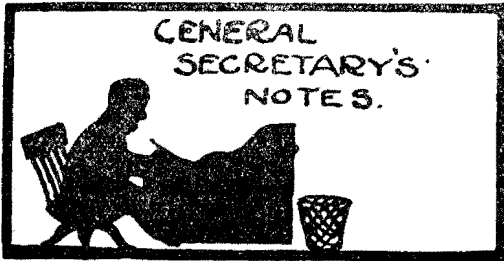


The Customs Journal.

No. 584.

March 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 launching of any new enterprise nowadays is looked upon with a critical eye by all those likely to be affected by it. Rarely is it that there is not something or other deserving of criticism, and fortunate indeed is the business that can come through the ordeal unscathed.

The P.S.A. Educational Scheme has got past the launching stage, and is now well afloat. From the commencement everything has gone with a smoothness that betokens efficiency of control. Week by week batches of work papers go out to the tutors for distribution to the pupils taking the various courses. The pupils' work is checked by the tutors, who keep in touch with the Central Committee in order that the educational needs of the pupils will be fully supplied in the type of question papers issued.

This is but a brief outline of what has been happening since the Central Committee started operations quite a few weeks ago, and it needs little imagination to realise what a great amount of labour is required to keep such a system going. No one would really be justified in adopting a severely critical attitude had those Central Committee trojans committed blunders of inexperience in their early efforts.

It is abundantly evident, however, that they have tackled the job in a skilful and business-like manner. The entire absence of criticism (and there are many not slow to criticise, if necessary) is sufficient proof of this. But it is not the only proof. Enthusiastic letters are constantly coming to Headquarters expressing the highest appreciation of the educational system. The elementary pupils seem particularly pleased with the lesson papers, which supply a long-felt want for those who, desiring to commence study, have hitherto found it difficult to know where to begin.

It cannot be expected that the educational scheme will remain free from the critics. It would not be desirable in any case. There is plenty of room for the scheme to develop, and one can hope that in due course the Committee will have the opportunity of sifting the ideas of a critical membership, with a view to expanding the business.

The success of the V.E.C. is most important to the future of the Waterguard, and the time will come when its inauguration will be looked back upon as the turning point in the fortunes of our members.

* * * *

I had the honour to be present at the Annual Dinner of the Gravesend Sports Club on March 1st. It was, as usual, a very happy affair, and those responsible for its organisation are to be congratulated. The remarkable feature of this function is that each Department with which the Waterguard comes into daily contact is represented. Such an assembly is, I should imagine, somewhat unique. Under the able chairmanship of the Waterguard Superintendent, a spirit of right good-fellowship prevails.

On this occasion the opportunity was taken to make a presentation to Mr. Blake, late C.P.O., in connection with his retirement from the Service. Several of his old colleagues, now on the retired list, were present, and said some nice things about him. A full account of this appears elsewhere in this issue.

At the door of the dining hall was displayed on an easel a very fine piece of artistic work, in the shape of a scroll bearing, in illuminated style, the name of the Sports Club at the head, and below were inscribed the names of all the guests attending the dinner. A document worthy of a prominent place in the Gravesend Waterguard office.

* * * *

Now that the Annual Council Meeting is within reasonable distance for discussion, it might be well to remind members that they must act soon if they desire to instruct their Councillors regarding any special matters. This applies particularly to those members who have expressed themselves as not being satisfied with Association activities. It is to be hoped that the opportunities offered by a Council Meeting will not be overlooked.

There has been some talk in one or two Districts regarding the financial side of the Association. It would be a good thing if Councillors would pay special attention to this subject before the Annual Meeting takes place. Enlightenment on any point can be had from Headquarters, and a full knowledge of the facts will save a great deal of time.

One or two resolutions are already sent in which are intended to lay down a rule for defining the term "non-member." There is no doubt that the forthcoming Council Meeting will have to make some decision of this nature, because problems are continually arising of how to deal with the man who drops in and out of the Association according to whether it suits his immediate interests or not. It is possible that a decision will be reached providing for refusal of membership under certain conditions.

* * * *

Another nasty "Work and Wait" case has been reported to the Association. This time Belfast is the scene of the trouble. The officers in this instance seem to have been absolutely at the mercy of the shipping company. After enduring a six hours' cruise in bad weather in order to convenience the shipping company, it is rather exasperating to the officers when their overtime is cut down.

* * * *

Mr. Bishop, Assistant Preventive Officer, Sharpness, has undertaken a worthy, though formidable, task. I understand that a full explanation of it appears in this issue. His intention is to make known to the Waterguard the existence of the Hospital Saving Association, and no doubt there are many members who will be glad to hear of it. The suggestions of Mr. Bishop have been before the Executive Committee, and he has received the sanction of the Committee to use the columns of the "Journal," and also to make reasonable use of Association machinery if necessary.

I have been asked to bring to the notice of P.S.A. members that the Post Office Sanatorium Society is open to all Civil Servants. The Society provides sanatorium treatment for members suffering from consumption. The subscription is three shillings per annum, and the benefits include free treatment after twelve months' membership; there is no limit to the treatment, no medical fees, and if necessary there is free railway transit to any of the institutions. Further particulars can be had from the Secretary, Mr. F. E. Durrant, 53, Barking Road, Canning Town, E.16.

* * * *

The Post Office Arbitration case has not yet come to an end. There is every reason to believe that it will be some weeks before the whole business is finally disposed of. The U.P.W. Annual Conference is to be held early in May this year, and there is some anxiety lest the award of the Court may not have been received by that time.

* * * *

I hear that Mr. J. C. Fitzsimons, Deputy Inspector-General, has been nominated to fill a vacancy on the Directorate of the Customs Fund. This will be good news for Waterguard Officers, and there is no doubt that full support of this candidature will be forthcoming from the Staff when the election takes place in April next.

