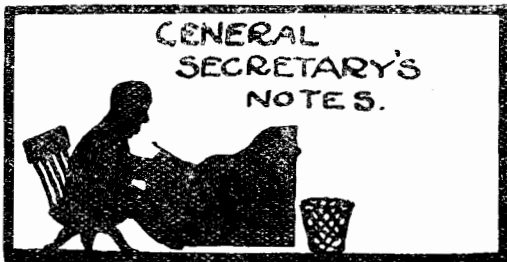


The Customs Journal.

No. 555.

January 30th, 1926.

Fortnightly.



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

The "unwilling" attitude of my friend "Scrutator" regarding the Immature Spirit dispute can be well understood. The numerous discussions that have taken place do not seem to bring the matter any nearer to a conclusion. As a matter of fact, the claims now put forward by several people to the effect that they hold authoritative rulings only go further to complicate the issue by reason of the fact that these rulings appear contradictory.

The real truth is that the comprehensive statement regarding Geneva, foreign liqueurs, and perfumed spirits, which was made by Mr. A. E. Howell in these columns some considerable time ago, is perfectly correct. It is evident, however, that many officers are not prepared to admit that Mr. Howell's pronouncement was backed up by authority.

Therefore, I have approached Headquarters in the matter, and am advised that the limitations as to quantities of spirits which may be delivered under paragraph 1, sub-para. (c) and (d), and paragraph 2, of General Order (Customs) No. 28/1915, do not apply to Geneva, perfumed spirits, liqueurs and cordials, but that in the absence of evidence of age the rate as for spirits warehoused less than two years is payable.

I understand that the Instructions will shortly be amended to this effect. Waterguard Officers can rest assured that this ruling is absolutely authentic, and they will be quite safe in being guided by it.

I understand that there is a considerable amount of misunderstanding regarding the following item taken from the Minutes of the Departmental Council Meeting held on November 18th, 1925:—

"The Standing Committees of the Council were then re-appointed with the exception of the Preventive Officer Grade Committee and the

Assistant Preventive Grade Committee, the continued existence of which two Committees the Council agreed was unnecessary."

The meaning of the above would be quite clear to anyone properly acquainted with the application of the Whitley system to the Waterguard Department. But it must be admitted that officers who have not followed the various explanations that have appeared from time to time in the "Customs Journal" might be misled. I gather that some members have come to the conclusion that the P.O. and A.P.O. Grades are not now represented on the Departmental Council. This, of course, is quite a wrong impression.

The only effect of the resolution was to abolish Grade Committees which had hitherto existed only in name. In the Constitution of the Council there were Grade Committees provided for the C.P.O., P.O., and A.P.O. Grades, and also for the Launch Service; but representatives were never appointed. Instead, there was a body set up, known as the Waterguard Sectional Committee, comprising the four Grades I have mentioned. This Committee has operated so successfully that it has now decided that the provision of separate Grade Committees is no longer necessary.

I am pleased to see that members are taking the trouble to inquire about these matters, even if mistaken views are sometimes expressed regarding them. It is often surprising to see evidence of complete ignorance regarding the functions of the Waterguard Sectional Committee. Yet, this is the most important Whitley body to Waterguard Officers.

I understand that the Editor is arranging for a new feature in the "Journal" relating solely to W.S.C. matters. No doubt, members will appreciate this new departure as a means of keeping in closer touch with what is happening.

In the last issue I promised to give some information regarding the position of ex-Service men holding Modified War Certificates. Elsewhere in this issue will be found a statement on the matter which should make the situation quite clear.

I would like to inform all officers concerned that there is no reason to be alarmed by rumours that are floating about just now as to what might happen to men in receipt of Army pensions. The Board have no intention of giving harsh treatment to anyone, and the Association is always prepared to plead the cause of any member who makes out a claim that his case has not been fairly dealt with. It is to be hoped that in future these disturbing rumours will

case. Grievances should be reported direct to the Association.

The Waterguard representatives have raised, on the Joint Committee of C. and E. Associations, the question of assessment of duty on Ad Valorem goods in passengers' baggage and crews' effects. The object is to abolish the present ridiculous system under which a Preventive Officer during his ordinary work collects duty on a hundred and one different articles, and yet is debarred (according to regulations) from regarding the assessment of duty on a fifteen shilling fiddle as part of his normal work.

In practice the assessment of duty on Ad Valorem goods must, by reason of circumstances, be normally the Preventive Officer's work. There is at least one port where collection of duty on Ad Valorem goods is frequently delayed because of a too literal reading of the General Orders, where it is laid down who is to assess the duty.

The point is, of course, that it is not a practical proposition to say that Ad Valorem duty in passengers' baggage and crews' effects must be dealt with by C.P.O.'s or Landing Officers, because only in exceptional circumstances can it be made convenient for them to do this work. The Preventive Officer is the man best situated for dealing with these things, and he actually does deal with them successfully. It is difficult to understand why the regulations deliberately imply something different.

The matter is viewed with some apprehension by the C. and E. Federation, who seem to fear that the P.S.A. claim will cause some loss to the Officer Grade. A conference has been arranged between the two Associations and we hope to come to a reasonable arrangement.

The scheme for Vocational Education has been in the hands of Councillors and District Officers for some time now, and I shall be glad if Councillors will let me have their views as early as convenient. Success depends to a great extent upon getting the business through as soon as possible.

* * *

The cost-of-living figure for January has dropped again, and now stands at 75. The figure for December was 77. The cost of living for this six months shows signs of being lower than for the corresponding six months of last year.

Questions have again been asked in the House of Commons as to when the Minister of Labour intended carrying out his proposal to review the cost-of-living basis. No information was forthcoming, and apparently conditions are not yet considered stable enough to justify any action.

J. MERRON.

TUITION.—"Wems" commences a class next month of correspondence tuition. Reuly.—"Wems," c/o Editor, 59, Etna Street, Delford, London, S.E.8. 557

Preventive Staff Association.

LONDON.

