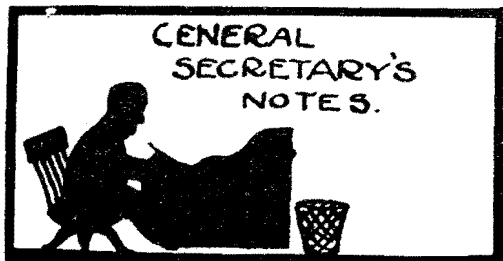


The Customs Journal.

No. 595.

August 13th, 1927.

Fortnightly.



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

Preventive Staff Association—
Thames Chambers,
13, Beer Lane,
London, E.C.3.

The writing of these notes is the final task of a week made strenuous by gigantic efforts to clear up all outstanding work before starting my annual leave. In consequence they are more brief than usual.

For a full fortnight I hope to enjoy the sea breezes at Whitstable, and to forget all about Association politics and activities.

There was a time, not long ago, when holiday periods meant the temporary suspension of Association operations. That was before the office at Beer Lane came into being. In those days the membership was practically cut off from Headquarters, and even important matters had to await attention. This was a most undesirable state of affairs, and it would be extremely unfortunate if we ever had to return to those conditions.

Under the present circumstances Headquarters carries on as usual. The Assistant Secretary takes full control and is fully competent to deal with any matters likely to arise. All communications up to August 22nd should be addressed to him at the Association Offices.

* * * *

In view of the Waterguard claim for increased leave it is interesting to note that, in the House of Commons, Captain Arthur Evans raised the question of the amount of leave enjoyed by the Clerical Class in the Customs and Excise. He inferred that in business circles at Cardiff there was much dissatisfaction at the lengthy holidays allowed to Customs and Excise Clerks. He asked the Financial Secretary if he did not think these holidays should be curtailed in view of the fact that in business such lengthy holidays were never granted.

Another member asked Captain Evans if he ever complained of the four or five months' holiday which he takes from Parliament during the year.

* * * *

The case recently taken to the Industrial Court by the Customs and Excise Federation has been the subject of an Award which is regarded in all quarters as very satisfactory. The claim was for increase of Disturbance Allowance and Travelling Allowance for Unattached Officers.

There can be no doubt that the old allowances were totally inadequate, especially when the very irksome conditions of service are taken into consideration.

The Federation is to be congratulated on this success, and upon the able manner in which the case was lucidly presented before the Court.

* * * *

The Award in the Post Office Arbitration case is expected this week, and will probably be public property by the time these notes appear.

The statement will no doubt be a very lengthy document. It has kept the Court busy for many weeks, and it is remarkable that many more weeks are not required before arriving at a decision which is to cover so large a number of grades.

* * * *

The amendment of Sub-section (2), Clause V., of the Trade Union Bill by the House of Lords considerably reduces what was a very real danger.

Originally it was laid down that any Civil Servant knowingly contravening the new regulations would forthwith be disqualified to hold any position in the Civil Service.

Under the amendment, however, an offending Civil Servant is to be warned by the head of his department and is allowed one month during which to conform with the regulations.

* * * *

In this issue of the "Journal" appears the Conference Report. The speed with which this Report has been produced in previous years tends to make it appear that on this occasion there has been undue delay. This is decidedly not the case. Several things combined this year to delay publication, but it can be said quite safely even under these circumstances that the document is out much more quickly than is the case with the Conference reports of most other Associations. Incidentally, it might be mentioned that the verbatim report of the Conference proceedings was just about double the length of that relating to the previous Conference.

The figures for the cost-of-living bonus are, up to date, 71, 65, 64, 63, 66. The average for the five months is therefore 65.8. If the August figure does not drop below 62, the governing figure for the next six months will be 70. This

will mean a reduction by two twenty-sixths of the original bonus, this being equivalent to two-sixteenths of current bonus.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1927.

Under the able chairmanship of Mr. E. P. Madden (President), the following Councillors and Officers met in Annual Conference at Anderton's Hotel, London, on July 5th and the three following days:—Messrs. J. Merron (General Secretary), J. T. Sutton (Organising Secretary), W. E. Stranding (Editor), A. W. Purdye, S. Dines (Gravesend), P. W. Howard, R. W. Booth (Hull), W. G. Thomson, J. O'Shea (Liverpool), M. J. Griffiths, F. R. Fisk (London), W. A. G. Manson, A. Milne (Scotland), E. J. Mathers, S. E. D. Ball (South Coast), G. E. N. Griffiths, A. W. P. Densley (South Wales), B. J. Herrington, T. R. Keightley (Tyne), and W. H. Powell (Assistant Secretary).

On a motion from the Chair, Mr. Powell was elected Conference Secretary.

In his introductory speech the Chairman welcomed the new members and went on to say that the last Conference "met in the shadow of a huge industrial strike . . . it met with a setback, but what we then held we still hold. We have entrenched our position as far as possible; we have increased the importance of the duties performed, and for the first time in the history of the Waterguard we have open competition for new entrants."

Referring to Clause 5, Trade Union Bill, the Chairman stated that he was "of opinion that in a very short space of time machinery would be set up to give Whitleyism such an impetus that justice would be assured."

MOTION OF URGENCY—POSITION AT SOUTHAMPTON.

From the evidence produced, both verbal and documentary, it was decided that there was a *prima facie* case for investigation into the state of affairs at Southampton, and a motion under this heading was accordingly admitted.

The very full discussion which ensued indicated that Local Whitley machinery was not functioning to the best advantage.

The Council took the view that the local Staff Side had full freedom to express staff views in Whitley; but it was elicited during the discussion that for some reason there was a decided reluctance on the part of the staff to openly express their opinion regarding the conditions prevailing at that port.

