

The Customs Journal.

No. 562.

May 8th, 1926.

Fortnightly.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, April 19th, 1926, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. W. H. James presided over an attendance of thirty-one.

It was reported that Mr. J. W. Chapple and Mr. E. Castle had been appointed as members of the Executive Committee, representing the Miscellaneous and Industrial Groups respectively, in room of Mr. H. C. Bridgman and Mr. G. T. Jervis, retired, and the Committee placed on record its appreciation of the past services rendered by Mr. Bridgman and Mr. Jervis.

Reports of the Annual Conference of the National Federation of Professional Workers, and of recent proceedings of the General Purposes Committee of that body, were presented and adopted, and it was resolved that Mr. L. N. Punter be appointed to represent the Confederation on the General Purposes Committee of the Federation. Consideration was given to a resolution on the agenda of the Council meeting of the National Federation to be held on May 8th, urging that the National Federation should withdraw from affiliation with the International Confederation of Intellectual Workers, and it was decided that the Civil Service Confederation delegates to the National Federation should oppose this resolution.

Reports were presented on recent proceedings of the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council, dealing with the subjects of Compulsory Retirement, Arbitration, Superannuation, Assimilation Terms, the "P" Class, Super-Cut Arbitration Case, Southborough Examination, and Provincial Differentiation. It was agreed that the Confederation representatives on the National Whitley Council be asked to report on the desirability of moving that one or more

seats on the National Whitley Council Staff Side be rendered vacant to admit the direct representation of temporary Civil Servants.

Attention was called to the First Report of the Select Committee on Estimates, published by the Stationery Office last week, dealing with the Classification of Estimates. Appreciation was expressed of the recommendations made, and especially the recommendation that the Civil Service Estimates should in future be called the "Civil Estimates."

Applications for membership of the Confederation from two small Scottish Associations were referred back for further investigation by the Finance and Organisation Committee, the opinion being expressed that it was desirable that small societies should combine with larger organisations, where such organisations of an appropriate character existed.

It was reported that the Civil Service Law Clerks' Association, 73 members, had decided to dissolve as a separate body and become a branch of the Civil Service Clerical Association, and that the Treasury Solicitors' Clerks' (Non-Professional) Association had ceased to exist, most of its members joining the Civil Service Clerical Association. Another small association, i.e., the Association of Deeds Office Clerks (Special Class), had also ceased to exist, and in this case also action was being taken to endeavour to enrol the remaining members in the Civil Service Clerical Association.

A proposal made by the Finance and Organisation Committee, that in future a note should be appended to the agenda of Annual and Half-yearly Council meetings, asking that representatives intending to put questions about Whitley work at Council meetings should send in prior notice, mentioning the points which they intended to raise, was adopted, and it was further agreed that a similar practice be put into operation in regard to meetings of the Executive Committee.

The General Purposes Committee reported that the attention of the National Staff Side had been called to the resolution adopted some time ago by the Confederation to the effect that action be taken to oppose the introduction of any element of selection as part of the normal syllabus of Civil Service entrance examinations, and, further, to press for its discontinuance where recently adopted, and that the National Staff Side had been asked to consider this resolution at its next meeting with a view to deciding whether or not it is desirable to discuss the substance of the resolution on the National Whitley Council.

It was reported that a further consultation had taken place between the officers of the Confederation and representatives of staff associations at the Royal Mint, and that the three Trade Unions concerned, i.e., the Amalgamated Engineering Union, the Workers' Union, and the Electrical Trades Union, had now agreed to accept seats on the present Royal Mint Departmental Whitley Council.

On the subject of the resumption of open competition, the General Purposes Committee reported that, following upon the decision taken by the Executive Committee at its last meeting, a motion, together with a covering memorandum had been forwarded to the National Staff Side in the following terms:—

"Indications having been given that it is the intention of the Treasury to revert to the system of open competition for the filling of vacancies in the Civil Service, the view of this Staff Side is that vacancies in Grades above the basic should not be filled by persons from outside the Service while there are existing Civil Servants available and qualified for promotion."

