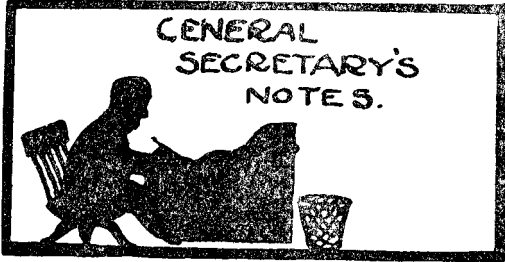


# The Customs Journal.

No. 593.

July 16th, 1927.

Fortnightly.



Communications relative to this column should be addressed to Mr. J. Merron, 157, Clive Road, West Dulwich, London, S.E.21.

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

The ideal summer weather on the opening day of the fifth Annual Conference of the P.S.A. is an indication that some lucky star must guide the Executive when choosing the date for this important event. It is a remarkable fact that since the P.S.A. came into being, all the annual meetings have been blessed with a liberal allowance of sunshine. On this occasion the cooling effect of the few showers that fell during the four days' conference was a welcome relief from the excessive heat.

Each year the programme of the Council Meeting seems to get heavier, and this time the agenda ran into more than thirty pages of typewritten matter. Better facilities enable the production of fuller and more informative reports on the various subjects, and this, of course, results in improved and more useful discussion.

Vocational Education was a new item for report, and one which helped to swell an already bulky agenda.

There were five Councillors attending Conference for the first time, and it is worthy of note that each of them remarked on the favourable impression received regarding the business-like manner in which the Council business is performed. These impressions were shared by visitors from the London District who attended the meeting. There was not a member who did not take some part in the discussion, and it became necessary for the Chairman to impose a time limit on the speakers. It is an undoubted fact that debating ability at these annual meetings is improving greatly. In these days a Councillor who failed to take his job seriously

would find himself in a most unhappy position during the debates.

This is a gratifying result to the unceasing efforts of the secretariat to place before the Councillors every ounce of information and material to assist well-informed discussion.

\* \* \*

It is not unlikely that the Executive will decide to produce at next year's Conference a schedule of the duties performed by the Headquarters staff. There was evidence at the Conference that such a course would be desirable. The Council members were treated to a brief description of these duties, and it was apparent that, had time permitted, more detailed information would have been requested. With a properly established Headquarters staff now in existence it has become possible to place operations on a well-ordered basis. The various and numerous jobs are now definitely allocated to the officials best placed to perform them effectively. There is no doubt the members would be interested to hear of the system under which the work is carried out. It would appear that in the past too much has been left to the imagination of the membership, but the publication of a schedule such as is contemplated would be more satisfactory both to the members and the secretaries.

Regarding the importance to the Association of the various Committees and bodies upon which we are represented there appears to be only a hazy notion. A more precise knowledge would undoubtedly dispel any discontent by indicating how effectively the Association continually operates in protecting the vital interests of the members.

\* \* \* \*

Salary claims came in for rather more discussion than usual. In bringing the claims up to date the whole matter was fully thrashed out. The exact position was clearly explained, and the Council agreed that the Executive was proceeding on the proper course of action in the matter.

\* \* \* \*

Expectations of a lively discussion on the question of Seizure Awards were not disappointed. There could be no better subject for a really first-class debate, and full justice was done to it. The Executive received definite instructions as to their attitude towards the Board's proposals for revision.

\* \* \* \*

The controversy of last year was revived when the question of promotion by merit came before the Conference. The merit principle was adopted unanimously, but some difficulty was experienced when the significance of its application became apparent. Finally a scheme dealing

with promotion from the A.P.O. to the P.O. Grade was adopted and referred to the Executive for submission to the Districts.

A further proposal for promotion to the C.P.O. Grade received similar treatment. There was a unanimous opinion that the existing system was very undesirable, but it was thought that District opinion regarding methods of improvement would be necessary before definite policy was decided.

Recruitment came in for a great deal of attention. It was agreed that the syllabus for the entrance examination showed a slight advance, but the fact that success at the written test merely enabled a candidate to take part in a competitive interview was thought by some Councillors to nullify any advantage gained by reason of the improved examination. The Executive were instructed to watch the matter closely.

