Act, 1924, voluntary contributors whose total income from all sources (including Departmental remuneration) exceeds £250 a year are ineligible for medical benefit, and the combined contributions payable by them are accordingly reduced by 2d. both for men and women. Accordingly, in the case of such voluntary contributors, in respect of whom contributions under the Contributory Pensions Act are payable by the Department as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, the total contributions, and likewise the deductions from salary or wages set out in paragraph 3, will be reduced by 2d. throughout.

5.—My Lords suggest that steps should be taken to bring the alternative procedure described in paragraphs 3 and 4 above (under which no duplication of pensions contributions and consequently no claims to refund will arise) to the notice of those employees concerned, with a view to its adoption with effect from the half-year commencing on July 5th, 1926. Employees concerned, who wish to take advantage of the alternative procedure, should be asked to forward their cards to the Accounting Officer at the commencement of each half-year and at the same time furnish him with the name and address and approval number of their approved society (and number of Branch or Lodge, if any), and their membership number therein, or if they are Deposit Contributors, their membership number in the Deposit Contributors' Fund. It will be necessary for the employees referred to in paragraph 4, to whom the reduced rates are applicable, to inform their Department accordingly. The employing Department should identify in the salary or wages records the persons to whom these arrangements apply, noting the fact of their voluntary insurance, the names of their approved societies, and their membership numbers therein. This information will, in certain cases, be required when a claim to pension arises, and should in such cases be embodied in the certificate of employment which the Department would be required to furnish to the Insurance Department.

6.—As regards the current half-year, the procedure referred to in paragraph 2 above, as to the refund of duplicated contributions, should be followed. If any Department is unable to make arrangements for the adoption of the new procedure with effect from July 5th, 1926, the change may be postponed until the commencement of the ensuing half-year, the Insurance Department being informed accordingly.

7.—It should be understood that the above alternative procedure is limited to the case of employees dealt with in paragraph 9 of Treasury Circular No. 23/25, who, being compulsorily insured for some or all of the benefits of the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory

Pensions Act, 1925, elect to become voluntary contributors under the combined schemes of health insurance and pensions insurance. No change in existing procedure is involved in the case of employees under that paragraph who are not voluntary contributors under the combined schemes or in the case of the voluntary contributors referred to in paragraph 19 (ii.) of the Circular on whose behalf no contributions are payable by the Department.

8.—I am to take this opportunity of calling attention to the following points of detail arising out of Treasury Circular No. 23/25:—

(a) In the event of any appreciable number of employees under paragraph 9 of that Circular becoming voluntary contributors under the alternative procedure referred to above, the provisions of paragraph 10 for the variation of the amount of the deposit payable to the appropriate Health Insurance Department will, of course, apply.

(b) A form of return for the use of Departments under paragraph 12 of the Circular has been prepared by the Insurance Department, and supplies will be despatched shortly. The first half-yearly remittances and returns are due on or before July 26th next, and it is requested that in cases where owing to the accounting arrangements it is not possible for a Department to render a complete return within the prescribed time, a provisional return may be submitted with the appropriate remittance, on or before July 26th, and a final return as soon thereafter as is practicable.

(c) Attention should be drawn to Section 9 (1) (b) of the National Health Insurance Act, 1924, which is applied to pensions insurance by Section 10 of the Contributory Pensions Act, 1925. The instructions in paragraph 19 (iv.) of the Circular should accordingly be amplified to read that no contributions in respect of health or pensions insurance (whether the employee is compulsorily or voluntarily insured) are required for any contribution week during the whole of which an officer is absent (i.) on sick leave, (ii.) on leave without pay, or (iii.) partly on sick leave and partly on other leave (with or without pay).