The meeting held at Vine Street on Thursday, January 21st, was not so well attended as has been usual in London of late, and first impressions gave one seriously to think that the gathering would be a somewhat hum-drum affair. As events turned out, however, lack of numbers was amply made up for by keenness in debate, and each member appeared to be very much on the alert.

In the absence of Mr. Abbott, who has been called upon to perform special duty at Maldon, the chair was taken by Mr. Merron, and in his opening remarks, the Chairman announced that a definite ruling had at last been obtained on the treatment of Geneva, foreign liqueurs, etc., and that the announcement would be published in the next issue of the "Customs Journal."

In discussing Vocational Education, the meeting was informed that the report on the subject had been submitted to the Executive Committee, and that the E.C. had found very little to criticise, which goes to show that the Sub-Committee appointed by the London Branch had performed its work well. The amended scheme had now been forwarded to the Councillors for consideration, and the Councillors were conferring with their Districts before coming to a final decision. It would thus appear that the scheme will not be put into operation until after the next meeting of the Council in June next. The scheme, as submitted by the E.C., was thoroughly discussed and was endorsed by the London Branch.

PROMOTION BY MERIT.

There were some lively passages while this question was under discussion, and the proposals were examined at some considerable length. Eventually several resolutions were passed suggesting alterations and modifications.

SENIORITY OF POST-WAR ENTRANTS.

There does not seem to have been found, as yet, a workable scheme to deal with this very vexed question, but it was hoped that somebody would be able to find a solution in the near future. The subject was adjourned in order that it could appear on the agenda of the next meeting. It would be a pity to turn the whole thing down until it was found absolutely impossible to elucidate the problem.

MODIFIED WAR CERTIFICATES.

The Assistant Secretary explained how that entry into the Service was governed by a medical certificate, which would show that entrants would be of sufficient fitness in health to give promise of forty years' effective service. The Gladstone Committee had, after much deliberation, suggested an amendment to cover those who joined the Civil Service after serving with His Majesty's Forces during the late war. These were covered by what are known as Modified War Certificates, which certified that entrants under these circumstances could reasonably be expected to perform fifteen years' effective service. There

was manifested some uneasiness that these certificates would have some stultifying effect on promotion, but it was explained that the modified war certificates placed the holder on an equal footing with those who joined the Service before the war and held full certificates. The modified certificate simply governs *entry* into the Service.

SECRETARY OF THE "CUSTOMS JOURNAL."

The vacancy for this post was reported, as a result of Mr. Dudley's promotion to Portadown. The meeting decided to seek nominations through the medium of station secretaries, and to forward them to the E.C. for consideration at its next meeting.

WATERGUARD OFFICERS ON CLERICAL DUTIES.

In answer to a question, it was elicited that the position of these Officers is exactly the same as before, providing that there was no danger of such Officers losing touch with the ordinary duties of their office.

SUPPLY OF LINOLEUM IN A.P.O.'S ROOMS.

It was stated that the Official Side was now quite sympathetic with the staff on this matter. The only thing against it at the moment is the initial cost which, at the moment, would meet with much opposition from the Treasury.

A very enthusiastic meeting terminated at 10.15 after a sitting of over three hours and a half.

BARRY.

A very successful and representative meeting was held at the Marine Hotel on January 7th, when the local officers were elected for the ensuing year. Matters of local interest were fully discussed, and suggestions creating a keener interest in Association affairs decided upon.

GRAVESEND.

This meeting, the first of the year, was well attended, and everyone present remarked that it was the finest held for some time. Matters arising out of the minutes were purely local, and suitable action was decided upon in each case.

The question of uniform came up for discussion, and many views were put forward with the result that the Secretary was instructed to obtain information regarding this question from the General Secretary.

The question of shorter (not hours, days, weeks or leave), but years, was discussed, viz., Superannuation.

The resolution following was carried unanimously: "That this meeting is of the opinion that the P.S.A. should press at once for the 'Prison Officer's Superannuation Act, 1920,' to be made applicable to the Waterguard Department. Owing to the pressure of work in the Department, we are of the opinion that we have a special and independent case for the Arbitration Board."

It was brought to the notice of the meeting that the Subsistence Allowance paid to Whitley

Councillors was not justified in some cases, and the following resolution was carried:—

"That this question of officers receiving Subsistence Allowance for attending Local Whitley meetings when on duty or living in the town in which meetings are held should be brought before the Executive Committee at its next meeting."

The meeting was also unanimous in agreeing that an office should be rented for Association purposes, and was of the opinion that the total expenses should be defrayed by the Association.

LEITH.

A meeting of the above was held during the evening of Monday, January 11th. Mr. Angus was in the chair and there was a good attendance.

OFFICIAL PROPOSALS FOR GRANTON.

Members from Granton were present, and their views on the scheme were very helpful to the meeting. A proposal was carried that the Local Whitley representatives should register a disagreement against the first proposal in the Official scheme which reduces the hours of attendance of the P.O. from eight to seven hours per day. The remaining paragraphs of the scheme were discussed, and the meeting resolved that a disagreement should be registered at the next meeting of the Local Whitley Committee.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS—SUNDAY ATTENDANCE.

Considerable discussion centred round the subject of the Sunday attendance of Preventive Officers, and the following scheme was put forward:—

(1) Preventive Officers to be off duty (if possible) on the Sunday following midnight/8 watch (except at the end of the year when the hours are being levelled up).

(2) One-third of a Sunday to be added when officers are on sick leave, special service, and when officers request to be off duty when due to be on (subject to the request being granted).

(3) The officers with the lowest totals to be on duty for 8 hours; the next lowest to be on duty for tidal attendance.

(4) Officers going on midnight/8 and 8/4 p.m. watches to be placed on these duties on Sunday as far as possible.

(5) Officers going on midnight/8 watch and eligible for Sunday duty are not to be called on for tidal attendance when the duty finishes after 4 p.m.

(6) The Sunday attendance sheet to be put up each week by Wednesday at noon at the latest.

A.P.O. GRADE AND PROMOTION.

Time would not permit of a full discussion of this subject, and it was agreed to include it in the business of the next meeting.

LOWESTOFT.