The reason for this reluctance having been explained to the Council, it was agreed that the

situation was rather disturbing from a Staff Side point of view.

Finally, instructions were given to the Executive to take the Southampton case in hand and to render full assistance in all Local Whitley negotiations relating to the Waterguard.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Mr. Merron's verbal report took the form of an exposition of P.S.A. Headquarters activities and office routine. Speaking at great length, he regretted that in the time allotted he could only hope to brush the surface of so broad a subject. He hoped that the information would enable Councillors (and in their turn, the members) to grasp the value and volume of work made possible by the possession of centralised control. He proved that the fortnightly meetings of the Joint Committee (C. and F. Associations), the monthly meetings of the Departmental Council, the monthly meetings of the Suggestions Committee, the quarterly meetings of the C.S. Confederation Executive, the bi-annual meetings of the Council of the same body, the numerous meetings of the various Sub-Committees of the N.W.C., the meetings of the Waterguard Sectional Committee, the meetings of the Small Ports Committees, the quarterly "Customs Journal" meeting, the quarterly meetings of the P.S.A. Executive, and the Annual Conference (P.S.A.), all tended to control the activities of the Secretaries.

The work resulting from these meetings, together with the fortnightly "Journal" notes, the heavy daily correspondence, the typing, duplicating and circulation of documents, minutes, publications, and V.E.C. papers, and the handling of hundreds of personal cases, made it imperative that an average evening attendance by the Secretaries of four to five hours should be maintained. He did not claim that the list was a complete one, but that it would give some indication of the time spent and work performed at Headquarters.

WATERGUARD CLAIMS.

Commensurate with the importance of the subject, considerable discussion took place under this head. Having been adjourned on the first day to allow Councillors to give consideration to various points, the matter came up again on the second day. The discussion was centred

round the original claim as amended by the 1923 Conference.

Resolutions to amend this claim were considered and adopted. As soon as negotiations are opened up, the amended claim will be presented. (Full particulars may be obtained from Councillors or District Officers.)

EMPLOYMENT OF C.P.M. GRADE.

This matter was discussed in the light of developments, and as no new ground was covered it was decided to proceed on the lines as laid down at the previous Conference.

The matter is before the W.S.C.

LAUNCHES AND BOATS.

Amplifying the Annual Report, the General Secretary stated that the Official Side had agreed to form a Sub-Committee of an advisory nature on which the Staff Side would have representation. The staff proposal is that the Staff Side should comprise two permanent members (the Vice-Chairman, W.S.C., and the Gen. Sec., Launch Service Association), and that a panel of experts be supplied by each association from which members could be called as required. The Committee would always operate in concert with the Local Whitley Committee concerned.

MONTHLY SALARIES.

The two items having common ground on the question of the period of transition were taken conjointly. The items were: officers changing from weekly to monthly salaries (i.) on promotion to Preventive Officer Grade, and (ii.) on reversion of the A.P.O. Grade to monthly salaries. The common ground being the application of Treasury Circular O. 5610.

On the first point the Board has been approached, but no satisfactory answer has yet been received.

It has now been decided to proceed with the second point, on condition that the Treasury Circular be applied. A reference on these lines will be sought.

ELECTRIC HAND LAMPS.

It was reported that although no definite agreement had yet been recorded, the staff have every reason to hope for a satisfactory conclusion.

UNIFORM.

As a reward for tremendous efforts on the part of the Sub-Committee dealing with this question, an agreement has now been recorded. The main items being remodelled overcoats (all grades), improved fitting generally (all grades), reversion to twelve-monthly issue (P.O. Grade), remodelled trousers (all grades), and an improved system of dealing with complaints and alterations.

The only outstanding item is the question of issue of mackintoshes, and on this a pronouncement will shortly be made.

A resolution commending the Official and Staff Side representatives on the Sub-Committee for the work performed in connection with uniform, was carried.

PROMOTION BY MERIT.

A lengthy and very animated discussion took place on this vital matter. Many schemes and suggestions have been considered since the 1925 Conference passed the motion to explore this question. But many and varied as the schemes may seem, the bases vary but little.

The Council in its endeavours to find the solution, adopted a scheme in which "a certain number of years' service, as representing the degree of practical experience, be the qualifying factor for eligibility to sit." This scheme will be presented to the Districts, and it is hoped will receive such a measure of consideration and discussion as to produce something tangible.

The scope of the question of Promotion by Merit was somewhat extended, as the resolution "seeking its application to all grades in the Waterguard" denotes.

The E.C. has been instructed to draw up a scheme of promotion by merit in connection with promotion to C.P.O. Grade. This scheme will also be submitted to the Districts.

SENIORITY OF POST-WAR ENTRANTS.

In opposition to the Staff Side claim for revision of the seniority list in respect of Group 3 P.W. Entrants, the Official Side stated that the question was not peculiar to this Department, but was common to the Civil Service, and as such would have to be tackled nationally—in addition, it was stated that every officer in the group had a legal right to claim the retention of the seniority rights and to protest against any alteration.

The Council came to the conclusion, after lengthy discussion, to withdraw the reference.

RECRUITMENT.

During the discussion the Council deplored the fact that the deciding factor of the entrance and eventual merit position in the A.P.O. Grade is vested in a Selection Board, and unanimously supported the general Civil Service Staff Side policy opposing viva voce tests.

Instructions were given to reopen the discussion with a view to revising the system of appointment.

SUGGESTIONS COMMITTEE.

The General Secretary reported on the activities of this Committee over the past twelve months.

Among the new suggestions were to be found an amended List 142, and an ad hoc General Order embracing all instructions and orders issued to date bearing on overtime charges to be raised against merchants.

SUPERANNUATION.