9.—A table is appended setting out the rates of contributions payable in respect of the various categories of Civil Servants falling within the scope of the Widows', Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, and of the combined scheme. For convenience of reference the contributions payable under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1925, are also shown.\*

10.—Persons employed in Northern Ireland.—The provisions of this Circular are applicable also to employees in Northern Ireland, subject to amendment of the rates of contribution in accordance with the Northern Ireland Act. Thus, in the enclosed table relating to Health Insurance and Pensions Insurance,\* the rates of contribution in category A are reduced by 1d. for both employer and employee, making a total reduction of 2d. in the case of employees of both sexes; in category B the rate is reduced by 1d.

for the employer only, in the case of employees of both sexes; and the rates shown in category E and category H apply also to category D and category G respectively.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
R. R. SCOTT.

\* Copies of the table can be obtained on usual Form of Demand from H.M. Stationery Office, Underwood Street, City Road, N.1.

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### CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

#### DISTRICT ORGANISER, HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT.

We have received intimation that Mr. H. C. Oak, District Organiser for the Hartlepool District, has changed his address, and all communications should in future be addressed to 136, Milton Road, West Hartlepool.

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### NOTICE.

#### ELECTION OF P.O. GRADE COUNCILLOR, SCOTLAND AREA.

The members in the above area are hereby informed that Mr. W. M. Sheehan, P.O., was the successful candidate in the recent election rendered necessary by the transfer from the area of Mr. A. P. Angus.

Mr. Sheehan's address is Customs and Excise, R.N. Dockyard, Rosyth, N.B.

For the Executive Committee,  
J. T. SUTTON,  
Organising Secretary.

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### OBITUARY.

#### Mr. JOHN JAMES TWEEDIE.

We regret to announce the death from pneumonia, on Wednesday, June 17th, 1926, of Mr. John James Tweedie, Preventive Officer, Dunston-on-Tyne, at the age of 52 years. During his career he had served at Liverpool, Merville, Grangemouth, Sunderland and the Tyne. Mr. Tweedie was a widower and leaves one daughter.

He was interred at Garden House Cemetery, Dunston, in the presence of a large number of colleagues and business associates. The coffin, draped with the Customs flag, was borne by a number of brother officers. Mr. Tweedie was extremely popular with his brother officers, who feel very keenly the sudden loss of such a genial colleague.

### LONDON BRANCH.

#### SMOKING CONCERT & PRESENTATION.

The St. Katharine Dock Hotel, London, is a most fitting place for a smoking concert. The accommodation is roomy and comfortable, and there is that atmosphere of jovial goodfellowship usually to be associated with these old-fashioned taverns. The catering is all that one could desire, and is on the most up-to-date lines. The popularity of the landlord is well deserved because of the genuine interest he takes in the welfare of his guests.

Having discovered this really ideal scene for a "Smoker," the Committee entrusted with the arrangements in connection with the making of a presentation to Mr. R. Tremayne (Our "Dicky"), lately retired from the Service, proceeded to get together a concert party. It is a pleasing fact that amongst the London officers there is no dearth of talent, and it is delightful to be able to relate that those who are possessed of ability to entertain can never be accused of selfishness when their good services are requested in the interests of their colleagues.

The result of the Committee's efforts, therefore, was that on the evening of July 9th a happy gathering of London officers took place for the purpose of enjoying a very excellent musical programme, and to show their appreciation of their popular friend, Mr. Tremayne, by being associated with his presentation function.

The finishing touch to the picture was the presence of Mr. C. E. Egan, Chief Preventive Officer, who had been prevailed upon to act as presenting officer.

Mr. Metcalfe, P.O., was elected to the chair, and although he pleaded he had never acted in that capacity before, his conduct of affairs was so successful that he is not likely to be overlooked on future similar occasions.

Mr. Sullivan as M.C. was excellent, and his arrangement of the programme was well appreciated by everyone. There was not the slightest hitch from the commencement to the end.

Mr. A. Rogers, A.P.O., opened the proceedings with various selections on the piano, concluding with a rendering of the famous melody "Valencia," that delighted his audience and induced the care-free spirit proper to social entertainments.