Direct representation has been much desired by members of this Department for a considerable time.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

BELFAST.

A meeting of the above Branch was held at "The Cabin" Café on February 24th, 1927. Mr. H. R. Ards, Chairman, presided. The attendance was the largest seen for a considerable time.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted in Mr. P. A. Richardson being elected Vice-Chairman; Mr. W. G. McKenna being re-elected Local Secretary; Mr. J. G. Flynn was elected as Whitley representative; the Local Secretary being also-elected "Customs Journal" Correspondent.

The question of reconstituting the Waterguard Staff in the Port was fully discussed, and it was decided that the proposed scheme be passed in its entirety.

The question of office accommodation and equipment was raised, and it was proposed that same should be brought up to the standard in accordance with G.O. 56/1922.

"Acting Duty" at this Port was discussed, and it was decided that the L.S. approach the C.P.O. on the matter. One case of misapplication of the Work and Wait Rule was raised, and it was decided to write the General Secretary on the matter.

The meeting was strongly in favour of the merging of War Bonus into salary, and recommended the Association to take a plebiscite of the Waterguard Staff.

◆ ◆ ◆

NEWPORT (MON.).

The Queen's Hotel was the scene of a well-attended meeting on February 11th, Mr. Roberts presiding.

Several items of local importance were disposed of. Owing to the lengthy nature of the discussions, the Minutes of the Waterguard Sectional Committee were left unread, and it was decided to circulate them.

A shortage in the Establishment of 5 P.O.'s and 105 A.P.O.'s was reported, and the District Councillor was instructed to communicate with the General Secretary on the matter. The Councillor stated that the Board had promised—and, as far as he knew, had kept that promise—to keep the Establishment as near strength as possible. In face of the statement, however, he would certainly carry out the wishes of the meeting.

[See Mr. Sutton's letter in last issue.—Ed.]

BETWEEN TIDES.

LONDON.

The London A.P.O.'s are just now trying to make up their minds as to who shall be their District Secretary, and no easy task is before them. They have four candidates to choose from, and each, it would appear, has an equal chance to gain election honours. All the candidates are well known throughout the port, and all are popular colleagues and keen Association members. The result will be awaited with interest, and, whatever the result, London may rest assured that its Association business will be in capable hands.

* * * *

We take this opportunity of recording our appreciation of the past services of the retiring D.S., Mr. J. W. Booker, who has managed this part of our affairs for the past three years with credit to himself and the port.

* * * *

THE THAMES "CLOSED FOR REPAIRS."

The above is the startling headline in a London evening paper recently. It refers to the intensive dredging operations and improvement of various locks situated in the upper reaches by the Thames Conservancy. The purpose of these improvements, according to the report, is to speed up navigation considerably and to make the river in the upper reaches navigable to vessels of 200 tons. We have heard various rumours during the past year as to the probable extent of this trade, but this is the first published hint of what we may expect in this particular part of Father Thames.

* * * *

GRANGEMOUTH.

It may interest officers in various ports who have at some time or other been stationed at Grangemouth, to read the following extract from "The Falkirk Herald" of February 19th, 1927:

"The old Customs House at the Docks, surmounted by the quaint watch-tower, built when it was situated at the dock gates, is to be superseded. A new Customs House is to be built—is, in fact, in the course of erection—at the West Cut. It is to be a brick building, with slate roof, two storeys high, 38 feet long by 20 feet. It is to have five apartments, consisting of officers' rooms, etc., also a large store, lavatory accommodation, and lamp room."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Mr. C. H. Goodliffe, District Organising Secretary for the South Wales Area, notifies us of his change of address, which is as follows:—"Glen Rosa," 285, Deanfield Terrace, Roath Court, Cardiff.

DOUBLE EVENT IN LONDON.

For the first time, we think, in London Waterguard history, we are able to report two important Waterguard events occurring in London within the short interval of seven days, and it speaks well for organisation that both were highly successful from all points of view.

A social and dance promoted by the North Side Social and Sports Club was greatly enjoyed by a large number of members and friends at the Masonic Hall, East Ham, on February 23rd. The floor was under the able management of Mr. W. H. Powell, who soon got the company going with a good arrangement of dances. During the evening songs were given by Miss Constance Conway, soprano, who was well received and greatly appreciated. Spot dance and various other prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. Fleet, whose husband, Mr. H. J. Fleet, C.P.O., is the President of the Club.

On March 2nd, the Palais de Danse, New Cross, was the scene of the dance organised by the South Side Cricket Club, which proved as brilliant an affair as its predecessor at the same place about two months ago. This was also a big gathering and was the occasion of much fun and good spirits. The prizes were distributed by Mr. C. E. Egan, who, as President of the Club, was indefatigable in welcoming members and their friends.

These two functions were by no means rivalries. Healthy sporting rivalry does, we expect, exist between the two Clubs, and indeed this is as it should be; but they are able to work hand in hand and support each other's ventures, which is also what is just right and proper. And this is how it was that we saw many of the faces that were in evidence at the East Ham dance at the New Cross dance also. When one considers the difficulties and distances of London travel, one appreciates all the more the spirit of co-operation that exists among persons having various activities scattered over such a large area.

There is talk of further activity in the social world before the season finally closes, and we hope that Dame Rumour, in this instance, will fail to live up to her reputation.

OBITUARY.

The many friends of Mr. J. C. Purnell, P.O., Burntisland, will regret to learn of his sad bereavement in the death of his wife, which occurred on February 23rd last, after a long and painful illness.

Wreaths were sent from the Waterguard Staff and the dock authorities at Burntisland, and from the Waterguard Staff at Leith.