Recommendations of the General Purposes Committee that assistance should be given to the Public Record Office Attendants' and Repairers' Association, the Government Minor Grades' Association, and the Warehouse Supervisors' Association, in bringing cases before the Arbitration Court, were endorsed; and it was further agreed that, in presenting any claim which might possibly conflict with a minimum wage claim on behalf of the whole Civil Service,

it should be clearly stated that the claim is without prejudice to a Government decision on any general claim that might be made on behalf of the whole Civil Service for an over-riding minimum rate of pay.

Arising out of a report of the Parliamentary and Publicity Committee, considerable discussion took place on the Offices Regulation Bill. It is understood that the National Federation of Professional Workers, which is promoting this measure, is considering certain suggested amendments to the Bill, and it was finally resolved that, while reiterating its belief in the justice of the proposals embodied in the original form of the Bill, the Confederation should support the Bill in any form which is acceptable to the National Federation.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

NEWPORT, MON.

The second Annual Meeting was held at the Old Dock on April 8th, 1926. Mr. Jenkins was elected to the chair.

The question of the A.P.O. employed in the office was raised, the opinion being expressed that the principle of rotation was not being conformed with. It was decided to approach the C.P.O. on the point.

The state of the old dock watch house came in for considerable discussion. It was ascertained that the watch house had not been re-decorated for some years, and it was resolved to apply for renovation and the supply of electric light.

The Executive Committee's Circular on Promotion by Merit was read and the subject was opened for discussion. No desire was shown to approve of the scheme suggested, and one member alone spoke favourably in support of the principle.

The annual election of officers resulted as follows:—District Secretary, Mr. Sandford; District Organiser, Mr. Morgan.

The election of the local Organiser led to a discussion on the method of collecting the subscriptions.

The Secretary reported that success had been attained on the Local Whitley Committee inasmuch as the Official Side was now prepared to consider the re-establishment of complete rotation schemes for both P.O.'s and A.P.O.'s, provided the scheme of Waterguard attendance continues to conform to the conditions laid down in the Board's minute on the subject. It was for this meeting to approve of a rotation scheme for each Grade for submission to the Local Whitley Committee. Schemes were drawn up accordingly.

The meeting was firmly of opinion that the Branch should meet at least once a quarter, and that with a revived membership there should be an increased interest in Association matters.



We are entirely in the dark as we write whether our readers will receive this issue with their morning cup of coffee on the day of publication. Already we have heard of the difficulty of a big London daily. Goodness knows what will happen to the "C.J." if our staff commences taking umbrage at our remarks in general. We should imagine, however, that having championed the rights of free speech, they will allow us to have our say.

* * * *

We saw this recently in a London paper: "It is better to remain silent and look a fool than to speak and remove all doubt." Of course, we agree. In some cases there is no doubt whatever. Like all proverbs and such like splashes of wisdom there are several points of view. If for instance, everybody attending at our district and local meetings persisted in the policy of safety first, everybody would know that everybody else knew all that there was to know, and that it was therefore quite unnecessary to take

the trouble to start a society for the education of brother officers.

* * * * *

But really, you know, we have a great deal of admiration for the man who is conscious that the information at his disposal is fearfully limited and that he has anything but an expert method of putting his views before a meeting, and yet gets up and starts discussion by putting some resolution which has quite evidently not been prepared by a lawyer. His resolution often is met with a storm of protest, is cut up and mangled, trampled down and dished up again beyond all recognition. Ultimately the thing our friend had at the back of his mind and was driving at to the best of his ability is proposed by someone else, seconded by someone else, and all he has to do is to raise his hand when the time comes for voting. He is, however, a hero, and although he remains in glorious obscurity, he it is who has had the matter discussed, he it is who was responsible for its discussion, and he it is to whom credit is really due. In any case, he has done his bit. By all means give me the man who is willing to chance it.