Mr. Stoeker, P.O., was in excellent form, and his songs were much enjoyed. The two most favoured by the audience were "The Great Red Dawn is Shining" and "Love's Old Sweet Song."

Mr. Steel, A.P.O., charmed his hearers with that old favourite "Parted." Of his other songs the one most appreciated was "Kathleen Mavourneen."

Mr. Egan, having responded to a request to sing "The Bandolero," greatly surprised those who have not experienced his singing before. His execution of "Two Eyes of Grey" caused such vociferous applause that an encore was

inevitable. He obliged with that delightful ballad, "Island of Dreams." As the Chairman truly remarked, Mr. Egan's unexpected performance was a revelation.

The Chairman himself proved his prowess as a vocalist, and he vacated the chair on two occasions, first to sing an amusing parody of "The Lost Chord," and then to give us that old humorous song, "The Spaniard who blighted my Life." His hilarity was infectious, and, with the assistance of the witty Mr. Whitty, A.P.O., he supplied just the right amount of lightness to the entertainment.

Other singers who were enthusiastically received were Mr. Sullivan, A.P.O., giving "Father O'Flynn" and "The Mountains of Mourne"; Mr. Manly, P.O., with "The Boys of the Old Brigade" and "As your Hair grows whiter"; Mr. Tremayne (junior) contributing a selection from "The Bing Boys."

During an interval in the programme, Mr. C. E. Egan presented to Mr. R. Tremayne a beautiful silver tea-service on behalf of the London Waterguard Staff. He spoke feelingly of his association with Mr. Tremayne since he had been in London, and unhesitatingly pronounced him a straightforward gentleman whose word was his bond. He could not wish for a more reliable officer, and he hoped he would live long to enjoy his well-earned rest.

Messrs. Metcalfe, Beacher, Evans, Cassidy, Sullivan, Merron, and many others followed with speeches in similar strain, and when "Dicky" rose to respond he received a great ovation from the assembly.

He replied with a neat little speech, simple and straight. He said he had much to look back upon that would cheer his heart when he thought of the many good friends he had made during his career in the Service. He was very grateful for the kindness of those who had, in giving him such a beautiful present, provided him with something wherewith to keep fresh his memory of happy days.

After the whole company had vigorously sung "For he's a jolly good fellow," Mr. Egan took the opportunity to impart a very interesting item of news. Stating that, as Mr. Tremayne was always interested in sport, the announcement he had to make would be appropriate to the occasion, Mr. Egan proceeded to tell of the triumphant results that had attended his own personal efforts to foster the sporting spirit in the Waterguard. He described how the Chief Preventive Officers had decided to present a trophy, either in the form of a shield or a cup, in connection with the tug-of-war contests that will take place at the Customs and Excise Sports on July 26th. As soon as the date for holding these sports was announced, Mr. Egan had made it his business to see that the Waterguard Department would be represented. He had made great efforts, and no stone had been left unturned in the endeavour to achieve his object. He had been so successful as to be able now to report the above-mentioned happy results. He was not, however, allowing things

to remain at that stage, and stated that he had gone a step further by actually instigating the formation of Waterguard tug-of-war teams in London, and that practices had already been arranged.

Several appreciative speeches were made regarding the sportsmanlike attitude of Mr. Egan and his colleagues, and it was clearly shown that the staff is strikingly responsive to such an attitude.

Having disposed of this very interesting incident, the musical programme was continued, and finally came to a conclusion at 11 p.m. with the singing of the National Anthem.

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## THE C. & E. SPORTS.

### WATERGUARD TO BE REPRESENTED.

Arrangements are now well in hand for the Waterguard Staff to be represented at the forthcoming sports meeting of the C. and E. Sports Club. Several teams are rapidly getting into their grip of mother earth in an endeavour to gain for the Waterguard the honour of being the first to win the tug-of-war trophy.