Mr. Purnell is well known in the latter port, where his son, Mr. F. Purnell, A.P.O., is stationed.



Sport is beginning to claim its own in the Waterguard, and we note with satisfaction that it is considered wise to make use of the Staff's own periodical for making known movements and intentions in this direction. The letter, published in another column, on the subject of the approaching Civil Service Sports and the training of intending competitors, has come from an old Waterguard Officer who, himself an old athlete of no mean ability, has taken very real interest in sport among the younger members of the Preventive Staff. We anticipate a number of replies to this letter, and we suggest that it would be a fine thing if the outports could be represented in one or more of the events.

* * * *

It is gratifying to know that our return to the practice of publishing movements among the Staff has met with approval in a number of sources. Although these changes appear in General Orders, certain it is that for Association purposes and for the purpose of following old colleagues through and out of the Service, the presence in this journal of this information is undoubtedly a convenience. It can readily be imagined how useful this feature is to officers who have left the Service and who are not in receipt of General Orders. The "C.J." is able to supply just the news that is sought for by these gentlemen.

OBITUARY.

MR. J. C. BLACK.

The many friends of Mr. J. C. Black, Preventive Officer, Glasgow, will be grieved to hear of his death. Mr. Black, who had been ailing for some time, passed away at the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, on Sunday, February 20th.

A large number of the Waterguard Staff, including Mr. R. Galloway, C.P.O., attended at the Central Station to pay their last respects to their late colleague, whose remains were removed to Tarbert, Loch Fyne, for interment, and at Gourack the Greenock Staff attended from the train to the Tarbert steamer. Among a large number of floral tributes was one from his colleagues in Glasgow and Clydebank.

Mr. Black, who was a painstaking and highly respected officer, spent the greater part of his service in the West of Scotland, and was, we understand, formerly stationed for a time at Hull. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Mrs. Black in her sad bereavement.

TREASURY LETTER.

The following Treasury Circular has been received:—

Treasury Chambers,
February 23rd, 1927.

E. 303/3.

Revision of (a) Civil Service Bonus; (b) Pay of Temporary Clerical, etc., Classes.

Sir,—

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to refer to Treasury Circular No. 20/26, dated August 23rd, 1926, and to inform you that the review on March 1st, 1927, of

(a) Civil Service Bonus,

(b) Pay of Temporary Clerical, etc., Classes, will be on the basis of an average cost-of-living figure of 80.

The rates of bonus shown in the Ready Reckoner issued with Treasury Circular No. 3/25, dated February 25th, 1925, are applicable to the six months commencing March 1st, 1927, and it is not proposed to reprint the Reckoner.

Similarly, the rates and scales of pay prescribed for temporary clerks and typists in column (a) of the Temporary Clerks' Ready Reckoner, issued with Treasury Circular No. 20/26, dated August 23rd, 1926, are applicable to the ensuing six months.

2.—Overtime Rates.—Where the overtime rate of employees in receipt of bonus bears a definite relation to salary, an automatic revision will be made in the overtime rate.

In the case of fixed or over-riding maximum rates of overtime at present governed by Treasury Circular No. 20/26, of August 23rd, 1926, the following modifications will be effected from March 1st, 1927:—

Pre-war fixed rate.	Rate payable under Treasury Circular No. 20/26.	Revised rate as from 1st March, 1927.
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
0 9 ³ ...	1 3 ...	1 4
0 10 ...	1 5 ...	1 6
1 0 ...	1 8 ...	1 9
1 2 ...	1 11 ...	2 0
1 6 ...	2 4 ...	2 5
1 9 ...	2 7 ...	2 9
2 0 ...	2 11 ...	3 1
2 6 ...	3 6 ...	3 8

* Where the pre-war fixed rate was less than 9d. an hour, the rate as from March 1st, 1927, to be 80 per cent. above the pre-war rate (rounded up or down to the nearest penny).

POST OFFICE OVER-RIDING MAXIMA.

Pre-war fixed rate.	Rate payable under Treasury Circular No. 20/26.		Revised rate as from 1st March, 1927.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
2 6	4 6	3 8		
Sunday 3 0	4 1	4 3		

In so far as members of the Temporary Clerical, etc., Classes are entitled to overtime payments, the overtime rates prescribed by Civil Service Arbitration Board Agreement, No. A. 71, dated March 19th, 1920, will continue to apply.

3.—I am also to point out that in so far as questions of insurability of employees of the Crown in receipt of Civil Service bonus, under the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, and the National Health and Unemployment Insurance Acts, is dependent upon the rate of remuneration, regard should be had, for the period of six months commencing March 1st next, to the basic rate of remuneration, plus the bonus payable as from March 1st, on a cost-of-living figure of 80 (together with any other regular emoluments which fall to be included for the purposes of national insurance).

4.—The modification in Civil Service Bonus and in the rates of pay of Temporary Clerks and Typists now authorised should be applied to Imperial Departments in the Irish Free State, and to Imperial and Reserved Departments in Northern Ireland (including such Departments when acting as agents for the Northern Ireland Government).

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

PRESENTATION TO MR. W. P. SHEARMAN, GRAVESEND.

A large representative gathering assembled in the Chief Preventive Officer's room at the Custom House, Gravesend, on Friday, February 25th, 1927, at 4.30 p.m., on the occasion of a presentation to Mr. W. P. Shearman, C.P.O., upon his promotion from Preventive Officer.

The chair was most ably occupied by Mr. A. W. Purdye, P.O., and in opening he spoke at length of bygone happy days together, the sterling qualities and wonderful tact of Mr. Shearman, and voiced the opinion of the whole of the Staff at Gravesend (all Departments), one of hearty congratulation and good wishes for future success.

A letter from the Immigration Staff was read conveying their good wishes, and regretting inability to attend.