A meeting of the local Branch was held on January 15th, with Mr. J. R. Durrant in the chair.

The question of electric torches was discussed, and a resolution was passed calling upon the Executive Committee to make further efforts to obtain the use of these torches for all A.P.O.'s.

Dissatisfaction was expressed with the overcoats at present issued to A.P.O.'s, and the meeting was of the opinion that in future the overcoats should be made more like those issued to Preventive Officers.

After a discussion of local Whitley matters, the following officers were elected for the coming year:—Chairman, Mr. E. B. Jenner; Local Secretary, Mr. J. R. Durrant; Local Organiser, Mr. G. H. Weller.

Library Service.

Messrs. BOOTS' BOOKLOVERS' LIBRARY.

An offer has been received from Messrs. Boots for a Library Service to all members of Associations represented on the Joint Committee of C. and E. Associations at specially reduced terms. This offer is conditional that membership raises a minimum of 25 of each or either class.

Messrs. Boots' Booklovers' Library is situated in over 280 branches throughout the kingdom, and about 50 throughout London and the suburbs. Membership under the scheme arranged gives access to any or all of these branches. All the newest works of history, biography, sport, travel, fiction, etc., etc., are added to the Library on the day of publication and are available to all members from any branch.

Service is obtainable upon presentation of an ivory membership token, which will be available to each member in return for an authority slip to be distributed to all members taking up this scheme. The membership token referred to is a passport and should always be placed in the volume in the member's possession and tendered on the occasion of every exchange. In instances where a volume is not required, a metal shield which is equivalent to a volume will be attached to the membership token and will be accepted in lieu of a volume.

The arrangements made constitute each member an individual member of the public entitled to exactly the same service as if they were subscribing in their own names, excepting the privilege of suspension of subscription. Service can only be given at those branches of Messrs. Boots, The Chemists, where a Library Department is installed.

The special terms available are as follows:—

CLASS "A.T."—Entitling the token-holder to all works in circulation in the library, including the newly published. 15s. per volume per year.

CLASS "H.T."—Entitling the token-holder to all works in circulation in the library, excluding the newly published. 5s. per volume per year.

Providing the minimum number is secured, service will commence as and from February 1st, 1926, and all members desirous of taking advantage of this scheme should make formal request for an Application Form to the Gen. Sec. of the Association, Thames Chambers, Beer Lane, E.C.3. This Application Form will only be issued to bona fide members, and will be endorsed accordingly. This is a condition of the arrangement made with Messrs. Boots, and it must be clearly understood that the service is arranged for on the strict condition that it is for the personal use of the member, and on no account is it transferable. Not more than two volumes in each class is permitted to any member.

Application Forms should be filled up and accompanied by remittance and should be forwarded direct to the Head Librarian, Boots' Booklovers' Library, Cornwall Road, Stamford Street, S.E.1.

All Application Forms will be acknowledged, and an authority slip will accompany same which, on presentation at the branch nominated on the Application Form, will entitle the holder to the issue of the membership token and a volume.

Special attention is called to the paragraph at the base of the Application Form. For the purpose of this scheme it is essential that all subscriptions should expire on a given date, viz., January 31st annually.

In order, however, to meet the convenience of those members who are already enjoying a library service elsewhere, subscriptions will be accepted under this scheme at any date after February 1st, 1926.

In such instances the Application Forms should be accompanied by remittance assessed as follows:—

In the case of Class "A.T.," 1s. 3d. per month or part thereof; and in the case of Class "H.T.," 5d. per month or part thereof, assessed as and from the first of the month.

It is hoped that this offer will be acceptable to the members of the Preventive Staff Association, and that there will be a ready response.

Any further particulars, including the address of member's nearest Branch, will be gladly supplied. Write the General or Assistant Secretary, Beer Lane.

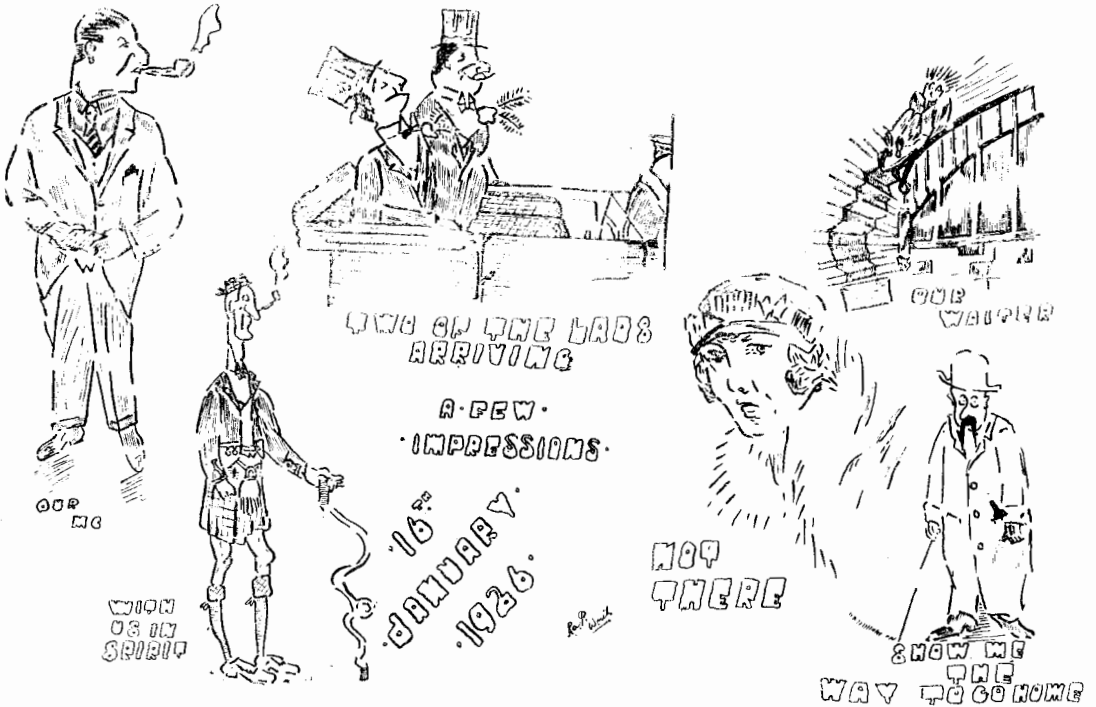
The "C.J." Secretary.