It was reported that an examination for recruitment to the A.P.O. Grade takes place on October 4th. The age limits are 19 to 21 years at the time of sitting for the examination. A deduction from age of two years in respect of military service is allowed. Full particulars can be obtained by writing to the Civil Service Commission.

Reports regarding uniform, mackintoshes, and electric hand lamps were received with much satisfaction. Regarding uniform, a motion of thanks to the informal Sub-Committee of the Waterguard Sectional Committee was unanimously passed, special reference being made to the part played by the Official Side representatives of the Sub-Committee in bringing the negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion.

It was reported that a distinct advance had been made in the negotiations for the supply of both mackintoshes and electric lamps. The prospect seemed very hopeful, but nothing of a definite nature could be said until after the next Waterguard Sectional Meeting.

In examining the Vocational Education Scheme careful attention was given to the financial side of the venture. There was ample evidence that the scheme was working well, but it was abundantly evident that the fees paid by preliminary pupils did not by any means cover the cost of the course. As the existing fees were not providing anything like adequate remuneration for the tutors and the Central Committee, it was decided to increase the preliminary course to ten shillings, and, after a great deal of discussion, the intermediate course was increased to fifteen shillings. There can be no doubt that the tuition is well worth the money, and it was felt that pupils taking these courses would be quite willing to pay an economic price for the services received.

The Council passed unanimously a vote of thanks to the tutors and the Central Committee

for the extremely able manner in which they had brought the scheme into being. The fact that the initiation of the scheme was made possible by the subordinating of self-interest on the part of all concerned was noted and appreciated.

The skill of Mr. Powell as an expert organiser of social functions was once again proved by the very successful "outing" he arranged for the Council members on the first evening of the Conference. A trip up the Thames is perhaps quite an ordinary affair for the Londoner, but, when the Assistant Secretary applies his genius to such a proposition, something quite different results. The voyage up the river to Molesey will be an event that will be long remembered by all who took part in it. There were in the party a good number of members of the London Branch. Arriving at Molesey, Mr. Powell initiated an impromptu smoking concert at the principal hotel, and it was then discovered that amongst the party there was abundance of talent for entertainment.

Intervals of this nature during a Conference are valuable. The Councillors get to know each other, and the informal discussions that take place considerably advance the business of the Conference during the succeeding days of session.

In the elections there was no change regarding the officers of the Association; but a slight variation in the Executive has taken place. Mr. Densley was elected, whereas Mr. Booth was unsuccessful.

Mr. Booth's ill luck is perhaps not so unfortunate, since he will probably be a candidate at the next examination, and will no doubt find it convenient, after all, to be free from the more exacting Association affairs for the present. He is an official whose experience we cannot afford to permanently lose. He is well known for his sound opinion on matters relating to the Waterguard.

Mr. Densley's appointment to the Executive comes after a good experience on the Council. There is no doubt that his election will be well appreciated in the South Wales area. He is a doubtful champion of the opinions of his constituents.

J. MERRON.

## PREVENTIVE OFFICERS' GUIDE.

Does this very useful booklet, recently published for use by the officers of the Preventive Staff, meet your requirements? Is it all you could wish? Is it just what you would compile yourself, or would you make some useful additions? The V.E.C. offers 10/0 for the letter containing the best suggestions for the improvement of the Preventive Officers' Guide. Send your letter to the Editor, 91, Tressillian Road, London, S.E.4, so as to reach us not later than August 22nd.

# PARLIAMENT.

By "CARACTACUS."

## IV.—THE BEGINNING OF PARLIAMENTARY POWER.

Previously I have bracketed with the name of the House of Commons the word *Communes*, designedly, as indicative of the origin of the name, its functions, and the House itself. It indicates, further, that it is, in its origin, not merely a House representative of the people, but of a people who are organised into local groups, and that is an important distinction.

The crystallisation of conscious political life in the *communes*, the *shire* and town courts, was co-eval with the rise of national consciousness, so that we had the makings of governmental stability from the earliest times, an advantage which was not shared by other peoples. The classes were less sectional than otherwise they would have been, and found a community of interest with each other in the realisation of national destiny which has made a profound impression on our growth and expansion, national, imperial and political, and has had a great deal to do with the formation of British character and ideals.