Numerous speeches, all in the same vein, were made by members of the P.O. and A.P.O. Grade and Launch Service.

The Chairman called upon Mr. W. J. Blake (late C.P.O., Gravesend) to make the presentation.

Mr. Blake said it was with very great pleasure that he had accepted the invitation. It was a difficult position, as it was the first time he had been "Out of the Service." He spoke of the good qualities of Mr. Shearman, stating that many years had passed since he was first acquainted with him.

Subsequently arriving at the object of the meeting, he presented Mr. Shearman with a handsomely mounted oak eight-day striking clock, with suitable silver plate inscription, subscribed to by his well-wishing friends and colleagues at Gravesend.

Mr. Shearman suitably responded, thanking everyone for their most hearty congratulations and good wishes, and in conclusion thanked Mr. Blake for making the presentation.

A vote of thanks was moved to the Chairman for taking such office, and the happy occasion was concluded.

HE PAID UP.

Three men had been dining together, not wisely but too well. Probably as a result of their conversation, they agreed, on parting to carry out whatever command their respective wives gave them on arriving home, and the one who failed to do so was to pay for a dinner the next time they met together.

It was not very long before the three of them did meet again. Number One related how, after getting indoors, his wife had said, "That's it: trip over the ball-stand and break it," and how there was nothing left to do but to get a hammer and smash that piece of furniture to pieces. Number Two was greeted with, "There you are; fall over the hall clock and break it." He faithfully carried out the command.

"How did you get on?" they said to Number Three.

"Oh! when I got home I was coming up the stairs when my wife called out, 'That's right, you go and fall over the stairs and break your neck.' Anyway, boys, the dinner is on me."

B.J.B.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PROGRESS.—Will you please forward name and address to the Editor.

* * * *

BLISTERS.—Yours received with thanks; 'tis seldom we get anything quite so spontaneous. What about an article?

NOTES, QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

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

SUMMARY OF G.O. 12-1917 (CUSTOMS No. 6) (Continued from last issue).

Par. 23.—Except as regards the supply of Service stores direct from the victualling yards to H.M. ships or shore establishments (see par.

12), Customs permission is required for the un-shipment or landing of duty-free service, mess, or canteen stores.

24.—A summary of the general concessions and the relative Navy forms required is re-printed below.

25.—Special concessions are only allowed in exceptional circumstances and by specific instructions from the Board. Application has to be made on each occasion on Form No. 617.

26.—Unless the landing of dutiable goods is covered by any of the concessions already quoted, duty must be paid on board or the landing authorised by a landing pass. It is an offence

LANDING OF DUTIABLE STORES—DUTY-FREE CONCESSIONS. (See par: 24.)

Description of goods allowed duty-free. (1)	Occasion of landing. (2)	Documents to be produced by men on demand. (3)	Quantities allowed duty-free per man (4)	Conditions. (5)
Service (Victualling Yard) stores.	On duty (special service)	Pass for party, Form S.263, signed by Commanding Officer	Quantity declared	If declared on the pass.
Mess and Canteen stores	Conveying the stores for return to merchant	Collector's preliminary authority	—	When possible, the stores should be removed in charge from the ship. Otherwise the account must be taken at the place of landing, or the stores removed in charge from the place of landing and the account taken as soon as practicable. Suitable arrangements must be made for the warehousing of the stores or for the cancellation or refund of the drawback as the case may be.
Perfumed Spirits	Proceeding on leave after return from a foreign port	Liberty Ticket	$\frac{1}{2}$ pint	Any excess quantity must be covered by a Duty Receipt or Landing Pass.
Tobacco (including Service and other tobacco, cigars & cigarettes)	Proceeding on leave— (1) for 7 nights or more (2) for 1 to 6 nights	Do. Do.	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. 1 oz. per night	Ditto. Ditto. (N.B.—Liberty Tickets are not usually issued for one night.)
Do.	Proceeding to Hospital	Sick Voucher, Fm. S.47, showing quantity	Not exceeding 1 lb.	If declared on the voucher.
Do.	Leaving Hospital	Discharge Form M.22	Reasonable quantity	If declared on the discharge form.
Do.	Transferred by land to or from H.M. Ships or Naval Barracks	Tobacco Permit, Form S.1301, showing quantities, signed by Commanding Officer	Quantity declared	If declared on the tobacco permit.

Note.—In cases where a ship's company turns over to another ship, and transfer stores, the Collector may give permission under such conditions, if any, as he may consider requisite.

to land such dutiable goods, even though an offer is made to pay duty on shore (see par. 33 as to endorsement of the duty slip).

28.—When a landing pass is produced, the officer will satisfy himself that the quantity of goods stated is approximately correct. As only a rough estimate can be arrived at on board, the men should not be punished if the actual quantity is slightly more or less than that shown. The number of nights' leave shown on the pass should be checked by the liberty ticket. If satisfied, duty is to be charged, a duty slip receipt given, and the landing pass retained. The pass is to be handed in with the duty.

32.—When the quantity of tobacco landed exceeds the duty-free allowance, the whole quantity must be shown on a landing pass unless the excess is covered by a duty slip. If the tobacco landed, whether produced or not, is appreciably in excess of the quantity covered by (a) landing pass, or (b) duty slip and duty-free allowance, or (c) duty-free allowance, the excess is to be detained, dealt with under pars. 7 and 8, and the duty-free allowance is not to be made, but the amount of tobacco which it would have covered may be passed on payment of duty.

