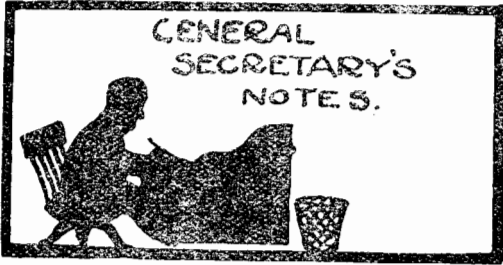


The Customs Journal.

No. 582.

February 12th, 1927.

Fortnightly.



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

The question of Waterguard Recruitment has at last been disposed of. The Staff Side of the Departmental Council were unable, unfortunately, to get any better terms than those obtained on the Waterguard Sectional Committee. The major portion of the scheme proposed by the Official Side has been agreed to. Disagreement arose over the Staff Side proposal to include a modern language and elementary science in the list of examination subjects.

Despite the fact that a great deal of discussion has taken place regarding the point of disagreement, it is worthy of note that the Official Side have not satisfied the Staff as to the reasons for opposing the Staff Side request.

There are few examinations of any importance to-day that do not include at least one foreign language in the syllabus. It would be difficult to find a Civil Service examination where a test for languages could more reasonably be expected than the Waterguard examination. Yet, not only is it excluded, but there is definite opposition to it being included.

Even an elementary knowledge of the method of learning a language is a great incentive to young officers to take advantage of the many opportunities for becoming acquainted with various foreign languages, and it cannot be denied that to be so equipped undoubtedly increases the efficiency of the individual a hundredfold. Each day this truth becomes more evident, and we are fast approaching the time when the knowledge of foreign languages will be regarded as one of the essential qualifications of the Waterguard Officer.

The attitude adopted at the moment towards the Staff Side proposal inclines one to believe that the practical working conditions of the Waterguard Staff are not fully appreciated. Were these circumstances as well known as they deserve to be, the claim would have been con-

ceded on the grounds of importance alone, quite apart from the question of utility.

The placing of the Waterguard in its proper position of importance can be accomplished only by the Staff themselves. The nature of the work is so complicated, varied and responsible, that it is difficult to describe, and an outside observer rarely gains a real understanding of it. Many of them gather quite false impressions, with detrimental results to ourselves.

The remedy lies in persistent and public expression of Waterguard points of view. Only by dogged perseverance in this way will it become possible to present a true picture of the very useful and responsible work performed by this Department.

* * * *

So far there is no information as to when an examination under the new conditions for the A.P.O. Grade will be held, but, from the Staff point of view, it is desirable that there should be one announced for an early date. There are numerous people awaiting such an announcement, and keen competition can be expected. Amongst the prospective competitors are many with first-class educational qualifications, and it behoves those who intend entering to keep well up in their studies.

The syllabus will be published in the next issue of the "Journal." It is not possible to publish in the current issue.

* * * *

The Departmental Council also ratified the Waterguard Sectional disagreement regarding the C.P.O.'s claim for the abolition of the Sections in that Grade.

This case has been under discussion for a considerable time, but from the first, the Official Side stuck firmly to the opinion that there was a definite distinction between the duties of the two sections.

The Staff Side view was that there could be no distinction between the responsibility of the upper and lower sections; and therefore there could be no justification for the existence of separate sections. It was urged that the present arrangement resulted in undue hardship through middle-aged officers being compelled to break up their homes two or three times during the last ten years of their official career.

* * * *

Another disagreement, interesting to the Waterguard, was that in connection with the claim by the Coast Preventive Men for payment for Sunday duty. No really adequate reason has been advanced by the Official Side for failing to agree with the request. The only reason advanced was that the men concerned entered

the Service fully accepting the conditions offered at the time. It will now remain to be seen if the C.P.M.'s will consider it worth while trying to get something from arbitration.

The announcement, at the Departmental Council, to the effect that it was intended to hold an open competitive examination for the Officer Grade, next May, caused a mild excitement. This is very good news for the Officer Grade, and is an event that has been looked forward to for some time. It is expected that the introduction of new blood into the Grade will, in some measure, lessen the troubles in connection with removals.

