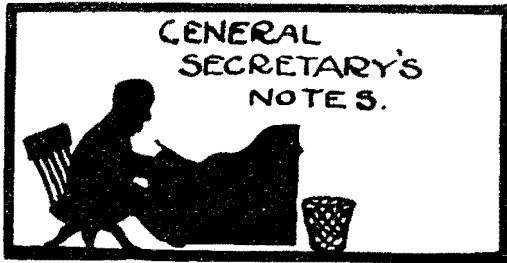


The Customs Journal.

No. 573.

October 9th, 1926.

Fortnightly.



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

With the departure of the last remnants of the summer season, thoughts are naturally diverted from the prospects of outdoor recreation, and are generally turned towards contemplation of making the best of the period which, with its dark and chilly winter evenings, is already upon us.

It is the time when those indefatigable people interested in promoting social affairs begin to get busy, and, no doubt, in Waterguard circles the good services of these very useful individuals will soon be in great demand in the various ports.

The value of social efforts amongst the staff would be difficult to overrate, and wherever activity of this sort is undertaken one can always expect to find that spirit of good comradeship which is so very necessary for mutual advancement. For this reason it should be the policy of all district officers to lend willing aid to organisers of entertainments for the staff. It not infrequently happens that co-operation with other Departments in arranging for socials, dances, etc., is attended with most happy results. Gravesend is a very good example of what can be done in this direction, but no doubt there are other places where the officers are similarly enterprising.

* * * *

The Gravesend Debating Society proved itself very popular last season, and its doings created more interest than probably its members realised. It is to be hoped that during this winter it will again operate successfully.

As a friendly critic, I venture, however, to express the opinion that the Society has over-shot the mark in its commendable efforts to avoid debate on subjects likely to cause disruption. Everyone must agree that political questions, especially at the moment, are strictly taboo, but the discussion of Service affairs does not need

such tender consideration. The Association would have everything to gain and nothing to fear from such discussions, because the publication of any heterodox opinions that might result from them would afford Association leaders an opportunity to remove erroneous impressions as to Association policy; or, should the opinions be well founded, they might well lead to estimable changes in the Association line of action.

To show that I would be a constructive critic, I suggest a debate on the value of Whitleyism in the Civil Service. The subject could be taken in its various aspects—Nationally, Departmentally, and Locally, each forming subject matter for separate debate.

Published results of such discussions are likely to infect other districts with a desire to enter the arena, with the ultimate result that members would understand more fully the uses and value of the Whitley system.

* * * *

Despite the fact that Whitleyism has now been in operation in the Service for some five or six years, it is a lamentable fact that remarkably few people understand its rock-bottom principles; and the number who understand the method of its operation, even in their own Department, is nothing to boast about. There is nothing complicated in the mechanism of the system, and a more general knowledge of its workings would undoubtedly go a long way towards obviating local grievances, many of which never get much further than the grumbling stage.

It is an unfortunate fact that imperfect knowledge of the possibilities of Whitleyism are not the monopoly of the ordinary member. Some Staff Side representatives are not always sure of their ground; and also there are some supervising officers who fail to realise that this means of obtaining staff views can lighten their burden considerably if used to its fullest extent.

It ought not to be impossible, for instance, to set up local machinery, something on the lines of the Suggestions Committee, for the purpose of discussing measures for combating local smuggling. This would create on the part of the staff a heightened interest in preventive work, and would be a good method for putting to the best use the expert and practical knowledge possessed by all officers who have made a special study of smuggling practices and contrivances.

A conference of men who have proved by practice their ability in the detection of up-to-date smuggling would be most interesting—but I think the results would startle the theorists.

* * * *

These Notes will appear at the conclusion of what is expected to be a very busy week at

Association Headquarters. The Executive is due to meet on Tuesday and Wednesday; and on Thursday there is to be a Staff Side meeting of the Waterguard Sectional Committee. The latter meeting will deal with items remitted to it by the Council in July last, and also a great deal of discussion is sure to take place on the informal report concerning the uniform question. The Executive, in addition to a large amount of purely P.S.A. business, will give more than usual attention to general Civil Service affairs. The unsatisfactory situation regarding Arbitration, and the misapplication of National Agreements is becoming serious enough for it to be imperative for every Association to make known its attitude on these matters in unmistakable terms.