So many years have passed since the Association policy on superannuation was defined, and so many changes have taken place within the Department during this period, that the Executive decided to recommend that the Council should discuss the situation in the light of the changed circumstances, and either confirm past policy or remodel it.

It was eventually referred back to the Executive with instructions to fully explore the subject and report.

FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP.

The Annual Statement of Accounts (as published in this issue) was adopted.

The membership figure was reported to be slightly down, and in explanation it was pointed out that normally the loss of membership caused by retirements and deaths would be offset by new members from among new entrants. The long delay in reopening recruitment has left its mark, but it is hoped that membership figures will level up with the expected influx of new entrants.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SECTION.

This matter was the most discussed item of the agenda, and considering its importance and bearing on the future of the Department, this was most natural.

The Council had before it the first report of the Central Committee, together with a financial statement.

Embodied in the report were several suggestions for improving and generally enlarging the scope of the scheme.

The Council was pleased to note the suggested course for P.O.'s in connection with the P.O.'s examination, and gave full power to the Committee to proceed on these lines.

The suggested increase of fees received much consideration and, following an examination of finance and estimated expenditure (as far as it was practicable from the facts presented), it was decided that an increase was essential if the scheme was to be self-supporting.

It was explained that under the present system the whole fee in connection with the Preliminary Course was paid to the Tutor; so that a large bulk of students were not subscribing towards the actual cost of the papers supplied or to the expenses of the Central Committee.

The new fees will be:—

Preliminary Course ...	10/0 per term.
Intermediate Course ...	15/0 per term.
Advanced Course ...	20/0 per term.

Appreciation was expressed for the successful manner in which the scheme was launched and the workmanlike way in which it was being maintained. Special mention was made of the valuable services rendered by the Central Committee in (i.) publishing the Booklet of Table of Duties, and (ii.) in collecting contentious points with a view to seeking authoritative rulings.

"CUSTOMS JOURNAL" SUB-COMMITTEE.

As a result of an exhaustive discussion, during which much criticism was offered, it was decided not to continue the publication of a Christmas Number, as published during the last two years. The heavy cost of this number was one of the main reasons for the decision.

A suggestion was put forward that the "Customs Journal" should be published monthly instead of fortnightly, and in order that members shall have ample opportunity of discussing

and expressing an opinion on this, it was decided to submit the matter to the Districts.

Authority was given to the Committee to draw up a new contract with the printer, the outcome of which should prove a considerable saving. The present tinted cover will disappear with the old contract.

The Council was pleased to place on record appreciation of the valuable services rendered in the past by "Scrutator." Mr. J. T. Hogg is now engaged on the Central Committee of the Vocational Education Section.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Rule 2 (a) and (b)—Area Representation.

Applications from some Areas asking for increased representation on the Council prompted the Executive to recommend that a sub-committee be set up to explore the present system of Area and District representation, with a view to ascertaining whether or not such system operates equitably and in the best interests of the Association. The findings will be forwarded to the Council.

Rule 3, 3 (new para.)—Membership.

No less than four amendments were received on this question, but in order to expedite business a comprehensive amendment from the Executive, covering practically all the points, was considered and finally adopted. It is as follows:—

(a) Any Association member ceasing to pay his proper subscription to the Association may be declared by the Executive Committee to be a non-member, and before he can be re-admitted to membership he will be expected to pay all arrears of subscription.

(b) The case of any member twelve months in arrears with his subscriptions must be examined by the Executive Committee.

(c) The Executive Committee may lay down any reasonable conditions for repayment, or for otherwise dealing with arrears, but are not empowered to admit to membership any person who refuses to acknowledge his arrears as declared by the Committee. Any person refusing to make such acknowledgment automatically becomes a non-member.

(d) Any member who is more than one quarter in arrears with his subscriptions will not be eligible for election to any official position in the Association.

(e) Any action taken by the Executive Committee under these provisions may be the subject of appeal to the Council by the individuals concerned, current subscriptions to be paid pending such appeal.

A further resolution was adopted: "That persons declared non-members shall not be supplied with the 'Customs Journal' nor shall they be allowed to take advantage of the Vocational Education Section."

Rule 4, 2 (c)—Date of Annual Conference.

It was agreed to amend the rule to read, "not earlier than June and not later than August."

Rule 4, 5—Grade of Association Officers.

The amendment deleting all words after "Assistant Secretary" was adopted, affecting the removal of the Grade qualification in respect of Association officers.

Rule 6 (a), (new para.)—District Officers.

The following amendment was adopted: "The acceptance of an office as district organiser or district secretary implies agreement by such office-holder that he shall not voluntarily leave his district, for lengthy spells of special duty, without appointing a deputy."

Rule 5—Subscriptions.

A new paragraph is to be added to Rule 5: "When a member is on continuous sick leave he may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be excused the payment of his subscriptions to the Association for the whole period of his sickness."

RESOLUTIONS.

Subscriptions.—The resolution seeking a reduction of subscriptions to the Association in respect of A.P.O.'s of less than five years' service was not supported in any degree. Among the points of opposition it was stated that the very members this resolution sets out to benefit would be the last to wish to handicap future activities by accepting this very slight personal gain per week, and, furthermore, these same members would not wish to be placed in the position of inferiority that might possibly be the outcome to such a proposal. The resolution was not adopted.

Issue of Handbags.—The conveyance of samples, seizures, and (in the case of rummage crews visiting outlying stations) rummaging equipment were considered sufficient reasons to justify the demand for issue to the Waterguard of handbags on such stations where they are deemed necessary. The resolution embodying this was adopted.

Civil Rights of Civil Servants.—It was unanimously agreed: "That this Conference places on record its grave concern regarding the new restrictions on the liberty of Civil Servants in connection with Clause V. of the Trade Union and Trades Disputes Bill, and registers its emphatic determination to support any constitutional movement for repeal."