* * *

We are glad to hear from the printers that there is a prospect of this issue appearing, but that it is possible that it may be a day or two late in delivery. This is governed by events over which we have no control, and our thanks are due to Messrs. Greaves for the efforts they have put forward to keep us going.

◆ ◆ ◆

CHANGE OF EDITORIAL ADDRESS.

All communications to the Editor (matter for publication, etc.) must in future be addressed to:-

The Editor,
91, Tressillian Road,
Brockley,
London, S.E.4.

We would again remind correspondents that matter intended for insertion should reach the Editor not later than the Monday preceding the date of publication.

THE CUSTOMS FUND.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of subscribers to the Customs Annuity and Benevolent Fund, Incorporated, was held at the Custom House, London, on Thursday, April 22nd. Mr. S. Bozman, I.S.O., the President of the Fund, was in the chair, and said:

"May I take the Report and Balance Sheet as read?"

With the experience of two years embodied in the present and previous Balance Sheets and of our business during the first part of this year, we are in a position to forecast the result of the valuation which is due at the end of this year. It is gratifying to find that the outlook now for a bonus at least as good as the excellent distribution made last year is reasonably safe. During the year the Assurance Fund has grown from £501,247 to £512,191. The conditions which restrict in some measure the expansion of the Fund are still practically operative. Recruitment of the Service on its old lines is necessarily slow. Moreover, the practically compulsory endowment assurance, which is now a feature of Civil Service Establishment, is paid for out of small salaries that do not leave much margin for further life assurance. Moved by the expressed desire of some members for endowment assurance, the Directors again took Council's opinion as to whether this fell within the scope of our Act. The reply was emphatically No! The Fund is professedly an attempt to assist at provision for widows and orphans of deceased members, and that spells whole life assurance. This latter is well described by a prominent assurance authority as "a necessity," whereas he declares that endowment assurance is "a luxury." He says: "Before a man indulges in endowment assurance he should be satisfied that he has sufficiently protected those dependent upon him by means of a whole life policy." What is sufficient protection? Some authorities put it at not less than three or four years' income. That, however, must be settled by individuals concerned. The Crown provides what is practically a compulsory

endowment assurance, which of course is indirectly paid by the Civil Servant. I strongly commend to your consideration the advice I have quoted bearing on whole life assurance. It is sad to picture the woeful case of the unfortunate widow or children of a salaried or pensioned official whose small means cease at death when his dependents are left to the mercies of other relatives or strangers, if not provided for by savings or insurances.

The Directors have approved a form of disability insurance which may commend itself to members, the practical effect of which is to cause payments of further premiums to cease in cases where persons leave the Service prematurely retiring on pensions because of ill-health. A table of additional payments for this purpose related to the basic principles of other Fund tables has been prepared by the Actuary and accepted by your Directors. Here I may mention that several applications under this scheme have already been received. Any member desiring specific information on the points involved is requested to write to the Secretary. Premium income is a little better than last year, while receipts from interest dividends and rents exhibit a satisfactory growth from £28,868 to £30,580. The average rate of interest reckoned in the usual insurance way works out at £6 ts. 7d., with a net yield of £4 19s. 1d. I feel sure that you will agree that this is very satisfactory. Moreover, you will observe that our Society lends funds to our own members on interest terms somewhat less than is received on the general investments. The rate for house mortgages to subscribers is now 6 per cent., and that for loans and insurances is reduced to 5½ per cent. The profit of £1,074 on the sale of securities arises out of a sale of the block of flats which fell into possession. The mortality rate of the year has been well within expectation. Claims during the year were £35,000, arising out of original assurances of about £21,000. These figures speak for themselves, and for the earned profits. Expenses this year are practically identical with those of last year.

Turning now to the Balance Sheet, you will find that assets have not varied in character. We consider that they are very sound. Instal-

ment mortgages—a waxing, not a waning, security—have increased from £378,000 to £387,000. This class of business is progressive and profitable. Loans on fund insurances are steady at £22,000. Our British Government securities (about £35,000) remain unchanged, as are also our Indian and Colonial investments standing at about £38,000. Some ground rents have been sold at satisfactory prices. Following our usual practice, we only quote market prices of Stock Exchange securities in valuation years, because in other years minor fluctuations do not really affect the working position. There is, however, a slight appreciation of value, about £1,000, in respect of redeemable securities. From the subsidiary business, £3,000 was passed into the Fund last year, and this year we hope to do as well or better, especially if the cloud which lowers over a national industry is dispersed.