We have heard with great satisfaction that the Chief Preventive Officers' Association has been very busy of late discussing the possibility of supporting the sporting spirit in the Department, and the result has been the decision to present a Challenge Cup, to be competed for annually in the tug-of-war entry. The cup is to be held for the ensuing twelve months by the captain of the winning team, the members of the winning team being presented with medals. Mr. C. E. Egan, President of the C.P.O.'s Association, to whom very largely this welcome interest is due, was able to see the medals last Monday, and informs us that they are of silver, blue enamelled Customs Sports Club, with the Crown in red enamel.

Waterguard circles in London are taking great interest in the event, from the Waterguard Superintendent, Mr. Donaldson, to the eighteen stalwarts who are in training and met at Shadwell last Saturday. They have every intention of producing a team to secure the cup and medals for the first year, and their success would give unlimited satisfaction all round. Being in the habit of pulling together in the service of the Crown and in Association matters, they will not find it difficult to apply the same principles in a new direction.

It need hardly be said that the Service warmly appreciates the action of Mr. Egan and his colleagues, and every effort will be made to make this particular event a very interesting one.

It is also hoped that the Waterguard will be represented in some of the other events.

Monday, July 26th, is the date of the sports, starting at 4.30 p.m., and the place Stamford Bridge. The nearest station is Walham Green, District Railway.



At varying times last Tuesday and Wednesday morning P.S.A. Councillors from the uttermost parts of the U.K. were busily engaged in drifting along Fleet Street to one common rendezvous—the scene of the 1926 Conference. Some well-known old faces were to be observed, with here and there a new face, the owner of which would be welcomed on introduction as a friend we had known for many years through the medium of Ham's. We say they drifted in. They came in various ways and under different conditions. Some had been travelling all night; others lived near enough to catch an early train up in the morning; others, again, were fortunate in having only to travel partly across London. Judging, however, by scraps of conversation here and there, difference in travelling distances and comfort did not appear to have given any one member an advantage over another, for one thing was startlingly evident—there could be no doubt that each one, without exception, had carefully studied the business of the Conference, and was fully prepared to enter into the discussion that would commence at the time the printing press would be getting to work with this present issue. In a fortnight's time that same press will be busy preparing the report of the Conference for the consideration of the members who have elected Councillors to discuss the Association's affairs.

\* \* \*

Talking of Conference reports, it is a coincidence that a correspondent should write in this issue of the necessity for verbatim reports, and still more curious that his suggestion has been anticipated by our indefatigable Secretaries. We are able to assure him that arrangements have been made for a much fuller report of this year's Conference than has been possible in the past. We venture to think, however, that a verbatim report will be of much more use to Association officers and active members than to members who make a point of keeping well away from Association meetings. In the latter case, the Report, IF READ, will be the subject of a watch-house growse for one day, to be followed by blissful forgetfulness. The suggestion that H.Q. is often called a clique is perfectly true. We have never heard of a body of people elected to manage affairs that has not been called a clique. One necessary qualification for membership of such a body is a back having the same properties as that of a duck.

However, it is fully realised that a more extensive report is a necessity, and steps are being taken to provide the best that can possibly be produced.



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.

1.—A passenger from Colombo produces and wishes to pay duty on the following personal effects:—

7 boxes of Cigars, each 1 lb. 10 oz. gross, and 5 oz. tare.

17 tins of Cigarettes, each 5 oz. net.

2 reputed quart bottles of Liqueurs, each .16 gall.

35 lb. of Tea.

6 bottles of Perfumed Spirits, each .05 gall.

He claims preference as regards the Tea. How much would he have to pay to obtain delivery of his goods?