The result of the ballot to fill the vacancy on the Executive is the election of Mr. R. W. Booth. Mr. Booth will therefore attend the Executive Meeting on February 8th and 9th. He is, of course, an experienced Association official, and the fact that he has not been very long away from the Committee makes his election a rather fortunate event, since he is very well acquainted with many of the subjects now claiming the attention of the Executive.

Preparations for the Executive Meeting have, as usual, caused an additional strain on the headquarters staff, and it is hoped that members will be patient if some delay occurs in attending to letters on inquiry, etc. These Notes will, for the same reason, not be so ample as usual.

The Executive will have before them on this occasion the first report of the working of the new Educational Scheme. The first batch of lesson and question papers for each of the classes has now been dispatched, and every student should now be in possession of the papers appropriate to the class he has chosen. Any member not having yet received them should communicate immediately with the Secretary, Mr. Purser. It is hoped that any small errors will be excused, and, should any have occurred, these will be rectified as early as possible. The scheme is working very well, but will improve considerably as experience is gained.

It is very encouraging to note that the lesson papers issued have already caused widespread satisfaction, and even enthusiasm. Mr. Purser tells me that the Central Committee have in view some rather novel features, which will become known as the scheme develops. Students under the V.E.C. are to have the path to success made as smooth as it possibly can be.

J. MERRON.

SOUTHAMPTON DINNER.

The very successful Dinner held at Southampton a fortnight ago will be reported in the next issue,

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

LONDON.

A meeting of the above Branch was held at the St. Katharine's Dock Hotel on Tuesday, the 3rd inst. A good attendance was recorded, and practically everyone in attendance participated in the discussions, which were mostly concerned with local matters.

Mr. Powell, Assistant Secretary, gave a report of recent Waterguard Sectional activity, and Mr. Purser that appertaining to Local Whitley. Two other items were discussed and referred to Local Whitley.

HARTLEPOOL.

Consequent upon the resignation of Mr. P. G. Donovan from the position of District Secretary, that position is now in the hands of Mr. C. A. Warren, 12, Mitchell Street, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham, to whom all future communications should be addressed.

HULL.

The Annual Meeting of the above was held at "The Metropole" on January 28th, 1927. Mr. F. Nightingale, Vice-Chairman, presided.

Mr. Booth, E.C., gave a resumé of the last meeting of the Executive Committee.

The election of District Officers for the ensuing year resulted in Mr. A. Cameron being re-elected Chairman; Mr. S. Chapman, Vice-Chairman; Mr. R. A. Crooks, District Secretary; Mr. H. Hyde, District Organising Secretary; and Messrs. Dickens and Gamble, Auditors. For the L.W.C., Messrs. Crooks and Howard were re-elected for the P.O. Grade, and Messrs. Codd, Shorter and Hyde for the A.P.O. Grade.

The question of missing parts of the Revised Instructions was again raised, and a resolution on the matter was carried.

LIVERPOOL.

A meeting was held in the Common Hall, Hackin's Hey, on Friday, January 28th, with Mr. J. V. Jones in the chair. The attendance was the largest seen for a considerable time.

The question of reconstituting the Waterguard Staff in the Port was fully discussed, and it was decided to elect a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Titherley, Ross, Kidman and Henry, with the Secretary and Organising Secretary as ex officio members, to fully explore the matter and prepare a case for the Local Whitley representatives in case the Official Side should make any proposals at the next Whitley Committee meeting.

The Secretary reported that the Board were about to effect a change in launches on river work. In view of the Liverpool complaint, which

was part of the general Association complaint now standing adjourned on the Waterguard Sectional Committee, and in view of the fact that the Staff had never been officially apprised of the proposed change in launches, it was decided that the Staff Side should lodge a protest at the next Whitley meeting. It was generally felt that the Staff should be afforded an opportunity of examining any proposals which the Board may make in this respect, especially when officers were placed in constant danger on the Mersey.

The meeting instructed the Secretary on various points of the agenda of the Executive meeting to be held on the 8th and 9th inst. He received special instructions regarding the minimum wages of the A.P.O. Grade.