Our General Assets have increased from £619,335 to £627,534. These provide for the requirements of the assurance fund and outstanding items amounting to £521,000, for a reserve of £15,000, and for trust funds of £91,000. These trust funds generally are monies left by deceased members for the benefit of their representatives under the administration of the Fund. They are usually made up of small estates, which, when invested with the general assets, receive interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, payable quarterly, while integrity of the capital sum is guaranteed by the Fund. If small advances are required by beneficiaries they are paid at once. These conditions practically amount to the provision of current bank accounts with quarterly payment of interest on the balances in hand, and ought to commend themselves to heirs of small means with little experience in finance. The Directors heartily congratulate members on the sound position and good prospects of the Society.

In reply to questions, the President stated that the profits carried from subsidiary businesses to the Fund were not necessarily the profits of the year. They represented the sum which the Directors thought, having regard to the general conditions, could safely be trans-

ferred, leaving the reserve at a sum sufficient to meet the needs of the businesses. He declined to give information about the amount of the Reserve, adding that this course had been decided by the subscribers a few years back. The transactions were all, of course, subject to audit.

A subscriber asked why the rate of mortgage interest to subscribers had not fallen with the Income Tax rate. The President explained that only about 10 per cent. of the subscribers were mortgagors, and that to reduce the rate unduly would be to give an advantage to 10 per cent. of subscribers at the cost of the other 90 per cent. They could not yet very well reduce the rate of interest when they had before them applications at 6 per cent. for sums representing the whole monies available.

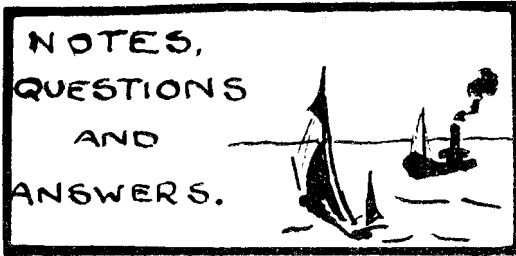
A proposal by Mr. Elrick, Director, for £1,000 insurance on his own life, which had been accepted by the Directors, was submitted for confirmation by the meeting, and was unanimously confirmed, the President remarking that such a proposal from this Director was testimony to the position of the Fund.

The re-election of Mr. Dingley to the Directorate was proposed by Mr. Thorne and seconded by Mr. Barker. The re-election of Mr. Mackie was proposed by Mr. Higginson and seconded by Mr. Howell. The re-election of Mr. Macrae-Gibson was proposed by Mr. Moffatt and seconded by Mr. Howell. Mr. Webb proposed the re-election of Mr. Charles Brown as Auditor, Mr. Barker seconded. There being no other nominations, the President declared the above-named all duly elected.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Clancy, a retired Director, terminated the proceedings.

THE LATE MR. A. J. HEWETT.

We have received a letter from Mr. A. R. J. Hewett, son of the late Mr. A. J. Hewett, expressing his sincere thanks to the London Water-guard staff for the kindness and sympathy shown in his recent double bereavement, and also for the floral tributes and the splendid attendance at the graveside.



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 the examination held on February 9th, 1926.

FIRST PAPER.

Question.

4.—(a) Under what circumstances are the crews of merchant vessels allowed the free use of dutiable stores in British waters?

(b) How are small quantities of Liqueurs brought by passengers to be treated as regards assessment of duty?

(c) What are the directions to be observed as regards attendance and charge to the merchant in connection with the shipment of bonded and drawback stores between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.?

• • • •

Answer.