Communications to the "Customs Journal" Secretary should, for the time being, be sent to Mr. H. B. Peake, 36, Knowles Hill Crescent, Lewisham, London, S.E.13.

Small Son of Officer, to Father: What is the meaning of economy, dad?

Father: Anything your mother wants to buy, my son.

The Weymouth Dinner.



The third Annual Dinner of the C. and E. Service was held at the Burdon Hotel, Weymouth, on Saturday, January 16th, with B. C. Brambleby, Esq., in the chair. After an excellent menu had been discussed, the Chairman remarked that he had first counted forty guests, and immediately thought of the forty thieves. Having gone through a recount, however, he had discovered that it was N.E. 42, so had written it off as satisfied.

Following the loyal toast, a first-rate programme of music, interspersed with the toasts of "The Service," "Retired Officials and those

from a distance" and "Our Chairman, the Collector."

At the conclusion of the programme the Chairman thanked all present for their company, especially those who, at some inconvenience to themselves, had come from a considerable distance. A vote of thanks was accorded those who had entertained, and also to Mr. C. Hearn for the splendid way in which he had worked to make the evening such a grand success; and last, but not least, the staff of the Hotel Burdon for the efficient service they had given. Hands were then joined for the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," and with the "King," a very happy, jovial and memorable evening came to an end.

Problems and Puzzles.

"Better late than never" is a splendid adage in its way, providing shelter and consolation to many delinquents.

The Editor having explained, regretted and prevailed, I will endeavour once more to give answers to those problems left unanswered.

The Pot of Jam.—This little teaser may have added a few good men to its already very long list. The pot cost ¼d.; the jam, 6d. more, cost 6½d.; and the whole, as stated, cost 6¾d.

Age of Cousin Ted.—No doubt many readers stumbled over the phrase "seven times older,"

not realising at the moment that "seven times older" is the same as "eight times as old." His age is 24 years.

Blinks' Stinker.—The day of the week was Sunday.

The Young Wife's Quandary.—The husband's annual income was £180, or about £3 9s. 3d. per week—his Grade would therefore be Asst. P.O.

Seal v. Zeal.—Mr. Seal dealt with six more ships than Zeal. The number of vessels involved does not matter—the answer would always be the same.

W.H.P.

SECTIONAL COMMITTEE NOTES.

The Editor thinks a few notes by the Staff Side Secretary of the Waterguard Sectional Committee should be of interest, and in the hope that they will, I have promised to renew a previous brief, but to me pleasant, association with the contributing side of our "Journal."

The Waterguard Sectional Committee is, of course, the main means by which the Waterguard Associations negotiate with the Board. On one side of the Committee we have the members of the Board or their representatives, known as the "Official Side," and, on the other side of the table, those members of the staff whom the respective Associations entrust with their claims and interests, known as the "Staff Side." Every Grade in the Waterguard finds representation on the Staff Side. We have one Waterguard Superintendent, representing Superintendents and Inspectors; one C.P.O., representing the two sections of that Grade; two Preventive Officers; three Assistant Preventive Officers; one Mate-in-Charge, for the Launch Service Ratings; and, until recently, one Coast Preventive Man, representing the Coast and Land Preventive Men. We average about four meetings a year, though the Staff Side meet separately more frequently.

* * * *

From now onwards the Coast and Land Preventive Men will conduct their affairs on a separate Grade Committee, and I am now arranging for the transfer of their business to the new Committee. When the new Grade was set up it was thought their Whitley home was the Waterguard Sectional Committee, but actual working has convinced most of us that a separate Committee will afford them a more favourable ground. They have a heavy programme which includes such matters as Establishment, Sunday Pay, and so on. They have, too, a number of less important claims which have no concern for us and which will likely get more attention if not mixed up with the business of our own Committee. At the last full Sectional Committee meeting we went upstairs with no less than nineteen items on the agenda, a number of which could in themselves provide a considerable discussion. The special and separate attention which the new Committee must ensure for the Coast and Land Preventive Men should be all to the good. Jim Merron is generously going to find time to lead them, as Vice-Chairman, and they start with the best of good wishes from their late colleagues on the Staff Side of the Sectional Committee, who admire so much the enthusiasm and persistency with which Albert Jetten presses his people's claims.

* * * *

There was a little anxiety at one time amongst our own people lest a policy of dilution, as between the A.P.O. Grade and the new Grade, might be attempted, and the investing of C. and L.P.M. with Commissions, Seals and Duty Slip Books was thought to be ominous. Nothing has

happened to justify these fears, and from such discussions as we have had with the Official Side on the matter I do not think there is any such intention. One or two cases have been dealt with on the Committee where local officials have crossed what we held to be the border line, but in the main the distinction has been well maintained. Whilst appreciating to the full the importance of resisting any attempts at dilution, we should avoid getting into a panic because in an emergency a particular duty was required of a man who was on the spot. I heard of a case recently, which agitated one or two, where really it seemed to me that unless the C.P.M. had done the job it would not, could not, have been done at all. The great thing is to keep the General Secretary posted on doubtful cases, and he, I know, will give them quick attention.

* * * *

Talking of the Coast and Land Preventive Men tempts one to cross swords with those scare-mongers who are ever telling us how simple a matter it is to smuggle on those parts of the coast the guarding of which is assigned to our new friends. That cannot be to-day. This, however, and it is long overdue, must be said. Responsible Waterguard Officers, whose training, experiences and achievements in the matter of Revenue protection entitle their opinions to respect, are unanimous that the present guard is a big lump of an improvement on anything of its kind that has operated before—due, in no small measure, to the alertness and extraordinary zeal of the members of the new force.