The Secretary reported that he had approached the Superintendent on questions of local accommodation, etc., and the meeting signified its approval of the satisfactory progress made.

The meeting terminated at 10 p.m.

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

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Room 120, Custom House, at 5 p.m. on Monday, 3rd inst. T. Morton, Esq., occupied the chair, and the other members present were Messrs. Medwin, Rose, Powell, Moffatt, Boshell, Widdowson, Dingley, Thorne, Parkes, Howard, Beard, Softly, and Johnson. The Secretary submitted the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed, and read a number of letters of thanks from beneficiaries expressing their thanks for the assistance afforded to them.

A financial statement presented showed that during the quarter £350 had been disbursed in grants to assist in the maintenance and education of children and to widows in needy circumstances. A list of 12 Officers, 4 Preventive Officers, 10 Assistant Preventive Officers, and 10 Departmental Clerks, was submitted, and all were duly elected to membership.

The Committee considered an application from the widow of an Unattached Officer for help to maintain her child aged 18 months. It was decided to elect the child to benefits at a present cost to the Fund of £15 per year, the grant to be paid under the conditions of the rules until the child completes its sixteenth year of age. The Committee also had before them eight applications from widows in necessitous circumstances. In each case the Visiting Committee reported that the applicants were unable to support themselves, through age or infirmity, and recommended that the maximum grant permissible under the rules be made in each case. The Committee adopted the recommendations and granted £15 in each instance.

BETWEEN TIDES.

PARAGRAPHS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

LONDON.

Local Whitleyism and sport seem to be, at present, the main two factors of Waterguard life in this port, for both are being actively pursued, and we think it will be universally agreed that no finer combination of ideals could be found or applied where men are collectively concerned. Our L.W. and Port Committees are at the moment fully occupied in tackling in true Whitley spirit some hefty and important aspects of Revenue Protection and Staff Welfare.

At the same time, we have two other Committees making Herculean efforts to brighten our lot when off duty in at least one branch of sport. We sincerely wish success to all four Committees.

* * * *

By the application to his official duties and the constant oral repetition of a certain P.O.'s personal motto, it might be claimed, with credit to ourselves, that the London staff have adopted his motto of "Do it now," for it is becoming more apparent at each Association meeting that the spirit of this motto is unconsciously gaining hold. The motto has been applied with zest during the winter in regard to the approaching cricket season, and we have already heard discussions on the Annual Sports Meeting, at which we gained tug-of-war honours last year. Such a motto is obviously worth adoption, and we hope, for more than one reason, that it will be very infectious.

* * * *

We are pleased to record another outstanding achievement by a London Waterguard Officer in our records of sport.

Mr. W. J. Blake, A.P.O., was the recent recipient of two medals at a Civil Service Gala, being third in the Civil Service quarter-mile championship and first in the team race for the "Clark Cup," his efforts being on behalf of the Customs Swimming Club, and his timing being excellent for both events.

* * * *

The Waterguard has now produced three men with notable achievements in three different branches of sport.

Mr. T. J. V. Knights, P.O., Newhaven, was selected to play for the Civil Service against the Australians last season; and Mr. J. W. Booker, A.P.O., London, last football season played in representative A.F.A. teams, and again this year is regularly playing for one of London's senior amateur teams. We do not intend to stop at this!

* * * *

The South Side Cricket Club held its Annual Meeting last week, at which the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were received. The finances and arrangements for the coming season proved very satisfactory.

The enthusiasm of the members of the Club was more or less proved when the question of the captaincy was discussed, which eventually terminated by five members being nominated. A ballot for the post is now taking place.

* * * *

The discovery of means to prolong human life for fifty years is not likely to find favour in the Waterguard. Look at the loss of seniority in the next world!

GRAVESEND.

The staff at Gravesend are ever ready to venture on pastures new, as regards the social side of affairs outside Service hours.

To the existing Sports Club (which includes cricket, football and rowing) and the Debating Society is now added a Thrift Club.