4.—(a) The duty-free allowances according to scale may be issued to ships' crews who are victualled on board up to the date of final discharge at the final British port of discharge; also from the date of commencing to load cargo for foreign or from the date of clearance in ballast for foreign either direct or via another British port.

As regards vessels clearing in ballast for foreign either direct or via another British port, only one issue is to be made at the port of clearance, and if the vessel is proceeding to another British port to load no further issues are to be made until the vessel has commenced to load.

In the event of new stores being shipped for a foreign voyage on a vessel proceeding in continuation of a foreign voyage inwards to another

British port without having any outward cargo on board, no issue from the new stores is to be made until the whole of the inward cargo is discharged and foreign clearance is issued to proceed foreign in ballast either direct or via another port.

Issues from surplus stores may be made to French vessels at any time except when carrying coastwise cargo only.

(b) In all cases the passenger is to be informed that the Liqueurs may be tested if he so desires.

When the quantity produced does not exceed half a gallon, duty may be assessed at the highest sweetened tested rate, i.e., £3 18s. 5d. per gallon.

In other cases duty is to be assessed at the highest untested rate, i.e., £5 4s. 5d. per gallon.

The lower rate is also to be taken when assessing duty on seizure deposits and penalties on quantities not exceeding half a gallon.

(c) Application on Form 200 is required to ship bonded stores on vessels after 6 p.m., and a charge is to be made to the merchant for the time of actual attendance given to examine and secure such stores under seal.

The charge is only to be made when the goods have actually been put on board after 6 p.m., and not in cases where the stores were placed on board before 6 p.m. and examination and shipment delayed through stress of work until after that hour.

SCRUTATOR.

PROSECUTIONS.

ABERDEEN.

At the Aberdeen J.P. Court, on April 9th, the cook of the German trawler, "Ada," from Iceland, was charged with knowingly harbouring and concealing 2 bottles of brandy, 10 oz. of cigars, and 3 oz. of cigarettes. The offender pleaded guilty and was fined double the duty-paid value of the goods, £10 3s. 4d., and costs.

The goods were discovered by Mr. Torbot, A.P.O., of the rummage crew in charge of Mr. W. A. Girvin, P.O.

At the same Court, on April 26th, the second mate of the steamer "Torquay," from Antwerp,

was charged with illegally unshipping seven litre bottles, containing in all one proof gallon of brandy. The offender pleaded guilty and was fined treble the duty-paid value of the goods, £13 18s. 6d., and costs. He was detected by Mr. Girvin's rummage crew as he stepped ashore from the vessel carrying the goods in a parcel.

The two cases were conducted by Mr. Creighton, C.P.O.

CARDIFF.

At the Cardiff City Police Court on April 21st, the carpenter of the Norwegian steamer, "Graafjeld," pleaded guilty to a charge of illegally importing and concealing three automatic pistols and 150 rounds of ammunition.

After hearing the evidence of the Waterguard Officers concerned, the magistrates convicted in the penalty of £17 0s. 6d., being double the value of the goods, or two months' imprisonment. The fine was paid.

The goods were found in a bag of wedges in the stern steering house by Mr. S. G. Rundle, A.P.O., under the supervision of Mr. A. Baulch, P.O.

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

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Room 120, Custom House, on Monday, 12th inst., when E. A. Harris, Esq., C.B.E., Vice-President, presided. The minutes of the two preceding meetings were submitted and confirmed.

The Secretary presented a statement of the income and expenditure for the year. This showed that the amount received from subscriptions was £1,857, from dividends £377, and from donations £530, the latter sum included about £400, the amount brought to account to date, the result of the box collections. The principal items of expenditure were grants £1,154, printing £115, and expenses £75. Out of the surplus of income over expenditure the Committee authorised the Trustees to invest £1,000 in a suitable trustee stock. The balance carried

forward is £529.

The Committee desire to acknowledge the following donations received during the quarter ended March 31st: £15 4s. 8d., being half the surplus of the Armistice Day Wreath Fund; £6 10s. 6d., the net proceeds of a smoking concert of the Manchester Branch of the C. and E. Federation; and £71 1s. 10d., part of an insurance in the Customs Fund by the late J. J. Flood, Officer.