Consideration will also be given to recent developments on the National Staff Side and in the Confederation. Both these concerns have proved themselves to be of much sterner stuff than many people imagined. They have displayed a remarkable buoyancy even in face of frantic efforts made by an unkind Press to swamp them out of existence.

Another item for discussion is a resolution emanating from the National Staff Side, and which aims at excluding from departmental representation any Association not affiliated to the National Staff Side. The C. and E. Joint Committee has wisely decided to reject this proposal for many reasons. One reason is that the Committee has failed to understand what good can emerge from damaging its own very effective Departmental machinery in order to forward a scheme that contains possibilities for introducing undesirable elements into National Whitley activities and thereby imperilling the welfare of the whole Service.

From the P.S.A. point of view there are additional reasons for giving no support to the resolution, and the Executive will no doubt approve the policy of the Waterguard representatives on the Joint Committee who have been appointed to attend the special meeting of Departmental Council Staff Side representatives, which is convened for November 1st for the purpose of deciding this important question.

* * * *

The result of the Seniority Ballot has been an overwhelming vote in favour of seniority counting from date of entry. Figures will be published in due course. It will now be the duty of the Executive to fully examine the case in this new light before taking the next step.

■ • • •

Attention is called to the fact that all circulars are now being issued to districts in sufficient numbers to accord with the stated requirements of the various District Secretaries. Any suggestions for improving the method of distribution are welcomed at Headquarters. The Association officers are anxious to give every possible facility to this end.

J. MERRON.

THE DAILY PRESS AGAIN.

Since the big Civil Service meeting at the Albert Hall, the Press, up to then ignorantly bitter against the "mighty hordes" of lazy and overpaid Civil Servants, has assumed a much quieter tone. It doesn't seem to have had the grace to apologise for its mistakes (it isn't done in some circles), but there has been a marked falling off in the amount of abuse that was previously levelled at a body of useful men and women, without whom the business of the country could not go on. There are signs, however, that we cannot expect much in the way of kindness from the Press yet-a-while, for while the leading articles have paid little attention to the Civil Service, they have no hesitation in using their correspondence columns for an occasional dig at the swarms of parasites that infest the Government offices. It would be interesting, incidentally, to members of our own Department to know the amount of individual salaries paid to members of the staffs of some of the big London dailies, especially to those employed on night duty.

One of these correspondents, after informing readers that the coal consumption of his two houses has dropped since the beginning of the war by nearly forty tons per annum, goes on to suggest that as there will be less work for the collier in the future, perhaps jobs could be found for him in the Civil Service. "Our great Civil Service is always open to expand its numbers and waste more of the taxpayers' money." Of course, these papers, like ourselves, take no responsibility for views expressed by their correspondents, but what a cheap way of gibing at a Service which, above most others, has been made to feel the pinch of post-war conditions and economy. We know of more than one Government Department that badly feels the need of expanding its numbers up to pre-war strength.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, September 13th, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, attended by thirty-three members. The agenda not being completed, an adjourned meeting was held on September 27th, attended by twenty-seven members. Mr. W. H. James presided on both occasions.

At both meetings prolonged consideration was given to the proposed amendment of the Rules and Standing Orders of the National Staff Side. At the first meeting it was decided to support certain proposed amendments as follows:—

(3) The objects of the National Staff Side shall be to secure the greatest measure of co-

operation between the Staff Associations of the Civil Service,

- (a) on matters as defined by the constitution of the National Whitley Council, and
(b) in regard to other activities.

(10) Voting shall ordinarily be by show of hands, a decision being reached by a bare majority, but in the case of elections shall be by ballot. On question of policy endeavour shall be made to reach agreement; in default of agreement, for a decision to be effective two-thirds of the members present, or fourteen members, whichever is the greater, shall have voted in favour of the motion. The way in which any member votes on a motion shall be recorded in the Minutes upon the request of such member. The number of votes cast for and against a motion shall be recorded in the Minutes in all cases where the votes are taken and declared.

(11) On matters falling under 3 (b), which are national questions and not of an exclusively Service character, and which are likely to create acute political divisions in the ranks of the Civil Service should the Staff Side take action, a motion shall not be deemed to have been carried on the National Staff Side or any of its Committees unless and until all the Groups have signified their concurrence in writing or through their representatives, and each Group shall be required to register a decision upon any such motion.