Journals to Retired Members.—The resolution seeking free issue of the "Customs Journal" to retired P.S.A. members was withdrawn.

Waterguard Codes.—In rejecting the resolution from Liverpool, this Conference approved the action of past Conferences and authorised procedure on the lines previously indicated.

Cost-of-Living Bonus.—Following a short discussion and an explanation by the General Secretary, the resolution seeking consolidation of the bonus with salary was rejected.

Seizure Rewards.—Definite instructions were given to the representatives on the Waterguard Sectional Committee on the Board's proposal to alter the basis of rewards for seizures.

Labour Party.—In anticipation of probable legislation, it was decided to give formal notice of disaffiliation with the Labour Party, and the Executive Committee was authorised to make such alterations to the constitution of the P.S.A. as to conform with such legislation.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Madden (President) tendered his resignation, and stated that he wished to give the Council every opportunity of selecting the best man; he was of opinion that it would be a good thing if a new President could be found in the A.P.O. Grade.

The Council would not accept Mr. Madden's resignation, and, having been duly proposed and seconded, he was re-elected.

The following is a complete list of the elections:—

President—Mr. E. P. Madden.

General Secretary—Mr. J. Merron.

Organising Secretary—Mr. J. T. Sutton.

Assistant Secretary—Mr. W. H. Powell.

Executive Committee—Messrs. W. G. Thomson (P.O., Liverpool), S. E. D. Ball (A.P.O., South Coast), A. W. P. Densley (A.P.O., South Wales), A. Milne (A.P.O., Scotland), and the Officers. (Total: 4 P.O.'s and 4 A.P.O.'s.)

Waterguard Sectional Committee.—Messrs. E. P. Madden, J. Merron, S. E. D. Ball, A. Milne, and W. H. Powell.

Joint Committee (C. and E. Associations)—Messrs. J. Merron, J. T. Sutton, F. R. Fisk, and W. H. Powell.

Departmental Council—Messrs. J. Merron and W. H. Powell.

C.S. Confederation.—Messrs. J. T. Sutton, J. A. O'Connor, and W. H. Powell.

Suggestions Committee—Mr. W. H. Powell.

In connection with the meetings of the Executive Committee, the Council authorised the holding of these meetings at such places most conducive to harmony within the P.S.A.

In order to assist members in their enquiries of the councillors for fuller details of the business done by the Conference, I append a complete list of the subjects considered:—

Southampton Case.

General Secretary's Report.

Executive Committee's Report.

"Customs Journal" Report.

Vocational Education Report.

Organising Secretary's Report — Finance and Membership.

Seizure Rewards.

Waterguard Claims.

Leave.

Employment of C.P.M. Grade.

Small Ports Committee.

Launches and Boats.

Waterguard at Aerodromes.

Monthly Salaries.

Misapplication of N.W. Agreements.

Supply of Electric Torches.

Uniform,
 Training of Asst. Preventive Officers,
 Promotion by Merit,
 Failed Assistant Preventive Officers,
 Seniority of Post-War Entrants,
 Recruitment,
 Work and Wait Rule,
 Suggestions Committee,
 Superannuation,
 Constitutional Amendments—
 Rule 2 (c) and (d), Area Representation,
 Rule 3, 3 (new para.), Membership,
 Rule 4, 2 (c), Council Meetings,
 Rule 4, 5, Grade of Association Officers,
 Rule 6 (a), (new para.), District Offices,
 Resolutions—
 P.S.A., Subscriptions during Sick Leave,

Issue of Handbigs,
 Civil Rights of Civil Servants,
 Journals for Retired Members,
 Waterguard Aspirations,
 Waterguard Codes,
 Seizure Rewards,
 Landing and Shipping Duties,
 Waterguard Regrading,
 Cost-of-Living Bonus—Consolidation,
 P.S.A., Subscriptions—Reduction,
 Promotion by Merit—C.P.O. Grade,
 Affiliation in the Labour Party,
 Election of Officers,
 Election of Representatives,
 Honorary,
 Executive Committee Meetings,
 P.S.A., Auditors.

W. H. POWELL.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1927.



BACK ROW (left to right)—W. G. Thomson, M. J. Griffiths, A. W. P. Densley, J. O'Shea, S. H. D. Ball, F. J. Mathers, T. R. Keighley.
 MIDDLE ROW (left to right)—B. J. Herrington, A. Munn, R. W. Booth, G. R. S. Griffiths, W. A. G. Munson, S. Dixon, P. W. Toward.
 FRONT ROW (left to right)—P. R. Fisk, W. H. Powell, J. T. Sutton, F. P. Madden, J. Merran, W. E. Staudring, A. W. Purkay.

PARLIAMENT.

By "CARACTACUS."

VI.—THE BIRTH OF DEMOCRACY.

The Puritanism of Cromwell was part of a wave of feeling which swept over the whole of Europe. The best thing we can say of it is that it was an idealist conception, and, like any other ideal, it was, to some extent, against human nature. That it *was* idealist was probably the main cause of its failure. Here it should be mentioned that Cromwell did not destroy institution after institution in the country as he did, of set policy. He was against their destruction, but unwillingly consented only because he believed a better order could be built up on their ruins. What a pathetic figure he was! The strength of him was a very present need in the time of the country's trouble, and his spirit permeated the whole country. He used the Army to settle the country at a time when nothing else would have been quite so effective. And then this instrument of his and the ideas which emanated from him, grew too strong and ran away with him. The country became divided into two camps, and the Army refused to allow any of its despotic powers to be taken away, so that Cromwell could not do what was really the most important idea in his mind, and, as I believe, that which he originally set out to do, that is, to inaugurate truly constitutional government. He was a truly great man who was much misunderstood.