A list of 32 applications for membership was submitted and all were duly elected.

The Committee had before them four applications for assistance towards the maintenance and education of children. In one case there were four children, in two cases two children, and in one case one child. All were elected to benefits at a present cost to the Fund of £65 per annum, and in once instance the grant will be paid for a period of 15 years, the maximum allowed by the rules. The subscriptions paid by the deceased members ranged from 2s. 6d. to £4, and in the aggregate amounted to £8. Ten applications from widows in necessitous circumstances were also considered. Four of the requests were women over 70 years of age, two were just under that age, and of the others one was over and three were just under 60 years of age. The Visiting Committee reported that each applicant was in poor health and recommended that a grant of £15 be made in each case. This was approved.

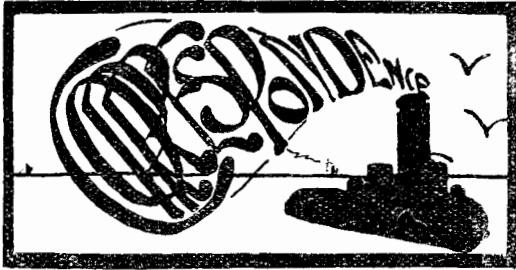
On the proposal of the members of the War Relief Fund a grant of £25 from the balance of that Fund was made to the widow of a Watcher who had died as the result of war service.

A statement was submitted by Mr. Sanders showing that the contents of 600 boxes had been paid over to the Treasurer, and that only pressure of work had prevented him from dealing as promptly as he had anticipated with the remainder of the boxes sent in. He was confident that when the final total was made up it would be found that from this source the Fund would receive not less than £900. It was hoped that the new boxes would be posted to those willing to have them at an early date.

The report of the Visiting Committee on the half-yearly visit to the homes of children on

whose behalf grants are being paid was submitted. In each case they reported that the children were being well cared for and properly educated.

The Secretary was requested to arrange for the Annual Meeting of the members to be held on a convenient date in June.



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.

THE EX-SERVICE EX-BOY MESSENGER.

Sir, "AS" "Wems" does not appear to understand the ex-Service ex-Boy Messenger point of view, perhaps the following definition will enlighten him.

The Promotion by Merit Scheme is an attempt to nullify the seniority held by the ex-Service ex-Boy Messengers and the more senior ex-Service men on the official seniority list.

For his further information, ex-Service ex-Boy Messengers head the seniority list, and would, under the old scheme, be called at the next examination. Immediately following are the ex-Service men in order of age. Boy Messengers are in their correct position as acknowledged by the old Association leaders and the Hon. Board.

It is delicately inferred that we show want of intelligence in opposing this scheme. Our intelligence would be sadly lacking if we did not oppose it. It is also inferred that a greater percentage will pass under the suggested scheme. The Hon. Board probably holds quite a contrary opinion, and will only pass the actual number

required as heretofore. Assuming that they do this, the percentage of failures will be increased from 50 per cent. to 90 per cent. or more.—Yours, etc.,

"EX-ACTLY."

Owing to the abnormal conditions resulting from the General Strike, the General Secretary's Notes have been delayed in the post until too late for inclusion in this issue.—Ed.

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

ESTABLISHED 1866.

President : SIR H. P. HAMILTON, K.C.B.

Founded for the purpose of assisting in the Maintenance and Education of the Children of deceased Officers, and affording relief to the Widows of Members left in necessitous circumstances.

All established Officers of the Department are eligible for Membership on payment of an Annual Subscription as under :—

For Members with Salaries			
	not exceeding £100 per annum	4/-	
Exceeding £100 and not exceeding £160		5/-	
„ £160	„	£350	„ 10/-
„ £350	„	£500	„ 15/-
„ £500 per annum	„	„	20/-

Forms of Membership and other particulars may be obtained on application to the

Honorary Secretary,
R. JOHNSON, CUSTOM HOUSE, E.C.