We have seen how the knights of the shires were first invited to confer with the king in London. The feelings of the local councils were decidedly mixed regarding these invitations, for in the first place, proximity to the king's person might dazzle the representative into committing his constituents further than they wished to go; and in the second place, in order to find knights who were willing to go to London at all, it was found necessary to pay them a subsistence allowance of four shillings per day, and this was the beginning of payment of members. We find that some of the local authorities went to the length of bribery to avoid sending representatives to Parliament, and some of these authorities were rewarded for acts which were pleasing to the king by being excused this duty. If there was a means of avoiding payment, the local authorities would certainly take it. They would refuse payment on the score of neglect of duty, and until after the middle of the seventeenth century there was a system of fines for non-attendance. (What a grand idea this would be for adoption to-day!) We are told that in 1406, members' salaries amounted to £5,500, while grants to the king only totalled £6,000—almost cent. per cent.—so that these payments were a very real burden to the country. Four shillings in those days was considerably more than it is to-day, and the payments undoubtedly retarded the growth of political instinct in the country.

But the precision and efficiency of Simon de Montfort remedied this to a great extent, and gave the fillip which was necessary to arouse a deep and abiding interest. Ruthless and even brutal though he was, the Gascon showed us how

to enforce decisions of the legislature, and how to foresee the effect of minute differences of principle. I do not think his ruthlessness, either, was misplaced at that critical time. Certain it is, that it proved a turning point in our political history.

Parliament progressed thereafter with greater clarity of purpose, for, as we know, his passion for efficiency caused him to lead the opposition against the vacillation of Henry III.

In relation to this period, we must not forget the influence of the thirteenth century itinerant priesthood. Bishop Grossetête caused his friars to become political and educational missionaries who found a way into the slums of the towns and into the smallest hamlets of the countryside, making articulate the vague desires of the people, unifying them in a desire, nay, a demand, for good government, giving them hope against oppression, stimulating their agitation for better things. The popular songs of the period are full of it, and of Simon de Montfort. Thus, when Simon defeated the king at Lewes, he was quite confident of the result of his subsequent appeal to the country.

The good work which Simon de Montfort began was continued by the Confessor, but with this difference, that he was actuated by a fervent regard for the welfare of his people and passionate desire for their affection. His reign, too, was an age of lawyers, so we find that progress fell largely along the lines of legal definition.

Let us analyse our history this far.

We begin with tribal conclaves among our continental ancestors, which develop into the Anglo-Saxon *communes* with their highly efficient local government. Follows the Norman period, when custom and precedent begin to take the force of law, while the *communes* are sorted and sifted and become related one to another through a central government in the Angevin period, and Edward I. legalises the legislative machinery which has gradually evolved, and the ideas which have grown up with it. Thus the "Model Parliament" was so called because it was the first which was based on a definite Constitution, and because all successive Parliaments have been based upon it.

The attitude of Edward I. is best summed up in a statute of 1322, which reads, in part—

"... the matters to be established for the estate of the King and his heirs and for the state of the realm and of the people shall be treated and accorded and established in Parliament by the King, and by the assent of the prelates, earls, and barons and the commonalty of the realm according as they have been before accustomed."

That passage contains the essence of our Constitution. You will observe, too, that it accepts the principle of precedent, and if the precedent was not already there, it assumes that it was. Many times over the Commons has had to adopt such tactics to assert powers and to claim new ones. Witness the astuteness of the Commons in sanctioning the king's levies at times when it could not resist them, as, for instance, in the case of the wool tax or "maltote," and so retaining the principle that such levies could only be made under the authority of the House.

Often, I know, the claim that this thing or that is founded upon precedent is a pleasant fiction to which our conservatism of nature makes us cling, but it is still true that we build on the past, that we dislike change, and when a radical change is made, we strive to excuse ourselves with a precedent, real or manufactured. At least, it is unquestionable that the "Model Parliament" was the precedent for our Parliament of to-day. Try how we will, we cannot help but come back to this point again and again.