With the Restoration, despite appearances, there came a radical change, as compared with the early Stuarts, in the relation between the king and the people. James and Charles I. defied Parliament, while Charles I. tried to corrupt it; Charles I. contemptuously disregarded the legislation of Parliament, while the later Stuarts circumvented it; the Crown ceased to be autocratic, and came to exercise power only through the medium of Parliament, unfortunately at the expense of friction, which culminated in the Revolution of 1688.

If we examine the Revolution more closely, it gives us an indication of what had been gained in the preceding period. It was a revolution for the object of having it laid down that the king should be the elected of Parliament and should reign so long as he maintained principles of constitutional government which involved the recognition and maintenance of certain rights and liberties. These rights and liberties were of comparatively recent acquisition, yet the Revolution assumed them to be definitely established, and merely demanded that they be given the force of written law, so that it was, in a sense, a conservative revolution, and in so far as it determines the appointment of rulers by selection of the people's House, ends the era of absolute monarchy in this country with the establishment of the ultimate sovereignty of the people.

With the House of Hanover came another great change. We must recognise that the earlier kings of that house could speak no English, and their interests were preponderantly German. It can be understood, therefore, why they ceased to preside over the Cabinet, with the result that kingly power became practically nil and a comparatively small body of nobles dominated the situation. As the kings of this house became anglicised, they began to attempt a return to the old standard, and George III. tried to establish in Parliament a party which would bolster up the Crown, but by this time the vesting of power in the hands of Parliament was so completely a matter of custom that we find a resolution passed in Commons, I think in 1781, "That the power of the Crown has increased, is increasing, and should be diminished." George III. was able to make a stand against the Commons only because that body had ceased to be fully representative of the will of the people, and the struggle between them gradually merged into a struggle to determine that ultimate sovereignty which had perforce, sooner or later, to come to the people, with the expression of a really popular government. It is only through this medium, by which the desires of the people can be reconciled with the ruling head, and that ruler can take his place as a figure head, expressing influence rather than authority, that any country, and particularly England, can arrive at stable government. It is that stability which has enabled this country to take full advantage of the progressive spirit which began in the early nineteenth century.

Let us enquire into this struggle for the popular control of the House of Commons, which practically ended when William III. accepted Sunderland's advice to choose his ministers from the majority party in the House, so that these came to act in concert with each other, instead of having individuals drawn indiscriminately from all sections. This tendency was confirmed through the lack of interest which the early Hanoverian kings displayed in this country. With George I., who did not preside over the ministers' council, the latter became a real cabinet, such as we understand it, who dealt with the king through a single minister, who is now, of course, the Premier. It was thus established that the House should control the administration in this typically English way, and there remained the problem of the relationship between the House and the people.

At that time members were not elected by the people in the way that they are to-day. In the early days of the nineteenth century about two-thirds of the members were nominated by

patronage of the landowners, and it is true to say that where the nominees had a proper sense of their responsibilities to the country, the system resulted in the return of really good statesmen, but in many cases, unfortunately, corruption crept in; seats were actually sold for the social distinction which they brought, and power was prostituted for private ends. Distribution of seats was very unequal, too; for instance, Cornwall returned 44 members, while the whole of Scotland returned only 45.

Yet Parliament was not wholly out of touch with the people, as witness the careers of the two Pitts, whose influence was the result of the support of public opinion, which kept them in their seats in the face of widespread Parliamentary hostility. So that while representation of the people was so imperfect, their voice was certainly heard to some purpose. The average member was, too, fairly representative of public opinion, for it should be remembered that this was a country of small towns and villages before the industrial era began, and the member was often also the squire, at one with the people in opinions, mentality and needs, in touch with them in everyday life in an intimate way which is, on the average, impossible to-day, and his opinions would naturally be much the same as theirs. It is doubtful, in the circumstances, whether universal suffrage would have been much of a boon in those days, while the industrial era, because it so altered those relations between the member and his constituents, made the franchise necessary. But as corruption and the sale of seats grew, we find that the tone of the House became considerably lower, and money became a force, even to the buying of votes. So bad did things become that steps had to be taken to break the evil. This was the beginning of the change which swept through the country with the coming of the industrial age, when the centre of national life gravitated to the towns, when commercial magnates prospered and began to insist on the right to take a part in the government of the country. These demands developed into a demand for the reform of the Houses both from within and without. Pitt, the elder, voiced it, his son pressed it, and in the eighties of the eighteenth century brought in a Bill for the compensation of holders of rotten boroughs. The Bill was rejected, but he adopted the principle for the Act of Union with Ireland, a principle which his enemies described as corruption, although it was far less corrupt than some of their own practices.

Then came the French Revolution, and this country was in such danger, and so inextricably mixed up in European affairs, that any comprehensive scheme of reform was impossible. There

was nothing done for a quarter of a century. In 1820 Lord Russell began his campaign, and in the same year a borough in Cornwall was disfranchised and its two seats given to York, which county was poorly represented. But scratching at the problem was of little use, and the demand was for a much more radical programme.

About this time, too, the masses began to reflect the influence of education in their opinions and methods of thought. Think for a moment of the agitation against the combination laws, and the depth of thought displayed. Once those laws were repealed the people began to see the efficacy of unions and organised action, and the obvious value of the concerted expression of their opinions itself created a demand for the franchise; the people governed themselves within the trades union and the guild, and nothing was more natural than that they should desire to do the same through Parliament. It is a mistake to suppose that this movement for reform was peculiar to this country. It was, in fact, the local expression of a phase of reformist revolution which caught up the whole Continent, and when violent revolution began on the Continent, our statesmen had to offset the possibility of internecine strife by diverting popular feeling into demands for reform.