* * * *

If a well-wisher might venture a word of advice to the new Grade Committee, it would be not to load it at once with too many items which require new money. Not much wisdom is wanted to know that now is hardly a harvest time, and in any case money claims must prejudice each other if run together. "Slowly does it" in Whitleyism. Perhaps I should say "Very slowly does it," and now I almost hear our own people volunteering evidence on the point. But brighter days will come, and with them, no doubt, satisfactory settlements of the Coast and Land Preventive Men's claims.

M. P. O'FLYNN.

◆◆◆◆◆

Ikey had left his daughter, Rebecca, in charge of his secondhand clothes shop, with instructions to sell any garment at the price marked on the ticket. Each ticket bore a number of spots, each spot representing 1s. Upon his return, Ikey enquired, "Well, any business?"

Rebecca: I sold a pair of trousers for 25s.

Ikey (excitedly): What? 25s.? I have not a pair worth so much. Where's the ticket? (Inspects the ticket thoughtfully.) May the good Lord bless all the little flies.

Examination for Position of Preventive Officer.

The date for the examination of A.P.O.'s has been fixed for Tuesday, February 9th, and the following days, at the Civil Service Commission, Burlington Gardens, London.

Following is the list of the candidates called :

- A. E. Stocker, London.
 S. Graham, Barrow, Preston.
 C. R. Brown, Liverpool.
 J. E. Woodgate, Ipswich.
 A. J. R. Rodgeron, Blyth, Newcastle.
 A. F. Emberson, Special Inquiry Staff.
 B. A. Field, London.
 J. Smith, Middlesbrough, Sunderland.
 J. Patterson, Glasgow.
 J. W. Lambert, Barry Dock, Cardiff.
 P. J. Ferenbach, Burntisland, Edinburgh.
 F. H. Stanford, Gravesend, London.
 Harry F. Gatward, London.
 M. J. McCormack, Hull.
 C. A. Harrold, London.
 J. W. Graham, Newcastle.
 H. V. Longman, London.
 J. G. Bodman, Dundee.
 G. H. Kay, Newcastle.
 A. Twaddle, Dover.
 A. C. E. Searle, London.
 H. G. Parsons, Southampton.
 M. Walsh, Grangemouth, Edinburgh.
 H. Arnold, Newcastle.
 A. J. L. Sallaway, London.
 A. G. Francis, Liverpool.
 H. W. Chapman, Southampton.
 A. M. Pucknell, Cardiff.
 W. H. Jones, Gravesend, London.
 F. J. Kitchener, London.
 H. O. Southey, Dover.
 E. W. Kidman, Liverpool.
 J. T. Lyons, Newport.
 A. H. Stevens, Liverpool.
 C. E. Adams, Plymouth.
 S. C. Steel, London.
 C. P. D. Robinson, Avonmouth, Bristol.
 A. S. Nicol, Barry Dock, Cardiff.
 W. W. Bishop, Sharpness, Worcester.
 F. Watson, Holyhead, Chester.
 W. H. G. Turner, Liverpool.
 J. S. Russel, Hull.
 T. F. Prior, London.
 E. B. Jenner, Lowestoft, Norwich.
 W. G. Burgess, London.
 F. J. W. Fairchild, Liverpool.
 J. Fox, Heysham, Preston.
 H. C. Oak, West Hartlepool, Sunderland.
 T. F. Lawler, Eastham, Manchester.
 Louis W. Victor, London.
 J. Henderson, Clydebank, Glasgow.
 W. C. Spencer, London.
 R. Naish, Barry Dock, Cardiff.
 L. W. Hyland, Manchester.
 H. R. Taylor, Cardiff.
 R. A. Rowland, Liverpool.
 W. Fagan, Dover.
 F. F. Shannan, Glasgow.
 A. E. Busby, Dover.
 A. S. Wilkins, Thameshaven, London.
 E. E. J. Godge, Southampton.
 F. A. Cridland, Southampton.
 J. T. Sutton, Manchester.
 W. G. Self, King's Lynn, Norwich.
 E. F. Hackman, Dover.
 E. Morrissey, Liverpool.
 C. F. Lowe, London.
 V. H. Walter, Gravesend, London.
 A. S. Annis, Leith.
 W. P. D. Manley, Southampton.
 H. S. Hannah, Newcastle.
 E. W. Lowe, Grimsby.
 F. G. H. Smith, Dartmouth, Plymouth.
 G. H. Wales, Aberdeen.
 W. A. Bessant, London.
 J. Burke, W. Hartlepool, Sunderland.
 E. Payne, Eastham, Manchester.
 A. M. Beck, Newcastle.
 W. C. Precious, Methil, Dundee.
 F. S. Potter, Grimsby.
 A. L. Martin, Swansea.
 P. V. W. Burgoyne, Newhaven, Brighton.
 W. C. J. McLoughlin, Hull.
 S. O'Mahon, Preston.
 J. H. Costain, Hull.
 G. T. Coady, Runcorn, Manchester.
 J. Whiting, Liverpool.
 F. Nightingale, Hull.
 A. T. Rogers, London.
 H. S. Pickford, London.
 J. Robertson, Newcastle.
 F. Emmerson, Hull.
 H. W. Adams, Plymouth.
 P. K. Rundle, Port Talbot, Cardiff.
 F. Boirne, Newcastle.
 R. J. Gifford, Harwich, Ipswich.
 F. B. Olsen, Cardiff.
 C. A. Turvey, Brixham, Plymouth.
 R. J. Page, London.
 E. P. E. Chaplin, Swansea.
 E. A. C. Hall, Dover.
 A. J. Church, Brightlingsea, Ipswich.
 T. J. V. Knights, London.
 W. Varney, Gravesend, London.
 H. Fenton, Swansea.
 W. Hodgson, Hull.
 A. C. Dex, Hull.
 C. V. Murphy, Hull.
 H. V. Fleet, Gravesend, London.
 G. H. Rugg, Southampton.
 S. H. Atkins, London.
 A. F. Gahan, Liverpool.



By "SEAGULL."

The question of the day:
Which Officer Pays It?

* * * *

The Treasury cannot afford linoleum for the
A.P.O.

Has the Government thought of asking Mr.
Drage to help them out?