From the Confessor we go on to Edward III. The former was a man of peace, while the latter was ambitious and a warrior, and his constant need of money for the French war was the opportunity Parliament required to entrench its power. This pecuniary need was enhanced by the fact that the only possible mark of favour to the royal servants was a grant of land from the royal estate, or something similar. As the estates diminished, the royal purse ever tended to shrink, and as the country developed, and as new wars were entered into, expenditure constantly grew. There was no distinction, in that day, between the king's personal expenses and the national exchequer, so that royal finance became increasingly embarrassed, particularly after the death of the Black Prince, when the king, being in his dotage, was an easy mark for the courtiers with whom he was surrounded. They took every opportunity to divert money granted for the French war and other purposes into their own pockets, until the position became so serious that Parliament took the course of paying money to persons appointed by the Commons whose duty it was to see that the money was spent on the matter for which it was granted. Here we see Parliament developing another new phase, and logically enough, here began the struggle for their right to audit the king's accounts to see whether his finances were really as bad as he alleged. The demand did not succeed until 1341, and then it was lost immediately Parliament dissolved.

But this demand was a very far cry from the doctrine of Divine Right!

There began about this time another fundamental change. Until now, English law was well-nigh unalterable, and grievances were presented in the form of petitions, which the king handed over to the Magnum Concilium, where they were dealt with, or ignored, and the making of a new statute was a very rare thing. Commons began by presenting petitions and requiring an answer before granting money. From this they took to granting money only on the last day of a session.

Then, finding that the money was accepted and that, despite the king's answer to their petitions, nothing was done, they claimed the right to see the final draft of the statute to be based on their petition, and, finally, instead of a petition, they sent up Bills ready drafted for the royal assent.

Still Parliamentary control was incomplete, for the king still had the prerogative of giving individuals immunity against a law or laws, and of creating laws over the head of Parliament by means of Orders in Council.

We have seen that the barons claimed that they were the rightful advisers of the Crown, and that the Crown counterated with a claim to find its own ministers. Now, we find yet another claim arising, namely, that the king must appoint his ministers from Parliament, and that they must have the confidence of Commons. True, it was a small thing, but an important one, for it was the beginning of our modern conception of a national executive.

This period was fruitful in a number of ways. About the middle of the fourteenth century we find the earliest recorded Debate on the Address. Then, about thirty years later a "prolocutor" was appointed in the person of Sir Peter de la Mare. He was the first Speaker, although it was Hungerford, in the next Parliament (1377), who first received the actual title.

In this period, too, impeachment of ministers was first instituted.

John of Gaunt, the principal figure of that Parliament of 1377, is worthy of notice as the first individual to organise factional resistance within the House on a grand scale. Unfortunately, his object was to undo the work of the "Good" Parliament which impeached Latimer and his company of sycophants and leaches. Reactionaries certainly gained the ascendancy then, and their excesses led to the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, with the consequent "Statutes of Labourers" which so damaged the cause of liberty for the people.

In this period, then, legislation tended to become popular rather than the function of a class, but the expression of the people's will in the form of laws did not, nor does it since, always result in the good which was expected. Many of our laws have been failures in that respect, yet in another way they were anything but failures, for they expressed the determination of those in power, however misguided they might be, to do the right thing, to the end of greater and still greater liberty. Their principles may have been at fault, or their methods, but their endeavours, their very mistakes, were the means of progress, for I do believe that they were sincere, and sincerity in all things, but particularly in politics, can bring nothing else but progress ultimately.

If we could have found statesmen in the years leading up to 1914, and since, who were imbued with that spirit, I do not believe that the Great War, with all its terrible aftermath, would ever have been.

Truly, our politicians need to go back into history to learn its lessons and study the Con-

stitution of our country, and perchance some of them might have some sort of right to regard themselves as statesmen.

I do not apologise for dwelling so long on the Middle Ages, for the period is full of detail which we cannot afford to miss, and we shall still have to come back to it again.

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## WATERGUARD SECTIONAL COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the above Committee was held in the Custom House, London, on Tuesday, June 21st, 1927. Chairman, A. S. Lupton, Esq.; Vice-Chairman, J. Merron, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**Bi-monthly payment of salaries.**—The Chairman said the Official Side had carefully considered the Staff's request for bi-monthly payment of salaries to promotees from the A.P.O. to the P.O. Grade, but they could not regard it favourably. They did not, however, see any objection to requests for advances in exceptional circumstances being submitted direct to the Collector for transmission to Headquarters.