Landlords were reluctant to sell land outright, so that leaseholders formed the greater part of the landowners, and the forty-shilling freeholders who formed the electorate were few in number. Further, they were easily bought. Again, the boroughs were rotten to the core. Some, particularly in Cornwall, were nomination boroughs, created by the Tudors expressly so that they could "pack" the House. Fortunately, this power was lost before the end of the eighteenth century. Other boroughs had merely decayed from populous towns into small villages.

The demand for reform fathered the Bill of 1832, and when the ministry found it so badly backed with amendments, Parliament was dissolved and the ministry came back with a huge reformist majority. The second Bill was rejected by the Lords, whereupon the ministry resigned and Wellington was called upon to form a ministry, and while he was endeavouring to do so, the people adopted the suggestion that they should withdraw their money from the banks in order to create economic pressure, an ingenious device which is eloquent of the determination and intelligence of the masses. At all events, it was brought home to the Duke that resistance was useless. Back came the ministry, and sufficient new peers were created to ensure the passage of the Bill.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

(but see subsequent issues).

C. & E. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.

The eighty-seventh meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on July 27th, 1927, the chair being taken by Sir Horace Hamilton, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

SENIORITY.

The Staff Side proposed that in view of the experience now gained in the operation of a joint seniority list for Clerical Officers over a period exceeding twelve months, a similar list should be compiled for Higher Clerical Officers, this step being desirable in order to equalise promotion chances in the various Headquarters Offices. The Official Side intimated that the period of experiment was not long enough to test the system in so far as it was already employed, and that in any case its extension to the Higher Clerical Grade presented greater difficulties. It was agreed to adjourn the question sine die.

OLD AGE PENSION WORK.

In reply to Staff Side enquiries, the Official Side stated that there had been no development, since the last statement made in February, with regard to the possibility of transfer of this work from the Department. The Staff Side would be informed if any development occurred.

NORTHERN IRELAND.

With regard to the possibility of the transfer of agency services in Northern Ireland to the Northern Irish Government, the Official Side stated that the latter had been furnished with all the information requested and that there had also been a discussion on the subject. The final decision of the Northern Irish Government had not yet been communicated, but as soon as it was known, the Staff Side would be informed with a view to discussing any questions which might emerge as regards staff.

UNATTACHED OFFICERS.

Agreements were confirmed establishing three centres for Fixed Officers and thirty-four posts of Collection Unattached Officers.

UNITS OF WORK.

Agreements on the unit values of certain surveys were confirmed, and a disagreement reported on a proposed unit for time spent on members of the public in stations where no public office is provided was adjourned after further discussion. A disagreement respecting a unit for unforeseen circumstances and general delays was confirmed.

WOMEN PENSION OFFICERS.

It was agreed to suspend the rule under which applications for transfer by a Woman Pension Officer are not entertained unless the applicant has held her present station for at least one year.

The Council confirmed a disagreement on a Staff Side proposal that Women Pension Officers who will have completed five years' service in the Grade on May 7th, 1927, and will therefore

be entitled therefrom to thirty-six days' annual leave, should be allowed twenty-one days' minuted leave in the summer season of 1927 and subsequent years.

SCHEMES.

The schemes of staffing for a large number of stations in the Port of London were agreed to, except for Staff Side disagreement as to the employment of Clerks as Surveyors' Clerks and on Landing and Shipping Stations.

SUGGESTIONS.

The Council received a schedule of suggestions which had been forwarded to the Board by the Suggestions Committee.

OTHER MATTERS.

The Council dealt with a number of other decisions advised by Local, Office and Grade Committees, with results that have been communicated to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, October 19th, 1927.

* * * *

At the conclusion of the meeting the Vice-Chairman said that the Staff Side had already sent a letter of congratulation to the Chairman, Sir Horace Hamilton, on his appointment as Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade, and that they now wished to place on record their regret at his departure from the Department and the warm esteem in which he was held not only by individual members of the Staff Side, but also by their colleagues throughout the Service. Sir Horace Hamilton had been the first Chairman of the Board to come into personal contact with members of the Staff at the Whitley Council meetings, and the Staff Side had speedily recognised him as a fair-minded Chairman, anxious to promote good feeling in the Department. Members of the Department were proud of their Whitley organisation, and although at times the Staff Side were perhaps prone to take the credit for themselves, there was no doubt that the success which had attended their Whitley deliberations was in a large measure due to the very evident intention of the Chairman to further goodwill and understanding between the two Sides. On behalf of the Staff Side, the Vice-Chairman returned sincere thanks to the Chairman for what had been accomplished and tendered their best wishes for his success in his new Department.

Sir Horace Hamilton expressed his warm appreciation of the Vice-Chairman's remarks. He reminded the Council that he came to the Department at the very time when Whitleyism was being introduced, and he recalled that as Chairman designate he had been sent a copy of the draft constitution for the Departmental Council. He had returned it with an expression of complete approval, and he had seen no reason since for modifying that opinion in any way. He was proud to have taken a part in building upon that foundation a structure, the merits of which he believed were appreciated both inside and outside the Department. The Vice-

Chairman had given him personally too much credit. He would like to say in his turn how fortunate the Council had been in its three Vice-Chairmen, each of whom had made a valuable contribution. Moreover, he was sure that the Vice-Chairman would join with him in agreeing that whatever their aims might have been, they would not have been realised if they had not been shared by other members of the Council and its constituent Committees and generally throughout the Department. When the Whitley system was introduced the whole Department had determined to make it a success, and they had proceeded in the same way ever since with gratifying results. Their work was now based on traditions of a kind which enabled him to leave the Customs and Excise in full confidence as to the future of Whitleyism in the Department. So long as the Council on both Sides conducted its business by reasoned argument on the facts and principles involved, a great measure of agreement would be reached, and when disagreements had to be recorded no friction would ensue.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the members of both Sides individually and severally for the assistance which they had never failed to place at his disposal, and stated that the memory of his work on the Council would remain with him as an abiding source of satisfaction. In conclusion, he wished God speed to the Council and God speed to the Customs and Excise Department.