33.—In cases where a Navy man lands different sorts of tobacco, the total amount of which exceeds the duty-free allowance, that allowance is to be made out of the cheapest sort, e.g., a man on 7 nights' leave with $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of perique and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of cigars, is to be allowed the perique free and is to be charged duty on the cigars. In the case of a first or only perique of tobacco not exceeding about 14 oz. in weight (representing one month's ration of 1 lb. gross of leaf tobacco) the duty on the excess over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in cases where $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. is allowed free is at present 3s. 6d. When duty is taken on board on a package (e.g., perique tobacco, or a box of cigars), which includes the duty-free allowance, an endorsement in manuscript is to be made on the duty slip receipt, as shown in the following example:—

“1 perique of tobacco = 14/16 lb., includingdays' duty-free allowance: s. d.”

34.—Landing passes are not issued to R.N.R. or R.N.V.R. men while under training, or to time-expired naval ratings, owing to the difficulty of recovering duty if not paid on landing. With this exception, Coastguardmen and R.N.R. and R.N.V.R. men leaving the ship after training, time-expired men, and Marines discharged to Marine barracks, are to be treated as men on leave for 7 nights or more.

35.—Officers' baggage is liable to examination. Unlocked bags and bags accompanied by the owner will be so examined. Locked bags sent ashore in charge of servants may, in the absence of suspicion, be passed unexamined if such baggage is accompanied by Navy Form S.569c, which must be given up on demand. Any case where a Warrant Officer is found using this pass is to be reported to the Board.

35a.—If there is suspicion that a Government package from one of H.M. ships and addressed to a naval establishment contains uncustomed goods, such package is to be taped and sealed and

allowed to go forward. An advice is to be sent to the principal officer at the place of destination. On arrival of the package, an officer will attend to break seals and examine the contents. Any contraband found is to be detained and the facts reported to the Board.

35b.—Officers to allow immediate delivery, without payment of duty, of any positive films re-landed from H.M. ships on production of a certificate signed or countersigned by the captain or commanding officer of the ship, to the effect that the positive film (full description) was shipped on board H.M.S. at (a British or Northern Irish Port) on the(date). This certificate is to be accepted in all circumstances, including arrivals of H.M. ships from foreign.

Note.—When occasion arises to search one of H.M. ships (see par. 10), the Customs Officers will report themselves to the Officer of the Watch, who is to detail a petty officer to accompany the Customs Officer while their search is in progress. When the search is finished, the Customs Officers will see the Officer of the Watch before leaving the ship, and furnish him with particulars of any irregularity discovered (King's Regulations, Article 1885, Clauses 3 and 4).

* * *

This continued summary includes two important amendments to that published in "Journal" No. 517 (q.v.), i.e., an addition to para. 33 and the addition of para. 35b.

NOTE.

I am indebted to a colleague for his encouraging remarks on my fortuitously efforts. It is very consoling to receive such a letter. Through this column I sincerely thank the sender.

In addition to his kind letter, my friend has submitted the following interesting items relative to the summary I have completed above.

To quote his own words, they are "notes compiled from authentic sources and which are, for the most part, taken from Board's Orders and rulings."

Here they are:—

Tobacco Permit S.1301 is now replaced by B.259 and does not apply to Naval ratings proceeding to flying grounds. Such cases come under rules laid down on pages 10 to 12 of Part 9 as if men were proceeding on ordinary leave.

In the event of a list of parcels (S.216) not being furnished, the attention of the captain or other proper officer of the ship is to be courteously drawn to the matter.

Reference to para. 22: Quantity of perfumed spirits in excess of half a pint is excessive.

Boys are not allowed to take up tobacco goods in H.M. ships. No distinction on board H.M. ships is made between men of Royal Fleet Reserve and Royal Naval Reserve when up for training. Both are fully victualled and allowed to take up tobacco similar to Naval ratings.

Reference to page 12.—Half-pint perfumed spirits allowed on first leave on liberty ticket after foreign voyage. Officers commissioned from warrant rank to be treated as warrant officers in smuggling cases and facts reported to Board with view to the case being reported to the Admiralty.

Marines, Naval ratings, etc., not attached to H.M. ships, if detected smuggling are to be given the option and reported on Form 453.

Care is to be taken that the Form 458, report of an offence by a Naval Officer, supplies full and accurate details of the incident, together with any conversation.

* * * *

Below are a few questions which I have been asked, together with my relative answers.

(1) Is the quantity of spirits allowed to be shipped duty free under C.C. Vol. I., Part VI., para. 1, calculated on the liquid or proof quantity?

Answer.

I should say the quantity would be calculated on the liquid basis. The allowance is similar to that allowed for use of crew on board vessels inwards, i.e., $\frac{1}{4}$ pint per person per day. Difficulty would naturally arise if the proof quantity was the allowance.

* * * *

(2) A vessel having shipped bonded stores for a new foreign voyage has part inward cargo for another British port, and has shipped outward cargo for foreign. Should an issue of new stores be allowed in this case?

Answer.

Yes, an issue would be allowed. The vessel has commenced to load for foreign.

* * * *

(3) Does the value limit of £15, on which a P.O. may assess duty on ad valorem goods, mean per article or in the aggregate?

Answer.

A value limit of £15 per article.

* * * *

(4) Where the number of instruments imported by a troupe or band exceeds the proportion per member allowed by para. 10(b) of G.O. 32/25, is duty to be charged on the whole importation? We will assume they are only for temporary use in this country.

Answer.

Duty on deposit would be required on all the articles exceeding the allowance of "two" or "one" of any one description; i.e., if three cornets are declared, duty on deposit would be required on all three cornets. Note the words in the second sentence following para. 10(b), "or any instruments, etc."

(5) Para. 9 of G.O. 32/25 would empower a P.O. to allow duty-free goods, such as watches, cameras and binoculars, on their showing evidence of use. The declaration on Form 101 requires the article to be in use at least one year.

* * * *

Are we to assume that these two conditions are read in conjunction?