This was inaugurated in March, 1926, under rather hurried circumstances, and in spite of many obstacles, not the least of which was the transfer of most of the officers of the Club to other ports, the Club was carried on, and in December, 1926, was able to share among the members the sum of just over £140—a very satisfactory first year's result.

At a meeting held on January 7th, 1927, it was unanimously decided to carry on the Club, and officers were elected accordingly. By the enthusiasm displayed an even more successful year is anticipated.

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SOUTHAMPTON.

Mr. Hayman's Retirement.

Dockland will lose a familiar figure by the retirement this week of Mr. Frank Hayman, one of the Port Immigration Officers. During his association with the Hampshire port, first with H.M. Customs and Excise, and then with the Home Office, he has made a host of friends, who will be sorry to lose an associate of so cheery a disposition. Mr. Hayman is a sailing enthusiast, and during his stay in Southampton started the successful Millbrook Sailing Club, of which he is now secretary.

* * * *

Off Duty.

At the fifth annual Waterguard Dinner of H.M. Customs and Excise at Southampton, Mr. Langridge, who attended as a representative of the Ministry of Health, caused considerable laughter when he rose to make a few remarks.

He added that his position was a difficult one. No sooner had he taken his seat that evening when a gentleman on his port side had consulted him as to which was the least harmful of the soups—thick or clear!

This he was bound to resent, inasmuch that he was off duty just as much as the gentleman who asked him!

NATIONAL WHITLEY COUNCIL (STAFF SIDE).

HIGHER GRADES.

A well-attended meeting of members of the Higher Grades of the Civil Service was held in the Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Monday, January 24th, 1927. The meeting had been convened by the National Staff Side at the instance of the Higher Grades Committee of that body, and was presided over by W. Ewart Llewellyn, Esq., O.B.E., the Chairman of the Committee.

The meeting was representative of all the Grades concerned, including a number of important members of the Joint Consultative Committee.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

(1) This Conference considers that Higher Grades Civil Servants should personally take a more lively and direct interest in Departmental Whitleyism in all its aspects, and should utilise machinery provided by Departmental Whitley Councils for the consideration of "over £500" questions.

This meeting therefore deprecates any attempt to deprive organisations of such Civil Servants from utilising the machinery so provided, and instructs the Committee to reopen negotiations with the Joint Consultative Committee with a view to the immediate attainment of Service unity.

(2) This Conference of Higher Grade Civil Servants expresses its appreciation of the efforts made to remove the Cost-of-Living Bonus Super-Cut, and urges that all possible steps be taken to secure that "the promise or honourable undertaking given" in May, 1920, be implemented in full by the Government.

OBITUARY.

It is with deepest regret we have to record the death of Mr. H. W. Abbey, Asst. Preventive Officer, stationed at Great Yarmouth, who passed away at his residence on Sunday, January 16th, after five weeks' serious illness, during which he underwent two operations.

Mr. Abbey was much respected by his colleagues at Yarmouth, and also by the Staff at Harwich, where he commenced his Waterguard duties. Wreaths were sent from Harwich, Lowestoft and Yarmouth, and most of the staff from Lowestoft and Yarmouth attended the funeral.

Mr. Abbey leaves a wife and one child, and great sympathy has been extended to his widow.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, January 31st, 1927, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. W. H. James presided over an attendance of twenty-eight.

Miss E. C. Maguire, of the Civil Service Clerical Association, called attention as a matter of urgency to the investigations being conducted in certain Government Departments by the Industrial Fatigue Board, and a resolution was adopted in the following terms:—

“That investigations by such outside bodies as the Industrial Fatigue Board, involving the examination of Civil Servants on official premises, should not be permitted except after discussion and agreement through the appropriate machinery of National or Departmental Whitley Councils.”

A communication was received from the Customs and Excise Federation calling attention to a certain discrepancy between the terms of the Report on Removal Expenses negotiated by the Subsistence Committee of the National Whitley Council, and the Customs and Excise Departmental Regulations based on this Report, and it was agreed that a copy of this communication be forwarded to all the Confederation representatives on the Subsistence Committee.