* * * *

Professor L. D. White, of Chicago University, and a student of public administration, visiting this country, was present throughout the proceedings.

PRESENTATION.

Mr. A. W. CHAPLIN, C.P.O.

A particularly pleasing function took place at the Ship Hotel, Grimsby, on the 3rd inst., when Mr. A. W. Chaplin, Chief Preventive Officer of Customs and Excise, was made the recipient of a gold watch, suitably inscribed (and a crocodile leather handbag for Mrs. Chaplin), on the occasion of his retirement from the Department after 37 years' service. The proceedings took the form of a snoking concert, the chair being taken by the Collector of Customs and Excise (Mr. W. P. Holden). About 100 members of the staff and friends were present. Speeches eulogising Mr. Chaplin's good qualities were made by Messrs. Lewarn, Madden and Potter, and after the presentation by the Collector, Mr. Chaplin suitably responded.

Mr. Chaplin's period of service in Grimsby included the inauguration of the Coast Preventive Staff consequent on the transfer of the Coastguard duties to the Customs and Excise Department, and covered the period of the coal strike and the carrying out of the special emergency arrangements connected therewith.

A most enjoyable concert followed, the musical items being contributed by Messrs. C. Walkinshaw, A. Ross and J. Diggle (members of the staff), assisted by Messrs. J. Mellor (G.P.O.) and D. Macnamara—the arrangements being in the capable hands of Mr. G. P. Glover.

Later in the evening a presentation was made to Messrs. J. Taylor and J. Boyce, Watchers, who are retiring from the Service under the age limit after a lengthy and meritorious period of service in the Department.

A QUERY FOR SOUTHAMPTON.

The freakish tricks of publicity manage somehow or other to bring into the limelight of the Press different phases of Waterguard work, and as is most natural, always from the outsider's point of view.

We have had the "dirty hands at Victoria Station" episode, and that hardy annual, "smuggling on the East Coast," to mention but two instances that come to my mind at the moment.

I have an idea that some very interesting reading could be supplied by officers "on the spot" if they would only undertake to give us the Service point of view.

The latest swing of the beam light of the Press has brought it to rest on Southampton.

I see by my morning paper ("Daily Express," August 8th) that three of the largest ocean greyhounds docked on Sunday at Southampton within three hours. They were the Aquitania, 46,617 tons, the Olympic, 46,439 tons, and the Leviathan, 59,957 tons.

In the article many interesting facts were given, but what interested me more than anything else was the following:—

"Never in the history of any port in England have three of the 'big six' been dealt with in one day. . . . Although this is usually the duller time in shipping, Southampton has had one of the busiest week-ends in its history. . . . More than 30,800 tons of shipping passed in and out of the dock between ten o'clock yesterday and four o'clock this afternoon. This is another record."

The "Evening News" (London) of August 5th contained another interesting item:—

"Southampton dealt with 1,000,000 more tons of shipping during the first half of this year than during the corresponding period last year. . . ."

Statements like these set officers at "small" ports wondering how the additional work is coped with—the passengers, the colossal stores, and, what is more important, the remainder of the station.

Will some Southampton officer start this new series of articles, under a title like "The Man on the Spot" or "Our Point of View"?

SCOTTIE.

WAR BONUS ARREARS.

CIVIL SERVICE JOINT COMMITTEE.

IMPORTANT. Parliament Mansions,
Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1.

Negotiations with the Treasury in connection with the appointment of an independent arbitrator to adjudicate on outstanding War Bonus claims appear to be nearing completion. It will shortly be necessary to lay down a time limit for claims, and any claimant, therefore, who has not already tabled his claim should do so, **through his appropriate Association**, not later than August 15th.

The claim should, in every case, give the fullest possible details, including the reason for refusal of payment.

J. W. BOWEN, Chairman.
A. C. WINYARD, Secretary.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

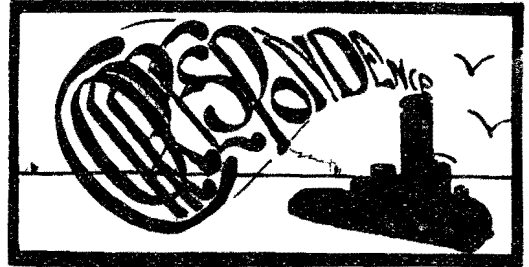
At the last Annual Council meeting of the Civil Service Confederation proposals were adopted for the re-organisation of the Secretariat of the Confederation, involving the appointment of a part-time General Secretary, who should be a serving Civil Servant. The post of General Secretary has now become vacant, and applications for the post from members of the Civil Service are accordingly invited. Applications should specify the name of the organisation of which the applicant is a member, and should state whether, and if so what, previous experience has been obtained in a secretarial capacity, and should be addressed to the President, Civil Service Confederation, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

LONDON A.P.O. COMMENDED.

Cycling home from duty recently, a London A.P.O., Mr. W. Pike, saw several men engaged in the pilfering of a van, abstracting a large tin. He dismounted and tackled the men, who made off, leaving the tin behind. Placing the tin in safe custody, he gave chase and followed to a house, afterwards informing the police, with the result that three men were arrested. This action is typical of Mr. Pike, who is well known in London as an officer of exceptional keenness in the detection of smuggling. He has received a letter of high appreciation from the Commissioner of Police, thanking him for his services, and commenting on the fact that one of the men was detained by him and that he was commended by the magistrate before whom the case was heard. He has also received a letter from the Hon. Board.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT IT OVER?