At the next meeting certain further decisions were come to in the light of additional information available, and it was agreed:—

“That the National Staff Side be informed that, in the view of the Confederation, the proposals submitted for the consideration of Groups, and the counter proposals of the Joint Consultative Committee, require negotiation and discussion by all Groups, including the Joint Consultative Committee, and requests that special representations be made to the Joint Consultative Committee to attend the next meeting of the National Staff Side, with a view to finding a solution, which, if reached, should be referred to Groups for ratification.”

Constituent organisations of the Confederation having been invited to express their views on the position created by the announcement made in the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on August 3rd, 1926, to the effect that the Government “have come definitely to the conclusion that it is contrary to the public interest that Associations of Civil Servants should be affiliated to outside industrial and political organisations, and intend in due course to introduce legislation to deal with the matter,” replies received from constituent organisations were read, which showed that a considerable majority of the membership of the Confederation was strongly opposed to the restrictive legislation. A resolution, moved by Mr. W. J. Brown, was carried in the following terms:—

“The Civil Service Confederation notes the declared intention of the Government to introduce legislation to prohibit the affiliation of

Civil Service staff associations to outside industrial and political organisations. The Confederation declares that, while Civil Servants will serve loyally whatever Government is in power, they have the right to protect their own interests as employees by affiliation to outside bodies. Therefore, this Confederation offers a strenuous resistance to any such proposed legislation.”

It was further decided (i.) that the resolution be referred to the appropriate Committees of the Confederation for necessary action to be considered, and (ii.) that it be conveyed to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. D. Lloyd George, M.P., Col. F. S. Jackson, M.P., the National Federation of Professional Workers, and the Press.

It was understood that a conference would be held on October 8th of organisations affected by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement, and it was decided that, in the event of an invitation being received to attend this conference, the Confederation should be represented by the President and the General Secretary.

It was reported that a conference of unions enrolling clerical workers, affiliated to the Trades Union Congress and the National Federation of Professional Workers, was to be held at Caxton Hall on October 30th, and it was agreed that the Confederation be represented at this conference by the President and the General Secretary.

Two reports, prepared by a Sub-Committee, on the subject of the accommodation of Government staffs, were adopted, and action will be taken to carry out the recommendations contained therein.

A formula submitted by the General Purposes Committee on the subject of Acting Appointments, in the following terms: “That appointments made for work which it is anticipated will last for five years should be on a substantive basis at the outset. If work expected to last for less than that period actually lasts longer, then the acting post should become substantive at the five year point,” was adopted and agreed to be transmitted to the National Staff Side for appropriate action.

It was reported that the following cases had been conducted before the Arbitration Court on behalf of the Confederation:—

September 13th.—Inland Revenue Stamping Department Superintendents' Association, conducted by Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton.

September 14th.—Association of ex-Soldier (War Office) Clerks, conducted by Mr. Walter G. Boys.

September 21st.—Warehouse Supervisors' Association, H.M. Stationery Office, conducted by Mr. G. Chase and Mr. W. H. James.

In the cases of the Inland Revenue Stamping Department Superintendents' Association and the Association of ex-Soldier (War Office) Clerks, awards have been given which, while not conceding the whole of the claims made, show substantial increases of remuneration. The Executive Committee placed upon record its appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Houghton and Mr. Boys in handling these cases.

No award has yet been published in the case of the Warehouse Supervisors.

A request having been received from the Civil Service Equal Pay Committee for the views of the Confederation on the subject of taking the question of Equal Pay to the Arbitration Court, it was decided that the Confederation representatives on the Equal Pay Committee should oppose the taking of the case for Equal Pay to arbitration at the present stage.



We commend to our readers' notice the Chess suggestion to be found on another page. We know nearly a dozen chess players in the Service personally, and are certain that they are only a small fraction of the number who indulge in the game. These we especially ask to take a practical interest for the sake of the game and for good fellowship.

• • • • •

As the G.S. remarks, there are signs of seasonal changes, and we notice that readers are taking more to their pens again. We have managed to get through the summer this year without seriously cutting down the size of the "C.J." In previous years we have found it necessary to issue one or two very lean numbers. This year, however, there has been a marked difference which, if it grows year by year, will have the effect of bringing the size of the journal in summer up to the present usual size in winter.