* * * *

An officer stationed at Dover,
When on baggage was always in clover.
He had a kind face,
Could always find lace
When passengers smuggled it over.

* * * *

Replies to Correspondents:
"Das Meffer."—No! Whitley does not
necessarily mean Whittling.
"Boy-in-the-boat."—Your reasoning is
sound, but a "barge" is not called so because
it barges—neither is the name "lighter" a con-
traction of "Blighter," the owner.

* * * *

Overheard at Victoria Railway Station:
Fat Old Dame (to little husband who offers
no assistance): "George, when I was a gal, you
were more gallant."
Little Husband: "My dear, when I was a
boy, you were more buoyant."

* * * *

Has the short weight scandal extended to
spring balances?

Prosecution.

LOSSIEMOUTH.

At a special sitting of the Elgin J.P. Court, held on January 15th, an engineer on board the m.v. "Dietrich Hasseldieck," from Rudkjobing, lying in Lossiemouth Harbour, was charged with concealing 3 lb. 6 oz. of tobacco O.S., and was fined double duty-paid value, £4, and costs. The fine was paid.

The tobacco was discovered by Mr. A. MacDougall, P.O./c. at Lossiemouth, who also conducted the proceedings on behalf of the Crown.

"Modified (War) Certificates."

In order to fully grasp the situation and to view the matter in the correct perspective, it would be as well to consider, primarily, the conditions governing the issue of Civil Service Certificates in the ordinary way.

"No person can be appointed, either permanently or temporarily, to any position or situation in H.M. Civil Establishments until a certificate of his qualification has been issued by the C.S. Commissioners declaring that he has satisfied them (among other things) that he is free from physical defect or disease which would be likely to interfere with the proper discharge of his duties (Clause 3 of the Consolidating Order in Council, 1910). The C.S. Commissioners regard themselves as precluded by this clause from issuing certificates in favour of persons who are likely to break down before the normal age of retirement (60)."

As the effect of this, we see that the State is assured (all things being equal) of somewhere about 40 years' effective service.

It is perfectly obvious that the principle involved here is one of prevention of premature charges on the Superannuation Vote.

In 1918 My Lords of the Treasury appointed a Committee, under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Viscount Gladstone, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., to consider and make recommendations upon certain questions with regard to "Recruitment for the Civil Service after the War," and in view of its importance, the Committee dealt with the following question first:—

"To consider the conditions under which C.S. Certificates should be issued to persons whose health has been impaired by War Service . . ."

The Committee thought, and wisely so, that the State should show the utmost consideration for men disabled in the war, both on the grounds of electoral pledges (neatly termed "public policy") and as setting a good example to private employers, and to this end considered that the ordinary physical standard for certification should be relaxed in favour of such men.

It was recommended that an amendment be made to the Order in Council (1910), empowering the C.S. Commissioners to issue certificates to candidates whose health has been impaired by service in H.M. Forces during the war and who (provided otherwise suitable) appear likely to render at least fifteen years' effective service. Such certificate to be called "Modified (War) Certificate."

All service under this certificate to count for pension.

* * * *

In explanation of the necessity for periodical reports as to sick leave of this class: "The Committee recommend that, for the first five years of service, civil pay during sick leave in excess of 36 days, should not exceed, with any disability pension, the full civil pay of the post."

(* This is now extended to three months.)



We are glad to welcome a contributor to these pages who is no stranger to most readers. Sectional Committee Notes will be a very useful series of articles appearing practically in every issue, and Mr. M. P. O'Flynn, the Staff Side Secretary of the Waterguard Sectional, has kindly undertaken to supply this page. Mr. O'Flynn was Editor of this journal in 1923, and has our interests very much at heart. We can therefore expect some very good reading from his pen in the future.

* * * *

We are still receiving congratulations on our Christmas number, and we beg to assure our well-wishers that we are deeply grateful for their words of appreciation, and hope we shall not fail to deserve them in the future. It was interesting to note in the first number of "The New Civilian" a comment on the fact that of all the Service journals, "The Customs Journal" alone produced a Christmas number. It seems fairly evident that contributors had better not lose sight of the fact that we shall have a reputation to maintain next Christmas.

* * * *

We have read with much interest of the doings of the Gravesend Debating Society, and the suggestion that they may be prepared at some future date to meet the officers of the London staff. This all looks very good. We have often thought that the Preventive Staff could improve itself wonderfully by indulging in such healthy occupation as organised debate. From an educational point of view it is invaluable; and the decision to keep to subjects outside Service matters is, in our opinion, a very wise one. We look forward with great anticipation to the time when London will accept the challenge—or issue one—and we should not be surprised to see some reference to it on the next agenda of the London Branch. At any rate, we hope to. It will then, perhaps, be up to London and Gravesend to join forces in an onslaught on Liverpool, Southampton, and anyone who likes to come along from the rest of the kingdom.

* * * *

Attention is drawn to the information in this issue under the heading "Modified War Certificates." Knowledge of what this means has been rather vague among members of the Association, and the General Secretary and the Assistant Secretary have gone to much time and trouble to dig out the information. After wading

through hundreds of G.O.'s and circulars of different kinds, they had recourse to the Gladstone Report of 1918, a document which, by the way, is published in three separate parts. Having searched through the Report, they are now able to set at rest the minds of those who felt uneasy on the subject (see also the report of the London meeting in this issue).



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

"Spur" sends the following references to questions dealt with in previous issues:—

Dear Scrutator,—Seeing your answer in the current issue of the "C.J." on the question of "safety cartridges meaning cartridges used in revolvers and rifles," I should like to draw your attention to C.C. Vol. IV., Part II., Appendix A, page 13, Class 6, Division 2: "Cartridges for small arms which are *not* safety cartridges," hoping this might be of assistance to you.

Regarding a question some time ago from "Reasonable," re levying the fine on "not reported rate" tobacco, I think this is levied on tobacco imported through the Foreign and Colonial Post when the "contents are not declared by the sender": see C.C. Vol. II., Part 19, Par. 21, last sentence.—"SPUR."

* * * *

I cannot understand the reference to the classification of Ammunition. I think I answered "Uncertain's" question quite correctly in "Journal" 551.