Answer.

No; I would say that if the oral declaration of ownership is given and the three conditions, (a), (b) and (c), are fulfilled, the goods may be passed duty-free provided, of course, there is no suspicion as to the truth of the declaration of ownership and the three conditions given.

GRAVESEND SPORTS CLUB DINNER.

PRESENTATION TO MR. W. J. BLAKE.

The second Annual Dinner of the Gravesend Custom House Staff and Sports Club was held at the Masonic Hall, Gravesend, on the 1st inst. Mr. W. Donaldson, I.S.O., M.B.E., Waterguard Superintendent, occupied the chair; the guests, numbering a hundred, included the following gentlemen: Sir Haldane Porter, C.B., F. H. Mugliston, Esq., O.B.E., and F. C. Cook, Esq., M.B.E. (Home Office), C. M. Woodford, Esq., M.B.E. (Secretaries' Office, H.M. Customs and Excise); Dr. Willoughby, M.D. (Port of London Sanitary Authority); J. A. Hawkins, Esq., M.B.E., and T. Pounder, Esq. (Waterguard Supts. retired); Messrs. H. J. Fleet, C. R. Purser, J. Merron, G. Clague, and W. Sutton (Waterguard Dept., London); Messrs. Allen and Lunn (Trinity House); and representatives of various shipping companies and the Southern Railway.

Opportunity was taken at this dinner to make a presentation to Mr. W. J. Blake (late Chief Preventive Officer at Gravesend), subscribed to by many of his colleagues, donations having been received from near and far, including such places as Oban, North Shields, Inningham, Grimsby, Southampton, Sheerness and Chatham.

Mr. J. A. Hawkins, I.S.O., M.B.E., expressed the pleasure it gave him in being able to attend, and proposed the health of the Staff and Sports Club. He said his association with Gravesend was one of the happiest periods of his Service career. The Waterguard Department, he stated, was like the British Navy—it never slept. He also mentioned Mr. Blake, who first came under his supervision in 1887, and from his knowledge of him "he would trust him with any valuable he had, or even his life, in the complete assurance that his confidence would not be misplaced."

Mr. E. L. Sharrock, P.O., responding, replied to the effect that the Staff endeavoured to do their best; the Sports Club was like a certain whiskey—"Still going strong."

The next item of importance was the presentation to Mr. W. J. Blake of a handsome gold hunter watch, duly inscribed, on the occasion of his superannuation, together with a case of silver dressing-table ware to Mrs. Blake.

The presentation was made by Mr. W. Donaldson, I.S.O., M.B.E., who temporarily vacated the chair in favour of Mr. J. Potter, C.P.O. (Mr. Blake's successor). In a few well-chosen words, Mr. Potter spoke of his esteem for Mr. Blake. Mr. T. Pounder followed by saying that there was not much of Mr. Blake, but every bit of him was zeal, and that such zeal appeared to have been overlooked by the powers-that-be in the selection for further promotion. He wished him long life and happiness.

Mr. A. W. Purdye, P.O., spoke on behalf of the Staff, testifying to the high esteem in which he was held.

Before making the presentation, Mr. Donaldson read letters from Messrs. Donovan, Elliott, Sullivan, Hawkins, and Horley, regretting inability to attend and expressing their high appreciation of Mr. Blake.

Mr. Donaldson spoke of the pleasure it gave him, and mentioned Mr. Blake's devotion to his Staff and the Service generally.

Mr. Blake, in accepting the present, said he had been making a study of epitaphs, and he found by this study that he did not know some people so well as he thought, and that he did not know they had so many virtues. Having regard to all that had been said about him during the evening, he found that applied to himself—he was afraid his virtues had been grossly exaggerated. He said he would wear the watch with great pride and with very pleasant recollections.

Then followed the presentation of the Rowing Competition Shield and winner's medal to Mr. E. W. Thomas, A.P.O., and the medal for the runner-up to Mr. H. V. Fleet, A.P.O.

Mr. G. W. Grace, P.O., then proposed the toast to "The Visitors," to which Sir Haldane Porter, Dr. Willoughby and Mr. J. Merron replied in well-chosen speeches.

The health of the Chairman was proposed by Mr. G. N. Camburn, A.P.O., in which he spoke of the way in which Mr. Donaldson welcomed new entrants to the Service. "He made me feel after the interview that I was on the straight road to an Inspectorship," said Mr. Camburn.

The toast was drunk to the accompaniment of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Mr. Donaldson replied to the effect that it gave him great pleasure to perform such duties.

The toast to "The Committee" was proposed by the Chairman, to which Mr. W. Youngs responded.

Greatly appreciated humorous interludes provided by "The Ormondes," and some fine singing by Mr. Fairbrother, combined to the enjoyment of the evening, "Auld Lang Syne" bringing the proceedings to a close.

WATERGUARD SPORT.

The following letter has been received from a source that in itself is a guarantee of its sincerity, and should be studied by all who are interested in sport in the Preventive Staff:—

Sir,—

I am writing to ask you if something cannot be done similar to that suggested in the attached letter from Mr. P.? I know there is quite a lot of talent (even stars, as pointed out in a recent issue of the "Customs Journal") in our Department, a lot of talent that is fairly latent, which I feel confident only requires encouragement and support. The confidence in the individual soon follows, and, with some success, quickly develops, as in "Oliver" the desire for more. This occurs in all classes of sport. Can I make this appeal to all who can help with some degree of success?