The Finance and Organisation Committee reported that correspondence was proceeding with the Superintending Measurers and Recorders, Leading Recorders and Leading Measurers' Association, Portsmouth, which had applied for membership of the Confederation, and that it had been suggested to this Association that it should combine with the Admiralty and Royal Dockyards Technical Officers' Association, which appeared to be an appropriate body for this purpose. In accordance with the decision of the last Half-yearly Council meeting, steps had been taken to wind up the District Committees of the Confederation, and to recall the balances of funds in hand to headquarters in cases where such balances existed.

It was reported that, following upon a meeting between the officers of the Confederation and representatives of the Temporary Staffs Alliance, the question of the possible affiliation of the Alliance to the Confederation had been under consideration by the Council of the Alliance. Decisions had been reached that, for the time being, the Alliance should remain outside the Confederation and should not apply for direct representation on the National Whitley Council.

The General Purposes Committee reported that its attention had been called to the case of Second Class Draughtsmen on a scale of

£125-150, who, having been appointed abroad, received a Colonial Allowance which took them over £250 per annum, but who have not been allowed to become voluntary contributors under the Contributory Pensions Act. It was decided (i.) to write to the Ministry of Health in regard to the case of these Second Class Draughtsmen; (ii.) that the General Secretary should prepare a memorandum (based on previous Confederation minutes) of points to be raised when an amending Bill was to be introduced; (iii.) that constituent organisations be asked to forward particulars of any points in regard to the present Act concerning which it was felt that grievances existed; and (iv.) that the points brought forward by constituent organisations should be incorporated in the memorandum to be prepared by the General Secretary.

On the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee it was also agreed that the Confederation representatives on the National Whitley Council be asked to endeavour to improve the terms applicable upon voluntary transfers from town to town, on the following lines:—

(a) To a lower scale.—The officer should enter the lower scale, but may carry his existing pay (provided it does not exceed the new maximum) on a mark-time basis, i.e., he should receive no further increment until this would have been earned had his salary on transfer been reduced to the corresponding point as defined in paragraph 5 of the Memorandum enclosed with Treasury Letter of July 3rd, 1922.

(b) To a higher scale.—The officer should enter the higher scale at a point mid-way between his existing salary and the corresponding point as defined in the above-mentioned paragraph.

It was reported that the question of Annual Leave with Pay for Established Workmen at the Dockyards had again been taken up with the Admiralty, through the medium of the Dockyard Members of Parliament, and that a deputation from the Dockyard Members of Parliament had been received by the Admiralty in December, 1926. The attitude of the Admiralty was, however, still unyielding.

Assistance was being rendered to the Association of Sasine Office Clerks (Special Class) and the Attendants' and Repairers' Association, Public Record Office, in regard to claims for improvement of salary scales, and to the Accountant of Court's Clerical Association in regard to a proposed Re-organisation Scheme for the Accountant of Court's Office, Edinburgh.

Recent proceedings of the Civil Service Equal Pay Committee were reported. This Committee at its last meeting had decided not to proceed any further with a proposal that had been under consideration “to form a Provisional Joint Executive Committee, consisting of fourteen members, seven members to be appointed by the Joint Committee on Women in the Civil Service, and seven by the Civil Service Equal Pay Committee.” The effect of this decision is that the

Equal Pay Committee will continue its work and propaganda along its own lines.

Reports were given of recent proceedings of the Civil Service National Whitley Council, particularly on the subjects of Superannuation; Pensions for Widows and Orphans; Provincial Differentiation; Overtime—Non-overtime Classes—Industrial Court Award; Vacant Seats on the National Staff Side; Arbitration Court Procedure—Question of admissibility as evidence of Minutes of Whitley proceedings; Higher Grades Conference; Meeting of Defence Committee; Post Office Sanatorium Society—proposal for deduction of contributions from official salary; Contributory Pensions Act—proposal for deduction of contributions from official salary of voluntary contributors; Acting Appointments; Departmental Markings; Staff Side proposal for the appointment of a Joint Committee on the provision of office furniture and accessories and the cleaning of Government offices.

Arising out of the National Whitley Council report, it was agreed that the Confederation representatives on the National Staff Side should support the further deferment of the filling of the vacant seats on the National Staff Side. The Confederation representatives were also instructed to raise a debate with a view to securing the exception from liability to payment of unemployment insurance contributions for the "P" Class and other classes similarly situated in respect of security of tenure.