A word in the ears of those with spare time and a supply of ink. We could do with a few short stories and humorous paragraphs. Perhaps, seeing that it is now October, a few energetic persons could take a run into the country and gather a few chestnuts. Have a try!

SUBSCRIPTION LIST TO Mr. J. BRASIER, OF LONDONDERRY.

Final Acknowledgment.

Previously acknowledged, £54 3s. 6d.; Newport, 18s.; Lerwick, 11s.; Kirkwall, 2s. 6d.; Stromness, 2s.; Thurso, 2s.; Stornoway, 4s. 6d.; Invergordon, 4s.; Liverpool, £8 19s. 6d.; Ilfracombe, 1s.; Brixham, 4s. 6d.; Torquay, 1s.;

Leith, £1 1s.; Dartmouth, 5s.; Port Talbot, 8s.; Briton Ferry, 3s.; Plymouth, £1 11s. Gross total, £69 4s. 6d. Less Postage, etc., deductions, 6s. Net total paid to Mr. Brasier, £68 18s. 6d.

No further acknowledgments will be published in this paper.

P. A. Richardson, A.P.O., Treasurer.



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.

6.—The following particulars of fuel oil contained in a vessel's double-bottom ballast tanks, not included in the ship's register tonnage, are furnished you:—

No. 1.—321.58 tons dead-weight, specific gravity .937.

No. 2.—128.34 tons dead-weight, specific gravity .947.

Compute the tonnage for light dues.

Answer.

6.—

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{No. 1} \quad 321.58 \times .36 = 123.55 \text{ tons} \\ \hline \quad \quad \quad .937 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{No. 2} \quad 128.34 \times .36 = 48.78 \text{ tons} \\ \hline \quad \quad \quad .947 \end{array}$$

$$\text{Total Deck Cargo, Tons} \quad \underline{172.33}$$

NOTES.

I have frequently been asked to give a table showing what samples are required from Draw-back Stores and the manner of their disposal.

I trust that the following table will be found useful and is sufficiently condensed for students to memorise.

SAMPLING OF DRAWBACK STORES.

Goods.	Description.	Shipment Quantity.	Quantity of Sample required.	Disposal of Sample.
Roasted Coffee ...	Whole or unground	Any quantity ...	4 ounces	For C.P.O.
	Ground	N.E. 56 lb.	4 ounces	For C.P.O.
	Ground	Ex. 56 lb.	4 ounces	For Test.
Roasted Chicory and Mixtures of Roasted Coffee and Chicory	See Column 1 ...	Less than 56 lb. and not examined at the shipper's premises	8 ounces	For Test.
	Polarisation upwards of 98 deg. White hard grained	N.E. 5 cwt.	8 ounces	For C.P.O.
Ex. 5 cwt.		8 ounces	For Test.	
Any polarisation. Not white hard grained*		Any quantity ...	8 ounces	For Test.

* This includes Castor and Iceing Sugar whether made from British or foreign refined Sugar.

British Manufactured Molasses ...	Containing less than 70 per cent. of sweetening matter	N.E. 5 cwt.	8 ounces	For C.P.O.
	Containing 70 per cent. or more of sweetening matter	N.E. 1 cwt.	8 ounces	For C.P.O.

In all other cases an 8 ounce sample is required for Test.

Samples are to be taken only when requested and to the extent shown on the Export Shipping Notice.

When the bottles in the shipment are declared to be of a size:—

N.E. 15 to the gallon, 1 bottle is a sample.

Ex. 15 and N.E. 24 to the gallon, 2 bottles are one sample.

Ex. 24 and N.E. 36 to the gallon, 3 bottles are one sample.

Ex. 36 and N.E. 48 to the gallon, 4 bottles are one sample.

All samples are to be forwarded to the Officer who issues the Export Shipping Notice, duly labelled with Label C. & E. No. 82.

Beer

CHESS.

There are not a few chess enthusiasts among our members, and on various occasions we have been tempted to offer them something through these columns in the way of games. The call is insistent from several quarters, and we have reason to believe that a little time and space devoted to chess will be well spent. Indeed, it is high time that we opened our columns a little more to the lighter side of life. Somebody will want to know how long chess has been on the lighter side—well, it isn't exactly. But when not taken too seriously it is an engrossing diversion. Many people enjoy a game of football,

but if they took it up professionally they would find it much more a business than appears immediately on the surface.