The definition of safety cartridges on page 3, Part II., Vol. IV., is explicit enough, and does not contradict the classification of ammunition on page 13 of the same regulations. "Uncertain's" questions referred directly to G.O. 30/1922. Note sub-par. of the question.

* * * *

Our colleague, "Perplexed," is still perplexed—here is his question: "I am still in the dark re my original query, especially when Coasting Trade as described in Vol. III., Part XIII., Par. I., surely covers the vessel in question. Your opinion of the Code paragraph is solicited."

My opinion is that Par. 1., Part XIII., Vol. III., does not cover the voyage you quote. You say that the vessel has cleared outwards. I therefore maintain that the vessel has commenced her foreign voyage, and cannot therefore be said to be in the coasting trade. See the penultimate sentence of par. 23 of the above regulations.

* * * *

Another query from "Rettis" appears below:—

1.—(a) Would commercial travellers' samples of perforated positive cinema film in baggage be dealt with by this Department?

(b) Is the above film liable to duty? (See Par. 19, G.O. 33/1925, and footnote, Vol. II., Part 20, page 3.)

2.—In the event of goods of one denomination being produced for payment of duty, and higher duty goods are found on examination to be concealed therein, would it be dealt with under Sec. 67 of the C.C. Act or under the general rules of smuggling, i.e., T.V.D. or prosecution, and delivery of the stated produced goods on payment of duty?

REPLY.

1.—(a) I presume you mean defaced positive film. Such film cannot be dealt with by this Department.

Although (1) it is not prohibited in baggage (par. 4, G.O. 32/1925), (2) it is required to be forwarded to the baggage or King's warehouse (par. 17 of G.O. 32/1925), and (3) there to be dealt with under Part XX., Vol. II., par. 21, of G.O. 32/1925.

(b) Obviously, the reference you quote shows that it is to be admitted duty-free, but the Collector must give his permission for it to be waived.

2.—Deliver the goods produced on payment of the appropriate rate of duty and deal with the undeclared goods under the general rules of smuggling. Care should be taken, however, that the package is not specially constructed for concealment.

"SCRUTATOR."

Presentation.

LONDON.

At the Book-keepers' Room, Custom House, London, on January 14th, Mr. H. Stevens (late A.P.O.) was the recipient of a handsome silver-plated tea service to mark the occasion of his retirement from the Service after 41 years' service.

Mr. H. Leonard, P.O., who occupied the chair, opened the proceedings by wishing Mr. Stevens long life and happiness in which to enjoy his well-earned rest. Letters were read from

Mr. J. Clark, C.P.O., who was to have presided, and Mr. A. Blyth, Surveyor, who was to have made the presentation, expressing regret at their inability to attend, and extending their sincere wishes to Mr. Stevens in his retirement. Letters were also read from Messrs. Reeve, Diaper and Hutchings, conveying the same sincere sentiments for the future.

Messrs. Clements, Winter, Langstaff, Beacher, Mason, Sullivan, Murphy, Caunter and Cassidy each spoke in turn of their happy association with friend "Harry," and were followed by Mr. Schofield, who, on rising to make the presentation, referred in glowing terms to the guest of the evening as one who could always be trusted, and hoped he would live long to enjoy the use of the gift of his brother officers.

In accepting, Mr. Stevens thanked the gathering for the expressions of goodwill and friendship, and concluded with some very sincere references to the Association to which he had belonged for so many years. He expressed the hope that one and all would stick like glue to the organisation that was working hard for the interests of each member of the staff.

Vocal contributions by friends present, and the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow," brought a happy event to a close.

Gravesend Debate.

The first meeting of the Gravesend Custom House Debating Society was held at the Liberal Club, Gravesend, on Wednesday, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. A. Richardson, Vice-Chairman, presided over a gratifying attendance of members. The subject of the debate was "That Gambling is a Vice"; and was proposed by Mr. Carnie, opposed by Mr. Grace. The debate was conducted in accordance with the rules laid down in John Rig's book, "How to conduct a meeting." Both the proposer and the opposer delivered very eloquent addresses, in which they brought forward arguments of law and economics and sentiment. Many aspects of gambling, its vices and virtues, were placed before the meeting by Messrs. Woodford, Camburn, Paisley, A. Brown, Wood, Elliot, Raspison, Kneil and Grey.

After the final summing up by the Chairman, the voting proved slightly in favour of the opposition, owing to the fact that the proposer had to admit that certain forms of gambling were necessary.

The following subjects were approved as proper questions for future debates:—"That Scotsmen are not mean"; "That smoking is injurious to individuals."

The date of the next meeting was arranged for February 2nd at 7.30 p.m., when all officers at Gravesend are cordially invited to attend. It is hoped that it will be possible to challenge the London officers to a debate at some future date. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Richardson, will be glad to receive subjects (not Service matters) from any officers in the Service, in order that the Society may have a very wide interest.

Still on the Boards.

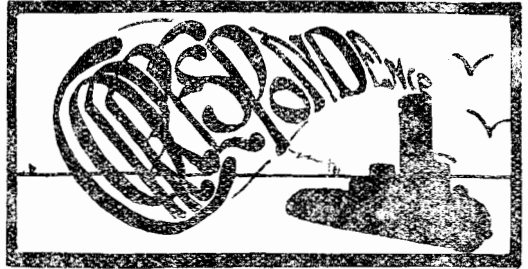
Those Association members who are young enough in the light of experience of the Board's replies to reasonable requests of the Waterguard Staff were bitterly disappointed by the Official Side's refusal to furnish the A.P.O.'s rooms with floor coverings. The title "Customs Officer" usually conjures up before the seafaring classes and the general public visions of a person of some social standing. Perhaps there is a certain amount of magic in the very title, or the respect may be due to a knowledge of the official's powers and the way in which he handles the various difficult situations which arise from time to time. Which of us even, were we too hardened to blush with shame, have not felt that we had lost caste when persons leaving the dock have been asked to step into the watch-house to have their goods examined, or when, for other reasons, members of the community outside the Service have had occasion to visit an officer in his domain?