The General Secretary of the Confederation, Mr. Philip Millwood, was appointed to attend the Annual Conference of the National Federation of Professional Workers, to be held at Caxton Hall on Saturday, February 5th, 1927, in room of Mr. L. N. Punter, one of the Confederation delegates appointed by the Half-yearly Council, who was unable to attend. The other Confederation representatives to this Conference are Mr. W. G. Boys, Mr. W. J. Brown, Mr. G. Chase, and Mr. T. W. Rogers. Two resolutions on the subject of Civil Rights for Civil Servants appear on the Conference agenda, in the name of the Civil Service Confederation, in the following terms:—

"That this Annual Conference of the National Federation of Professional Workers 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. It wholeheartedly supports Civil Servants in their assertion of the right to protect their own interests as employees by affiliation to outside bodies, and in their determination to offer strenuous resistance to any legislation to restrict that right."

"The National Federation of Professional Workers recommends its constituent organisations to consider and decide what steps can be taken to support Civil Servants in their claims for the right: (a) to stand as Parliamentary candidates; (b) to express political opinions; and (c) to serve upon public bodies."

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

For two weeks ending February 3rd, 1927.

APPOINTMENTS.

Assistant Preventive Officers: Edge, G., Sunderland; Love, W. N., London.

TRANSFERS.

Preventive Officers: Baker, E. R., Barry Dock, Cardiff, to Bristol; Clough, W. H., North Shields, to Blyth, Newcastle.

Exchange.—Assistant Preventive Officers: Coates, A., Sunderland, with Monk, W. F., West Hartlepool, Sunderland.

PROMOTIONS.

Assistant Preventive Officer to Preventive Officer: Turvey, C. A., Brixham, Plymouth, to North Shields, Newcastle.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

Retirements.—Preventive Officer: O'Dwyer, T., Bristol.

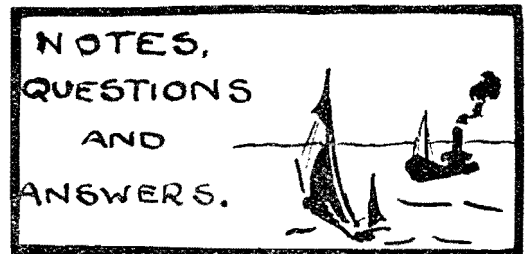
Death.—Assistant Preventive Officer: Abbey, H. W., Yarmouth, Norwich.

VACANCY.

Preventive Officer, Hull.

APPOINTMENTS TO UNESTABLISHED SITUATIONS.

Coast Preventive Man: Whittaker, A., Newbiggin, Newcastle.



All contributions relative to this column should be addressed to "Scrutator," c/o The Editor, 91, Tressillian Road, Brockley, London, S.E.4.

Now that study has commenced under the Vocational Education Scheme it is interesting to see so many A.P.O.'s very busy amending their regulations.

This is a very important and necessary duty if successful study is the aim of the pupils.

Perhaps the following hint will prove a valuable aid in amending new copies of the Revised Instructions.

1.—Separate all your amendments into five groups, i.e., Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 and "Spare parts," respectively.

2.—Next separate amendments for Volume 1 into further groups to cover the nine parts of this Volume.

3.—Now take Volume 1, Part 1, and its amendments; obtain the loan of a reliably amended copy of Volume 1 and amend your copy similarly from the amendments you have already grouped together.

You will find that this method will save you much time and annoyance, as many amendments have been issued, then cancelled by later orders.

You will also find that your task will be much easier than at first appears.

I am proving the value of this method with one particular student at the present time.

Part 9 of Volume 1 is still very scarce; in fact, I should say that any officer with more than one copy of this important regulation is running a grave risk of robbery (with or without violence).

I refer to General Order 12/1917, Customs No. 6, commonly known as "The Navy Regulations."