However, to the business in hand. Mr. W. W. Bishop, of Sharpness, has very kindly offered to try to arrange a chess tournament among Association members, and appeals to the District Secretaries and ourselves to do our best to make it a success. We, for our part, will undertake our full share, and would like every chess player in the Preventive Staff to enter for the opening contest in order to give it a good start. We should be glad, therefore, if all willing to enter would forward their names without delay to—Mr. W. W. Bishop, 14, Dock Street, Sharpness, Glos.

The rules for the first contest are as follows, and will probably be amended for future contests as occasion demands:—

1.—The games to be by correspondence, and open to all Association members.

2.—The names and addresses of contestants to be sent to Mr. W. W. Bishop, 14, Dock Street, Sharpness, Glos., to enable him to draw opponents and notify them the result of the draw, such result being published in the "Customs Journal."

3.—The name first shown in the draw to have the white pieces.

4.—In this contest there shall be no handicaps.

5.—The result of the games to be forwarded to Mr. Bishop, signed by both players.

6.—Any queries arising from games to be decided by at least two other players.

7.—A win scores one point, a draw half a point, and a lose nil.

8.—The winner will be the player with the highest number of points at the end of the contest.

It is possible that arrangements can be made for the semi-final and final games to be published in this journal.

The closing date for entries will be November 6th.

C. & E. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.

The seventy-seventh meeting of the Council was held in London on September 22nd, 1926, the chair being taken by Sir H. P. Hamilton, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

INJURIES ON DUTY.

In response to the adjourned Staff Side proposal that the onus and liability of the Board and the officer concerned, respectively, in cases of injury incurred from accidents while on official duty, should be stated to the Service, the Official Side stated that it was now proposed to issue a General Order on the subject.

HOURS OF OFFICERS.

The Staff Side called attention to the recent deputation of Dock Authorities, etc., to the Financial Secretary of H.M. Treasury on the hours of Customs Officers, and referred to the undertaking previously given that the Staff would be consulted in reference to any proposal to alter such hours. In reply, the Official Side stated that if and when the representations resulted in any proposal to alter the conditions of service of the staff the matter would form the subject of joint discussion.

PROSPECTS OF REDUNDANCY.

The Official Side stated that they were not yet in a position to estimate the effect of the operation of the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, taken in conjunction with other Departmental developments; but so far as could be foreseen, no general redun-

dancy of staff was likely to arise in the near future. It was agreed to adjourn the item for six months on the understanding that if any alteration occurred in the position during that time, the Official Side would notify the Staff Side.

PROBATE.

In view of the Official Side statement that it was the practice of the Inland Revenue authorities to issue deputations to Customs and Excise Officers at places at which a demand for probate work existed, and that compliance with the second part of the proposal would involve the passage of legislation, the Staff Side withdrew their resolution that all Excise Stations or Journal Offices take probate work and that Officers administer grants of representation to estates up to and not exceeding £1,000 in value.

POSTAL DRAFTS.

It was reported that informal discussions had resulted in the compilation of an agreed code to meet the substance of the adjourned Staff Side proposal that the practice of giving on postal drafts details of the headings under which the payment is made should be discontinued.

ASSESSMENT OF DUTY.

The Official Side undertook to give early and complete effect to the agreement previously registered in connection with the assessment by Preventive Officers of duty on accompanied baggage and crews' effects.

MATCH FACTORIES.

Arising out of certain Local Committee decisions it was agreed that informal discussions should be held on the subject of the survey of these premises.

LEAVE SCALES.

The Staff Side presented an objection to a notice issued to two Officers promoted to Chief Clerkships in Collectors' Offices stating that their leave would not exceed 36 days per annum, the matter being at the time under Whitley treatment, and the regulation involving a loss of leave allowed prior to promotion. The Official Side stated that it was necessary to impose a limit of leave pending the settlement of the question, and that the analogy of the Higher Executive Grade was taken for the purpose. In the course of discussion it was stated by the Official Side that the notice in no way prejudiced the question under treatment.

PAPER KEEPERS.

Agreement was recorded on the number (37) and allocation of posts for which the Paper Keeper scale defined in Treasury Circular No. C 1926 should be paid.

NIGHT WATCHMEN.

Disagreement was registered on an Official Side proposal to substitute Night Watchmen employed by the Office of Works for the present staff charged with the custody of the Customs House at night, and on Sundays and Public Holidays.