The tall flagstaff flaunting the blue and gold ensign, and the Royal coat-of-arms over the door, only impress the visitor that he has been duped when he sees the interior of the room which serves as the parlour, kitchen, reception, dining and living room of the noble A.P.O. We all know only too well the vision that greets him—a bare deal floor, an uncovered table, two forms, a row of lockers, and a ceiling which an economical dock company refuses to renovate oftener than every two years. Who, too, has not seen the ship's officer, who calls on business, raise his eyebrows when, after glancing in the A.P.O.'s room, has been directed into the next room to interview the P.O., who is endeavouring to dine without soiling his table cloth (sometimes a blotting pad), spilling tea over his bonded store papers, or mixing his victuals with blue books, prime entries, etc.?

Were the inventories of the temporary homes of Waterguard Officers published broadcast, it would assist the Civil Service Defence Committee materially. We are only too conversant with them—1 table, 2 forms, 1 looking glass (cracked, Y.Z., C.P.O., 4.1.15), 1 fender, 1 set of fireirons (tongs broken, X.Y., C.P.O., 3.1.18). We like

to dream of the time when an appreciating Government recognises the importance of the keepers of the gate of Britain, the sentries over a revenue of millions of pounds: in a word, the Waterguard Officer, by housing and paying him like a decent citizen. Meanwhile, our footsteps resound from the bare floors of our watch-houses, as they did years ago in the empty houses which formed our billets in the time of war, and another glorious failure is recorded (temporarily, I hope) in Association annals. The junior officers can wonderingly the pages of their "C.J.," and the older ones murmur "Twas ever thus."

RIGOLETTO.



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.

To the Editor of the "Customs Journal."

THE FAILED A.P.O.

Sir.—It is regrettable that no scheme for the betterment of the failed A.P.O. has appeared in these columns, even by a member of the failed body. A scheme is wanted that entails certain responsibilities which strike a medium just above those of an A.P.O. and below those of the P.O. Yet we must not sacrifice any responsibilities of the P.O. (albeit he has plenty for his salary), as this may in some way have a tendency to mar the possibility of a future claim of revised salary.

The duty of the failed A.P.O., which must form the basis of any scheme, must originate from our own Department (as witness any attempt in introducing officials from outside to fill superior posts in our Department), and may I venture to suggest the "Shipment of Stores" as a duty upon which a scheme could be proposed?

The work calls for responsibilities to extend above the A.P.O., and below the P.O.

I am only suggesting this as a basis from which a scheme could be built, and should like to have other members' views on the scheme.—Yours, etc.,

SPUR.

Sir.—With reference to the question of suitable employment for our brother officers who have exhausted their chances of promotion, this is now probably interesting a good many of our colleagues, and it has occurred to me that a suitable avenue might possibly be found for their advancement in the matter of Pensions.

The Act has now been modified and the complexities of claims for Old Age Pensions greatly reduced. In view of this fact, I wish to suggest that the matter might be exhaustively debated or inquired into, and any action deemed necessary taken by the Association. A.P.O.'s now fill satisfactorily positions as A.P.O. in charge of small ports, and many have a cash account, and in view of this fact many would be capable of performing Pension duties in small districts, and thus they would have an avenue for advancement.

I hope you will excuse my bringing the matter to notice through the "Journal," but owing to mileage I am unable to attend meetings.—Yours, etc.,

DETAIL.

Dismal James.

In introducing James the Dismal
I ask you all with me to bear;
For pessimism so abysmal
As that ascribed him by his mal-
ficious friends, I do declare,
Of interest will prove to many;
And therefore that from my pen he
Will gain the fame he merits well;
So now, kind friends, my tale I'll tell.

Before he passed the dreaded test
In London town, where all the best
And worst of us at times assemble
With sinking hearts and knees a-tremble,
Jim's title was just plain P.M.
Not haughty A.P.O., ahem!
He spoke of P.O.'s with emotion
Not often mingled with devotion;
And his idea of joy in life
Was to engage in wordy strife
With the sad member of that Grade
Whose fortune was to have his aid;
And whether busy, slack or easy
You'd hardly call Jim's manner breezy.

One day our Jim, on rummage bent,
Was going to a ship from Ghent;
And by his side his P.O. stalked,
And thus held converse as they walked
(And sniffed the air like a retriever—
He'd got what's known as 'bacca fever):
"Now Jim, my boy, we have a chance
Our reputations to enhance;
Suppose we find aboard this craft
Forward, amidships or yet aft,
A seizure, bags of stuff, galore,
To beat the best e'er known before,
Scent, saccharine and spirits, yes,
Cigars, Havana and O.S.,
Tobacco and Liqueurs fine,
Drugs, watches too, and sparkling wine,
Suppose (this job would be my forte)
We took the owners to the Court
And there obtained, quite easily,
That useful verdict, T.V.D.
Suppose that this should happen, boy,
'How wondrous then would be our joy!"

Jim smiled a smile devoid of mirth:
A smile that said "Come back to earth";
And then he spoke in accents glum.
"Suppose," he said, "that it should come
To pass that as we near its top
The ladder breaks and down we drop;
Or even, slipping on the deck—
One has been known to break his neck.
Suppose that when we're looking round
We happen on a wild wolf hound
Who likes not strangers on the boat
And makes his teeth meet in your throat.
Suppose (the vessel being a tanker),
While we're aboard some silly crank a-
Round the ship a naked light
Exposes, causing to ignite
The gas from the petroleum
And blows us all to kingdom come.
Suppose," he sighed, with smile so dour,
"The ship capsized this very hour:
We'd stand no chance of getting out;
We should be drowned without a doubt.
Suppose—I scarce of it can speak—
We find a corpse in the fore-peak.
Suppose—" but here Jim raised his head
And found the poor P.O. had fled.

GEN.

Note.—To safeguard himself against physical violence, the author of the above spasm wishes to make it clear that he intends no personal reflection on any particular individual. Dismal James is simply the child of a jaundiced imagination. Any threats, challenges to duels, etc., will therefore be ignored.