As this regulation is a necessary item in the syllabus of the V.E. Scheme, and my last summary of this G.O. is rather ancient and was not valued or appreciated when published in "Journals" Nos. 516 and 517 of August, 1924, I shall endeavour to give the summary in the two copies of the "Journal" following this issue.

"SCRUTATOR."

LONDON SPORT.

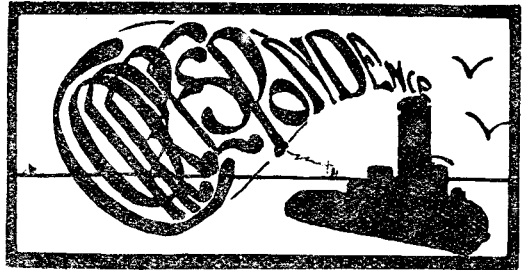
C. & E. SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB (N. SIDE).

We commenced our Outdoor Sports Section in a very pleasing manner. Through the courtesy of our superiors we were able to field a full team. Our first football match was against the Royal Albert Dock Police team, who have lost but one game this season.

The match was played on the P.L.A. Sports Field, Ilford, on Thursday, January 27th. A rather strong breeze made football somewhat difficult. The ground was "heavy," and our opponents formidable. Considering that this was our first outing our lads played with commendable pluck, and gave the police a warm time, as the final score of one goal each suggests. We were the first to score through Bert Lee, and the result does not flatter our efforts. A feature of the game was its keenness and cleanness throughout. Another pleasing feature was the presence of some of our stalwart supporters and their ladies. As we progress we shall get together a team which will be very difficult to beat, and we feel confident that our supporters will increase in numbers and enthusiasm. Several other matches will be played on the Ilford ground. The modern conveniences there are at the disposal of spectators and players alike, and they are sufficient to attract a good

number of supporters, who will feel delighted with this ideal site.

And now for the Indoor Section! We are having a Social and Carnival Dance in the newly-erected "Harmonic Hall," Plashet Grove, East Ham, on February 25th (Friday). Refreshments may be had at very reasonable prices. There will be a limited number of tickets available at 2s. each. **NOTE THE DATE.** You will be amongst your Service friends. Get your ticket early, for this dance is going to be a huge success. G.H.C.



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.

SHOULD THE PROMOTION BOARD BE SCRAPPED?

Sir,—I was interested to read the contribution by "Hawkeye" in your issue of December 4th last, and hoped to have seen some other contributions on the subject by abler pens than my own, more particularly amongst our younger officers.

"Hawkeye" suggests, or rather infers, that the Promotion Board should be scrapped. The present seniority lists of C.P.O.'s 1 and 2 are, in my judgment, quite a good answer in the affirmative to "Hawkeye's" suggestion or inference. Personally, I am at a loss really to provide or to suggest an alternative to the present method, as it is very apparent to the practical mind, and from the Revenue officer's point of view, that the best and most efficient Revenue officer has not always been the successful man. In scanning lists of C.P.O.'s 1 and 2, and of the rejected, I could name several who, as Revenue protecting officers, were in days past considered A.1, and in some instances are able to direct, suggest, and, if necessary, still detect and bring to earth the smuggler even to-day. They also possess and still possess A.1 characters, are endowed with as much common sense and ability to organise and administer a station or port equally well, if not better, than some of the selected ones to the higher posts.

One is greatly amused at the questions "Hawkeye" asks, especially No. 2, where he speaks of justice and fair play. The first thought

that strikes one, and I say it convincingly and emphatically, have we, as Waterguard Officers, ever had justice or fair play? Have we not been the victims of chance—heads I win, tails I lose—ever? True, we are emerging slowly, and I hope surely, to a higher level. There is still a deal of headway to make. The tide of prejudice is still against us, and even amongst our own superiors the very old jealous spirit is rampant. I have had some few years now of working with superiors, and if some of the remarks and suggestions I have heard them utter were put on paper concerning the subordinates, well, then, heaven help the subordinates, is all I desire to say.

I once had the temerity to suggest to a superior that I was surprised to see Mr. A. promoted over Mr. B., and the answer I received was: "Ah, my boy, Mr. A. has the address." Again, I also once heard a Collector make the remark, in speaking of the failure of a very efficient officer: "Ah, well, these interviews are a sheer gamble." Such remarks may be sheer trap-talk and common talk, but they also show that the methods at present in force are not always possibly the correct methods.