ACCOMMODATION.

In view of satisfactory reports of progress the Council now referred back to the respective Local Committees disagreements which had been registered in regard to accommodation at Dover and Holyhead.

OTHER MATTERS.

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

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, October 20th, 1926.

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INCREASED WORK AT CERTAIN PORTS.

By "X."

The article in the last issue of the "Customs Journal" referring to the overworking of the staff at certain ports should elicit an abundance of informative facts to prove that Waterguard Officers have at long last passed the point of human endurance at which work can justly and efficiently be performed by them within a normal spell of eight hours. It is certain that the stamina of the officers concerned must eventually become undermined by the continuance of such a state of affairs, coupled with the old drawback of irregular hours and meals (when time permits of a hasty lunch or supper).

This situation has so gradually grown upon us that the article made me think and take stock of events generally, and note how they apply to my own port.

We find that staffs were reduced during the years 1914-1919. Additional duties were then imposed which were borne ungrudgingly, and we received a General Order thanking us, etc. Then followed the *Ad Valorem* McKenna Duties, with the later addition of Safeguarding of Industry Duties, Silk Duties, and culminating with the present Coal Strike. What next?

It is time we took stock of the staffing of ports from the point of view of pre-war and the present, which is nearly 1927, and not 1914. It does not seem certain that where a port has been reduced the strength has been added to the ports to which the extra work has been diverted. At the port from which I am writing, despite increase of work, no additional staff has been in evidence. In fact, owing to sickness the reverse has been the case. Ordinary steamers usually employed in carrying coal coastwise have now been diverted to foreign trades, and are arriving in most cases from dangerous ports. The pre-entry and shipping bills required for the shipment of bunker coal, etc., is a duty sufficient to occupy the whole attention of one officer, but this is added to the station officer's duties. With the extra foreign arrivals on his station and other multifarious duties it is not

surprising that he is unable to find time for office duties. The station officer performs all the duties in connection with the ordinary class of vessels on his station, and in addition he boards fresh arrivals and receives duty from crews averaging from 600 to 800 men of the liners who pay off on arrival. Sums varying from £50 to £100 are collected in duty which embraces all goods requiring the several Prime Entries. Three to four hours are usually occupied in this manner, and generally up to the end of the normal spell the officer is kept at it until relieved by his colleague. The officer finds himself nominally off duty with Crown money in his possession, with the alternative of either staying on in his own time without food to complete at least another two hours with his Prime Entries or of placing the money in the official safe and preparing his primes at home for payment on the following day. This is usually owing to the fact that he is aware that he will have no time on the following day. Some officers, acting up to principle, will not do this, with the result that they have been unable to make the primes up for several days, and then at the expense of other important work.

Regarding the shipment of Bonded Stores. At this port an order has been issued to the officers employed on this duty to appear at 9 a.m. instead of at 8 a.m. (as has been the case for years), and stating that the responsibility for all shipments between 8 and 9 a.m., on request of merchant, rests upon the station officers. In all cases the shipping companies desire to commence work at 8 a.m. to facilitate the employment of labour, so that requests are put in in ample time for daily shipments to commence at 8 a.m. To convey some idea of the importance of the work, hundreds of shipping bills are passed. The work is such that it necessitates the employment of two Preventive Officers and two Assistant Preventive Officers regularly, so that the confusion which arises from two officers having two digs at one vessel regarding the drawing of samples and shipping of various goods will be readily understood. The only reason for the present arrangement is one of overtime to the large amount of FIVE HOURS PER WEEK. The drawing, preparation and forwarding of samples to the Analyst is a very important duty which has to be done, and officers have taken shipping bills home for completion in order to avoid complications. The additional hour as previously performed gave that just sufficient time to enable the officer to cope with the work, and one officer dealt with the duty.

Work has so increased at this port that station officers have to appear for duty outside their normal spell, either a.m. or p.m., as the case may be, for tender work, which means a minimum of twelve hours' continuous duty, as immediately upon his return he takes up the duties of his station, without food in most cases.

It would appear that staffs are being worked at certain ports regardless of their private or social life with a view to the curtailment of any

increase of staff, despite the justification of increased work.

Officers at all ports where these conditions are prevalent should make their conditions known, so that action may be taken to stay the detrimental effects which may result from a continuance of them.