The Preventive Officers' Guide, though a most useful booklet, does not fully meet the requirements of a Preventive Officer wanting ready reference in a hurry. What does it lack? The ten shillings you may gain by sending the best letter of constructive criticism and suggestion is not nearly as useful to you as your suggestions will be to the V.E.C. Send that letter along to the Editor, "Customs Journal," 91, Tressillian Road, London, S.E.4, so as to reach him not later than August 22nd. This is the last notice before the entries are examined.



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.

GENERAL ORDER 25/1927.

Sir,—In reply to "Now Not Young at 55" in the issue of July 16th, where he suggests that Waterguard Officers should have the privileges enjoyed by the Prison Warders' Superannuation Act, 1.1.24, I might here mention that a special Act of Parliament would be required before we could enjoy this concession of five years' added service. Until the outcry of public economy has subsided I think it would be useless to attempt to obtain this concession. In order, however, for many senior Waterguard Officers being enabled to complete 40 years' service, I would strongly suggest that the resolution passed at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, by the Civil Service Confederation on June 20th, that officers should be allowed to remain until they had completed 40 years' service up to the age of 65, should apply. This request has been confirmed by the C. and E. Departmental Council, and the issue of the above General Order appears only to refer to Landing Officers.

There is in my opinion no real reason why this G.O. should not include Waterguard Officers, for there must be many who, during the nomination days, were, through no fault whatever of their own, unable to enter the Service at an age to enable them to complete 40 years at 61, and, considering the smallness of our pension and high cost of living, I think this just concession granted by the Hon. Board to the

Landing Officers should be extended to the Waterguard Officers, providing, of course, that they are physically fit.—Yours, etc.,

" INTERESTED."

WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB CUP TOURNAMENT.

SECTION 1—ROUND 2.

R. E. Dudley, London. White. S. W. H. Hargrove, Eastham. Black.

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 1. P—K4 | P—K4 |
| 2. Kt—KB3 | Kt—KB3 |
| 3. B—Kt5 | P—QB3 |
| 4. B—B4 | P—KR4 |
| 5. Kt×P | Q—K2 |

- | | |
|-------------|--------|
| 6. P—Q4 | P—Q3 |
| 7. Kt×KBP | R—Kt1 |
| 8. O.O. | B—K3 |
| 9. P—Q5 | B×Kt |
| 10. Kt—B3 | Q—QB2 |
| 11. P—KR3 | P—KKt4 |
| 12. Q—B3 | R—KKt3 |
| 13. B—Q3 | P—KKt5 |
| 14. P×P | P×P |
| 15. Q—B5 | P—KKt6 |
| 16. BP×KtP | B—KKt2 |
| 17. P×P | P×P |
| 18. B—Kt5 | Q—Kt3+ |
| 19. R—B2 | Q×P |
| 20. Q—B8+ | K—K2 |
| 21. Kt—Q5+ | P×Kt |
| 22. Q—B7+ | Kt—Q2 |
| 23. B×Kt+ | B×B |
| 24. R—K1 | Q—QB6 |
| 25. Q—Kt7 | Q×R+ |
| 26. Resigns | |

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

Statement of Accounts—Year ending March 31st, 1927.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balances brought forward	660	11 8	Affiliation Fees, etc.—		
Amounts received from Districts—			C.S. Confederation ...	143	7 1
London	223	0 0	C. & E. Joint Com. ...	50	6 0
Liverpool	118	16 0			193 13 1
Manchester	26	19 0	Representatives' Trav. Subs., etc.—		
Cardiff	146	0 0	Council (July, 1926) ...	169	5 7
Bristol	53	2 0	Executive Com. and W.		
Plymouth	48	8 0	Sect., etc.	157	4 8
Southampton	89	0 6	Dept. Com. and Joint		
Dover	55	18 0	Com.	35	1 0
Gravesend	75	0 0	Various	23	1 1
Grimsby	68	4 6			384 12 4
Hull	71	0 0	Customs Journal Account		286 17 10
Hartlepool	58	5 0	Rent		55 0 0
Tyne	74	15 6	Heating and Lighting ...		6 6 6
Leith	88	0 0	Office Cleaning		8 8 0
Aberdeen	47	0 0	Telephone		10 4 5
Glasgow	68	0 0	Publications, Minutes, etc.		70 13 9
			Duplicator & Typewriter		
			Purchases	57	18 3
Bank Interest	6	12 11	Printing, Typing, etc. ...	29	2 6
			Stationery, etc.	20	4 3
			Postage, Telegrams, etc.	17	15 0
			Sundries	12	13 3
			Bank Charges, Cheque		
			Book, etc.		1 10 9
			Honoraria—		
			General Secretary ...	125	0 0
			Org. Sec. and Treas. ...	75	0 0
			Assistant Secretary ...	48	15 0
			Auditors	2	2 0
					250 17 0
			Total		£1,405 16 11

We have had access to the Books and Vouchers of the Customs and Excise Preventive Staff Association, and we hereby certify that the foregoing Statement of Accounts dated March 31st, 1927, is drawn up to present a correct view of the accounts of the Association.

R. J. CREESE, P.O.
W. VARNEY, A.P.O.

£1,978 11 7

J. T. SUTTON,
Organising Secretary and Treasurer.

Balances carried forward—		
At Mid. Bank 180 10 10		
Less out. cheqs. 14 15 0		
	165	15 10
Org. Sec. and Treas. ...	358	13 0
General Secretary ...	25	5 10
V.E.C. Advance ...	20	0 0
Gas Deposit	3	0 0
		572 14 8
		£1,978 11 7