I append a few names from memory who, I think, can give a good account of themselves, viz.: Messrs. Booker, Blake, Burgess, Brooks, Farmer, Griggs, Hill, Lynch, Lowe, Peake, R. A. Stocker, R. G. Salmon, and A. A. Walter. There are also some new entrants to the Department whom I should like to see take some part in the C. and E. Sports, which will take place at Stamford Bridge in June next. Any competitor of these sports can, I understand, train there. Several of our athletes last year trained at Battersea Park grounds. Any competitor from the outports or team for the tug-of-war would be entitled to compete, and would receive a warm welcome from London colleagues.

The tug-of-war teams should soon be getting into training. It is being arranged with the Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police, R Division, to have a few pulls on their ground at an early date. I venture to mention a few names as they occur to me—Messrs. W. J. Brown, Dowden, Ferguson, Holderness, Stocker (capt.), and Steers, last year's winning team; Messrs. Coppard, H. Cooper, Eldridge, Elwood, Fisk, Harrold, Geo. Jackson, R. J. Pole, A. G. Steel, P. A. North, J. O'Driscoll, and F. Wilkins, with Messrs. Sullivan and Searle as trainers.

When we decide to get together, a meeting could be called, and the idea of the attached letter put into operation.

The undersigned would be glad to receive intimation from any intending competitors, addressed care of the Editor of the "Customs Journal."

Believe me, with every desire of success,

Yours faithfully,

"OLD ATHLETE."

The letter referred to by "Old Athlete" is as follows:—

Dear Sir,—

With reference to your letter re training for sports, etc., for which I thank you, I must say that really I had not given the matter any consideration.

If, however, it is the intention of other Waterguard Officers to enter for any events other than the tug-of-war (my weight, of course, precludes me from that), I should be glad to go into training with them, with a view especially to sprints and long jump, if circumstances permit. I think that it would be advantageous if some type of combined training could be effected and eventually eliminating competitions arranged, but perhaps this has already been mooted.

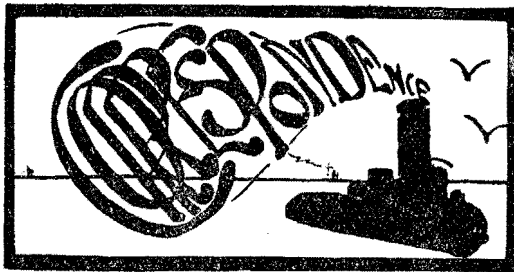
Yours faithfully,

H.B.P.

* * * *

Last year saw the entry of the Waterguard into the realm of sport, so far as the Civil Service is concerned, and its entry was by no means inconspicuous. There are great hopes that we shall be able to carry off some individual prizes this year, besides retaining the Tug-of-War Cup.

Any correspondence intended for "Old Athlete" will be gladly forwarded by the Editor.



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.

FACTS OR FLAPDOODLE?

Sir,—Your correspondent in the last issue but one of the "Journal" is optimistic in designating to himself the cheerful non-douplie of "Hopeful." I have not to hand "Hawkeye's" contribution on the subject of scrapping the Promotion Board, but if he has handled it as clumsily as the last correspon-

dent, that august tribunal need have no anxiety or fear of extinction consequent on the invectives of "Hawkeye" and "Hopeful."

The latter's inconsistency would be a rare treat if he were not dealing with so important a subject from a staff point of view, although the letter in itself is quite innocuous, because anyone with sense would not treat it seriously.

Reading between the lines I am inclined to assume that "Hopeful" is a C.P.O., because he acknowledges that he had the temerity on one occasion "to make a suggestion to a superior," and another time he heard a Collector make a questionable remark, etc. Ordinary Toms, Dicks or Harrys are not usually accorded these privileges. A knight of the road on one occasion approached a good housewife with the ceremonious appeal, "For Gawd's sike, lyedy, give me a drink of water, I am so hungry I don't know where to get a night's lodging." There was a method in the tramp's perhaps illusory representation, which let us hope had the desired effect, but there is neither method nor meaning in "Hopeful's" rambling composition. He agrees that the Promotion Board should be scrapped, although he "is personally at a loss really to provide or suggest an alternative," yet in the concluding part of his epistle he suggests an elaborate, unwieldy compound, practically up to, but not including, a Cabinet Minister and down to, but not including, a C.P.O. This awe-inspiring display of discriminating talent would cause an ordinary mortal to succumb on beholding it. But what cares "Hopeful"; he has had his turn; perhaps he is a disappointed man, at least, he writes like one and reads like one, and judging him from his letter, I am not surprised if he is one.

I have no wish to boost the virtues, works or pomps of the Promotion Board, which I daresay does not claim for itself infallibility. There have been occasions, no doubt, on which apparently deserving officers have been turned down, and the Promotion Board alone, humanly speaking, could give the explanation of these happenings. But what the Service is concerned in is: have these men been given a fair hearing and conscientious consideration? If they have not, and promotion denied them in consequence, the Promotion Board would be unjust and consequently corruptible; if they have, neither they nor "Hopeful" have anything to grieve over—only the candidate's own incapacity to pass.

Your correspondent had better remain silent until he has good grounds for a specific complaint of unfairness or injustice direct or implied in the Promotion Board's administrative functions, in which case appropriate ways and means could be brought into use and operated through proper systematic machinery. In the

meantime, we have to await facts and not be content with mere flappedoodle before condemning the present regime.—Yours, etc.,

“OLIVER.”

HOSPITAL SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—Might I crave space in our “Journal” to bring the following scheme to the notice of Waterguard Officers?

As a result of communications with the Hospital Savings Association, which already has a membership of over 300,000, I have been allowed to form a group under this Association, to be called the H.M. C. and E. Waterguard Group, under the following conditions:—

When a contributor, or a dependent as defined below, has been admitted to treatment by any hospital on the list of the Association, he will be relieved—

- (a) From enquiry at hospital as to means;
- (b) From any payment either as in-patient or out-patient.