PRESENTATION.

Mr. W. B. EDWARDS, P.O.

A very pleasant function took place at the Stage, Liverpool, on the 30th ult., when Mr. Edwards was presented with an oak eight-day clock (suitably inscribed), a pair of embossed brass vases, and a silver cake stand, by his colleagues of Liverpool and Gravesend upon his retirement from the Service.

Mr. F. Paisley, W.S., took the chair, and Mr. C. J. Plesants, C.P.O., made the presentation on behalf of the staff.

In opening the ceremony Mr. Paisley performed his last official act, and it seemed appropriate that he, who had known Mr. Edwards for over twenty years, should be afforded the opportunity of meeting with his staff on such a pleasant occasion. He spoke of the sterling qualities of Mr. Edwards, and said he had always found him an ideal officer who had always done his best for the Service he was leaving.

Mr. P. J. Mills, Assistant Collector, also paid tribute to one of his old Gravesend colleagues, and entertained the company with some of the amusing side of what was, in those days, a hard and rough job. He was of the opinion that when officers like Mr. Edwards emerged from such a start in their career they were armed with an experience which would stand them in good stead during the remainder of their service. A few lectures on the old Gravesend days would do new entrants a lot of good.

Mr. J. Moss, W.S., also spoke highly of Mr. Edwards. Before he met him many years ago he had often heard of "Bill" Edwards, and when he did eventually meet him, his long moustache, the pride of his youth, had to come off in deference to Bill's adornment.

Mr. Blake, C.P.O., Gravesend, said he had known Mr. Edwards from youth, saw his family grow up, knew the intimate details of his life, and declared he was one of the kindest men he knew.

Messrs. Digodan, Atwill, G. F. Blake, Slade, Ferguson and Fairchild also paid high tribute to Mr. Edwards.

Mr. Plesants, in handing the presents to Mr. Edwards, said it gave him one of the greatest pleasures in life to perform the ceremony to the companion of his youth, who had sailed through his career smoothly, gaining esteem and affection wherever he went.

RETIREMENT OF Mr. J. CLARK, C.P.O.

There is always a very human note about presentations, and this was especially so last Tuesday evening at Anderton's Hotel, London, when a number of officers of the Preventive Staff met together to bid an affectionate farewell to one who had served the latter years of his official life in London as C.P.O. Mr. Donaldson, W.S., occupied the chair, and was supported by one other W.S. and seven C.P.O.'s. The company was made up of a goodly number of Preventive Officers and Assistant Preventive Officers, among whom were to be seen several members of the P.S.A. Executive, who were delighted to join their London colleagues in doing honour to the gentleman who had won so much of their regard and esteem.

There were a large number of speakers anxious to say a few words of farewell to Mr. Clark, and all were perfectly unanimous in their praise and appreciation of his qualities. He was always first a gentleman and afterwards a C.P.O., said one. Another referred to him as a gentleman with the Nelson touch. He expected everybody to do his duty, and never left a scar that could not be healed by the person who imposed the lashing. He always showed a practical sympathy to any in distress. Another speaker said that to go through the Service for forty years, and to be met on an occasion such as this by members of all Grades, spoke well for the officer obtaining that honour. Such a splendid gathering bore great testimony to the character of our guest.

The presentation, consisting of an eight-day clock and a silver tea-set, was made by Mr. Donaldson with a few well-chosen words. Mr. Clark, in expressing his thanks, drew attention to the difference between past and present conditions in the Service. The present fairly good conditions were due to the efforts of predecessors, and it was up to the present A.P.O.'s to rally round their Association leaders. It was no less equally important for the P.O.'s to support and assist the organisation. He was also confident that come what may in the shape of new duties and responsibilities, the Waterguard would rise to any call that might be placed upon it. Referring to the gifts before him, he said that although the value of them was great, it was not so great as the knowledge that practically every officer in London had had a hand in the procuring of them. Mr. Clark was received with prolonged applause and musical honours.

An excellent musical programme had been arranged by Mr. Powell, and the company was entertained at intervals with songs from Mr. Sidney Mayhew (baritone) and Miss Ida Whippey (contralto), while Mr. Frank Feltham, with his stories and songs, kept the guests in roars of laughter. During the latter part of the evening the chair was taken by Mr. C. E. Egan, C.P.O.