\* \* \*

#### Answer.

	£	s.	d.
9 3-16 lb. Cigars, at 15s. 7d. ... ..	7	3	2
5 5-16 lb. Cigarettes, at 12s. 7d. ... ..	3	6	10
32-100 gall. Liqueurs, at £3 18s. 5d. ... ..	1	5	1
35 lb. Tea, at 3½d. ... ..	0	9	8
30-100 gall. Perfumed Spirit, at			
£6 3s. 5d. ... ..	1	17	0
Fine ... ..	0	6	0
Total amount required ... ..	£14	7	9

I have been questioned by a reader of this column regarding the answer to question 7 (c) in "Journal" No. 565.

My correspondent states that the case should be dealt with according to paragraph 3 (b) of Circular C. 177/1918, and the relative footnote.

The regulation is to my idea somewhat vague.

One naturally asks the question that, if my correspondent is correct, when would paragraph 2 (a) of this Circular be applicable.

The point is one of the many which I hope will receive a ruling when our Education Committee is formed.

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## MOCK TRIAL AT GRAVESEND.

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The ninth meeting of the Gravesend Custom House Debating Society was held recently at the Liberal Club, Overcliff. A Court was formed and a Mock Trial, by jury, was held.

Before Mr. A. W. Purdye, the Judge, Mr. R. Westcott, the prisoner, was charged with the "wilful murder" of a certain Thomas Jones, of 24, Wharf Street, who was found in the room at the back of his shop at 8.15 p.m. on March 4th, 1928, with his head badly battered. The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

Counsel for the prosecution consisted of Mr. H. Keeble, C.I.D., assisted by Mr. G. Grey. Mr. E. Tinsley, C.I.D., appeared for the defence, assisted by Mr. A. G. Richardson.

Witnesses for the prosecution were William Jones (Mr. W. Woodford), son of the deceased Thomas Jones, Thomas Weatherley (Mr. R. Dunlop), shopkeeper and neighbour of Thomas Jones, and Police-Sergeant Willman (Mr. H. G. Belger), who invested the case and arrested the prisoner.

Witnesses for the defence were Albert Hansom (Mr. G. Wicks), a friend of the prisoner, who gave evidence of heavy gambling transactions by prisoner about the time of the murder; John Downs (Mr. H. Palmer), who worked with prisoner and was with him on the evening of the murder; Timothy Shuttleworth (Mr. E. W. Thomas), who saw prisoner drinking heavily on the evening after the murder at the "Pig and Whistle"; and the pathologist (Mr. H. G. Raspison), who examined the deceased man's wounds and identified human hair on a blood-stained paper.

Mr. T. G. Wood acted as Court Usher, and Mr. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec. of the Debating Society, was the Clerk of the Court.

The Jury consisted of Messrs. L. W. Carnie, T. Yeldham, K. R. Knell (foreman), H. Jones, C. W. Speed, C. G. Paisley, C. Thorogood, W. Sullivan and C. H. Twist.

During the trial all members gave a good account of their respective parts, and some very tragic and amusing scenes were related by the witnesses and the prisoner. Counsel for both sides rendered excellent service. The summing up speeches of leading counsel and judge were worthy of great praise.

After very careful examination of all the evidence produced, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and the judge acquitted the prisoner amid demonstrations of great jubilation. The case finished at 10.30 p.m. after a most exciting and interesting evening.

The briefs were prepared by Messrs. H. Keeble and E. Tinsley, C.I.D.

The next meeting will be held in October.

## C. & E. ORPHANS', WIDOWS' AND WAR MEMORIAL FUND.

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Room 120, Custom House, London, at 5 p.m. on Monday, the 5th inst., when N. R. White, Esq., Vice-President, presided, and the other members present were Messrs. Medwin, Morton, Collins, Thorne, Moffatt, Widdowson, Quin, Parkes, Howard, Price, Roberts, Abrahams, Eperon, and Johnson.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and the Secretary read several letters of thanks from beneficiaries. A financial statement, showing that £371 had been disbursed in grants during the past quarter, was submitted. The Committee were gratified to find that during the three months 46 applications for membership had been received and all were accepted.