If treated at a hospital not on the list, he will be reimbursed normal payments which he has been called upon to make towards the cost of his maintenance, for a period of not exceeding ten weeks, but this period may be extended at the discretion of the Association.

The contribution covers the following dependents: wives (or, alternately, dependent relatives acting as housekeepers), and children under 16, also parents and grandparents, and brothers and sisters (under 16), when living with and wholly and permanently dependent upon the contributor.

Assistance is also given in suitable cases in meeting the cost of dental treatment and dentures, as well as convalescent home treatment, surgical appliances, glasses and ambulance service. Assistance towards dental treatment and dentures is not extended to dependents.

The privileges start immediately on the formation of the group, but the Association does not give assistance in respect of dental treatment or dentures where treatment commences within 52 weeks of joining, and a waiting period may be imposed on contributors not joining a group on its formation.

Payment should be in advance, and owing to the scattered position of the Waterguard, the contribution of 3d. per week will be called for quarterly, but arrangements in the larger ports may be made for its collection weekly.

A contributor's income must be within hospital income limits, as follows:—

- Single man or woman: £4 per week.
- Married, without children under 16: £5 per week.
- Married, with children under 16: £6 per week.

Persons whose incomes are above these limits may join the group on the following terms:—

- Contribution: £1 a year in advance, or £1 1s. by quarterly instalments of 5s. 3d., or monthly at certain ports of 1s. 9d.

If such a contributor, or dependent, has been admitted to a hospital upon recommendation of his medical practitioner, the Association will, upon production of receipt of the hospital for payment made there for maintenance or fees, reimburse him the amount of such payments up to £10 in respect of each concluded treatment. He will make his own arrangements with the hospital, and forward the receipted account for payments to the Group Secretary, who will forward it to the Association.

The Association does not deal with ordinary maternity cases, or with cases where provision is made by the State or local authority.

The views of contributors will be fully represented on the Association by an Executive Council elected annually. You are invited to form Group Committees in your ports, to make your own regulations to prevent abuse, such regulations being submitted to the Association for confirmation.

Any further information, or enquiries, or application forms, may be obtained from the Group Secretary, W. W. Bishop, 14, Dock Road, Sharpness, Berkeley, Glos., and should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. Officers are requested to enclose a quarter's subscription, i.e., 3s. 3d. or 5s. 3d., with application form. The scheme is in operation throughout the country, so transfer to another port does not matter.

Application forms are to be obtained from: Messrs. A. Dianer, P.O., London; E. A. Hartshorn, A.P.O., Folkestone; W. G. Thomson, P.O., Liverpool; S. W. Dutton, P.O., Southampton.—Yours, etc.,

W. W. BISHOP.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

For the two weeks ending March 3rd, 1927.

APPOINTMENTS.

Clerk, Clerical Class: Shreeve, F. D., A. and C.G.'s Office (formerly Assistant Preventive Officer, London).

Assistant Preventive Officers: Henderson, J. R., Southampton. Mate-in-Charge: Mudge, E. J., Plymouth.

TRANSFERS.

Preventive Officer: Steel, S. C., Glasgow, to London.

PROMOTIONS.

Assistant Preventive Officers to Preventive Officers: Chapman, H. W., Southampton, to Glasgow; Fenlon, M., Swansea, to Fishguard,

Swansea; Lowe, C. F. London; Whiting, J., Liverpool, to Middlesbrough, Sunderland.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

Retirement: Hicks, H., London.
Death: Black, J. C., Glasgow.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Leatherbarrow, J., Chief Preventive Officer; Rowett, A. J., Preventive Officer; Spears, L. J., Preventive Officer; Witts, A., Preventive Officer.

APPOINTMENTS TO UNESTABLISHED SITUATIONS.

Anglin, B., Coast Preventive Man, Skerray, Inverness; Bowden, H. J., Coast Preventive Man, Portree, Inverness; Donovan, D., Coast Preventive Man, Glenarm, Belfast; Halcrow, A., Coast Preventive Man, Lerwick, Aberdeen; Thomson, G., Coast Preventive Man, Baltasound, Aberdeen.

CHESS.

Another finished game is to hand. Here are the moves:—

ROUND I.

W. W. Bishop, White. W. G. Thomson, P.O., Sharpness. Black, Liverpool.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. P—K4 | P—K4 |
| 2. Kt—QB3 | Kt—QB3 |
| 3. B—QB4 | Q—K2 |
| 4. P—Q3 | P—Q3 |
| 5. Kt—KB3 | Kt—KB3 |
| 6. B—KKt5 | B—K3 |
| 7. Kt—Q5 | Q—Q2 |
| 8. Kt×Kt+ | P×Kt |
| 9. B×P | R—Kt1 |
| 10. Kt—KR4 | Kt—Kt5 |
| 11. Q—K2 | KB—R3 |
| 12. Castles K side | B—KKt5 |
| 13. P—KB3 | P—QKt4 |
| 14. Kt—KB5 | B×Kt |
| 15. P×B | P×B |
| 16. P—Q4 | Q×P |
| 17. P×P | P—Q4 |
| 18. Q—KB2 | Kt×QBP |
| 19. Q—QB5 | B—K6+ |
| 20. R—KB2 | B×Q |
| 21. R—Q1 | Kt—K6 |
| 22. P—KKt4 | Kt×R |
| 23. P—QKt4 | R×P+* |
| 24. P×R | Q×R+ |
| 25. K—R1 | Q—KB8 mate |
| | or |
| 24. K—B1 | Q—Q6+ |
| 25. R—K2 | R—Kt8 mate |

* From this move, however White moves it becomes mate in three moves.

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

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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Treasurer: S. R. MEDWIN, Esq., M.B.E.

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R. JOHNSON, CUSTOM HOUSE, E.C.