I would like to ask, Mr. Editor, one question. Does the Promotion Board honestly put the officer's virtues (his past record as a Revenue officer, his character, his zeal, his ability to command, his desire to promote the best of fellowship amongst his subordinates, and other points he may possess) against his failings, whatever they may be (and most men have some)? If so, well then one must be content.

I am of the opinion that the dice is loaded against us. There are only two practical Waterguard Officers on the Promotion Board. There should at least be four. The present two are essential as heads of the Department. There should also be two 1st Class Superintendents, and I would suggest one from the Secretary's Department and one from the A. and C.-G.'s Department, and one higher Collector, who would have probably had dealings at some time or another with most of the officers concerned. The Board should sit twice in each year. The present method is slim-shod and unstable and altogether too spasmodic.

Apologising for taking so much space, I am one who desires fair play and no favours.—Yours, etc.,

"HOPEFUL."

Sir,—In recent letters published in the "Journal," a correspondent writes to the effect that we members of the P.S.A. cannot state a case where any other Department in the Civil Service has obtained a recent increase in salary or wages. Might I, therefore, be allowed to point out to him that the "Daily Mail," during the week ending 29.1.27, published the result of a claim by a certain Grade of H.M. Dockyard workers, where the Civil Service Industrial Court granted an increase in the maximum salary of £30? The claim was, to raise the maximum amount from £450 to £500 per ann.

The Industrial Court stated "that they saw no reason for the Grade," but granted an increase making their maximum salary £480. So their time was opportune and, anyway, this case proves "Action's" remarks in "Journal" No. 578.

Perhaps your correspondent, "G.E.N.," could inform us the cause of the difference in the establishment of the Preventive Staff for the Parliamentary Estimates of 1921-22 and 1926-27.

These Estimates show a decrease of 5 Preventive Officers and 105 Asst. Preventive Officers, notwithstanding the fact that our temporary reconstruction provided for an increase of Preventive Officers. What action has the P.S.A. taken in the matter?

This decrease of P.O.'s is detrimental to the whole A.P.O. Grade.—Yours, etc.,

"CAVE CANEM."

CHESS.

Here is the result of the first game received in Round 1 of the Waterguard Chess Tournament, which is a win for Mr. F. G. Boodle, A.P.O., of Newport.

Mr. B. R. Clark, A.P.O. Mr. F. G. Boodle,
Weymouth. A.P.O., Newport.
White. Black.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. P-Q4 | P-Q4 |
| 2. P-K4 | P-K3 |
| 3. P×P | P×P |
| 4. KB-K2 | KKt-B3 |
| 5. KKt-B3 | KKt-B3 |
| 6. Castles | B-K3 |
| 7. KR-K1 | KB-Q3 |
| 8. P-QB1 | Q-Q2 |
| 9. P×P | KKt×P |
| 10. QKt-QB3 | Castles, Q side |
| 11. QB-K3 | KB-QKt5 |
| 12. KB-QKt5 | ORP-R3 |
| 13. ORP-R4 | Q-K2 |
| 14. KKt-K5 | QKt×KKt |
| 15. P×QKt | KKt×QKt |
| 16. Q-Q4 | R×Q |

A bad move on White's part.

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 17. B×R | Kt×B |
| 18. B-K3 | B×R |
| 19. R×B | Q-QKt5 |
| 20. R-QB1 | R-Q1 |

White offers to resign.

- | | |
|---------------|---------|
| 21. RP×Kt | Q×QKtP |
| 22. R-KSg | Q-K7 |
| 23. KKEtP-Kt4 | Q×KKtP+ |

A better move would be KKtP-Kt3. However White moves his King at this point, it gives Black a checkmate in two moves, thus:—

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 24. K-B1 | B-QB5+ |
| 25. R-K2 | R-Q8+mate |

or

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 24. K-R1 | B-Q4+ |
| 25. KRP-B3 | B×KKP+mate |

+ means check.