Two applications from widows of Officers for assistance to maintain and educate children were submitted for consideration. In each case the children were elected to benefits under rule 23 at a present cost to the Fund of £30 and £25 respectively. Five applications from widows in necessitous circumstances were dealt with, and in each instance the Visiting Committee recommended that the maximum grant of £15 be awarded. Their recommendation was adopted. In two cases a decision was deferred until next meeting, and the Secretary was asked to obtain further particulars from the applicants.

Mr. Medwin was re-elected as Treasurer, and the Visiting Committee was also re-elected. Mr. Roberts was elected to a vacancy on this Committee.

Messrs. Medwin, Barnard, Morton, Thorne, Moffatt, White and the Secretary were appointed as a Sub-Committee to report on a reference from the Annual Meeting of members.

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## PROSECUTIONS.

### LONDON.

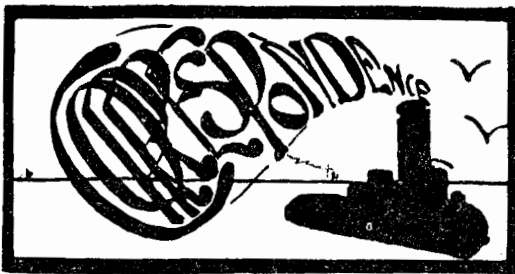
At the Thames Police Court on July 2nd, the Master of the s.s. "Greystoke Castle" was charged before J. A. R. Cairns, Esq., with concealing 360 liquid gallons (270 gallons proof) of whiskey on the vessel's arrival from Antwerp at the Millwall Dock.

The accused pleaded guilty and was fined the treble duty-paid value, £3,655 2s. 6d., or four months' imprisonment. The fine was subsequently reduced to double duty-paid value, £2,436 15s., with the same alternative, the offender being given fourteen days in which to pay the fine.

An information was exhibited and the prosecution was conducted by R. J. Fisk, Esq.

The 180 cases were found concealed between the temporary bulkhead and a false partition between the starboard 'tween-deck bunker and the 'tween-deck of No. 4 hold, overstowed by cargo, by Mr. J. T. Hoagg, P.O., and Messrs. J. H. Hodgkins and W. H. Croker, A.P.O.'s.

At the same court a fireman of the same vessel was charged with concealing 12½ lb. of cigarettes. The accused pleaded guilty and was fined double value and duty, £20 14s. 7d., or six weeks' imprisonment. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. C. Gardner, C.P.O. The goods were found concealed under about four feet of coal in the port 'tween-deck bunker by Mr. A. J. Burt, A.P.O., under the supervision of Mr. E. A. Dove, P.O.



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.

#### CONFERENCE REPORTS.

Sir,—In past years Conference reports have been served up with a great amount of reserve.

I pen this letter to you in the hope that its publication will bring to notice the absolute necessity of publishing a verbatim report of this year's Conference and future Conferences.

My first point is one of interest. Speeches of Councillors, if fully reported, would afford the greatest possible interest to members at large and would at once dispel that doubt so many misinformed members have about the honesty of our leaders. One often hears that our H.Q. is a clique working for its own ends, and the only way to dispel these rumours is to publish the whole facts.

There is another point, and that is a leader's capability. If his speeches in debate were fully reported, his constituents would have no doubt as to his true ability to represent. There would be many different results from the ballot box if this method was adopted.

Then, again, the "C.J." would benefit, and you would be the official broadcaster of many new ideas brought about by debate. The repartee in Parliamentary debate is often the most interesting detail.

What I want to see is a much keener competition for the positions on the Council, and much more interest in the general activity of the Association members.

A verbatim report will do all this. It will educate our members and make Councillors much more careful in their choice of speeches, and so

provide an interesting, intelligent and necessary topic for the interim between Conferences.—Yours, etc.,

"IMPETUS."

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

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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