**Recruitment to A.P.O. Grade.**—The Chairman indicated that arrangements were now nearing completion for the holding of an examination in the autumn for 75 vacancies. The examination syllabus had been approved, and two years had been fixed as the maximum which ex-Service men, etc., might be allowed in excess of the normal age limit for competitors.

**That members of the Launch Service shall not be retired until the age of 65, but in cases of physical disability, light shore employment shall be provided without reduction in remuneration.**—The Official Side explained certain difficulties which prevented their meeting the Staff's request in this matter. After some discussion, modified proposals were put forward by the Staff.

**Uniform.**—The Official Side stated that agreement had been reached by the informal Sub-Committee on the majority of the points raised and that effect had been given to a number of proposals. The Vice-Chairman said the Staff were well pleased with the improvements made in this connection. On the matter of the supply of mackintoshes, the Official Side hoped to be in a position to make an announcement later.

**Extension of supply of electric lamps to all Asst. Prev. Officers.**—The Official Side said that the matter was still under consideration and requested adjournment until the next meeting of the Committee.

**Accommodation and efficiency of Steam and Motor Launches in the Waterguard Service.**—The Official Side suggested the setting up, as a purely experimental arrangement, a small ad hoc Committee to whom informal notification of

any proposed changes in launches might be sent for observations.

**Leave of Waterguard Officers.**—Following discussion, the Staff Side undertook to furnish a further statement on the claim.

**Seniority of post-war entrants to the Asst. Prev. Officer Grade.**—The Official Side indicated inability to meet the Staff Side's request and the item was adjourned for further consideration by the Staff Side.

**Seniority of candidates for promotion to the Preventive Officer Grade, who, from reasons outside their own control, are unable to attend an examination for promotion to the rank of Preventive Officer.**—The Official Side said they had again carefully reviewed the case which, they understood, had given rise to this reference, but did not consider it possible to make any departure from existing practice. A disagreement was recorded.

**Seizure Rewards.**—The Chairman fully explained the considerations which had prompted the Board to put forward a new basis for the payment of rewards. The matter was adjourned for Staff Side consideration.

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## PRESENTATION TO Mr. HUMPHREY HICKS.

At the St. Katharine's Dock Hotel on Friday evening, July 8th, officers of all grades gathered under the chairmanship of Mr. M. P. O'Flynn to take formal farewell of Mr. Humphrey Hicks, late Preventive Officer, London, on his retirement from the Service, and to present him with a handsome barometer and clock as a small mark of the esteem in which he was popularly held. Felicitous messages were received from Messrs. Briden, Egan, Merron, and others unable to attend.

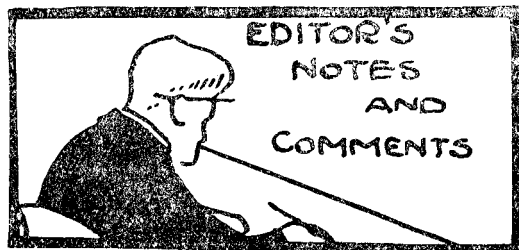
Messrs. Sutton, Standring, Miller, Wilkins, Stevens, O'Connor, Griffiths, Beacher, Fletcher, Evans, Booker, Hughes, Cassidy, and Wright, spoke of their happy official association with Mr. Hicks and their sincere wish that he would live long and change little.

The Chairman, in making the presentation, said that whilst he had not himself had close official touch with their guest, yet there could be no doubt that the strong attendance, coupled with the really warm sentiments expressed by the speakers, made it clear that Mr. Hicks' unassuming and modest manner had won the admiration and, indeed, affection of his everyday working colleagues—those best able to judge a man's worth.

In reply, Mr. Hicks said he took with him in his retirement nothing but pleasant memories of his 38 years in the Waterguard Service; he had seen all-round improvements effected, and for this he thought they owed their thanks to the Associations. His strong parting advice to

everybody was to stand close and support their Associations.

The proceedings were combined with a concert, and altogether a very happy send-off was given to this highly respected officer.



A noticeable feature of the presentation to Mr. Hicks on July 8th was the earnest sincerity of the speeches. There was an eagerness on the part of old and new friends alike to get up on their feet to give expression to the regard they felt for their retiring colleague. There were present several Councillors (it was the evening of the last day of the Conference), who were deeply impressed by the sincerity of the gathering.

\* \* \* \*

We learn that at a recent graduation ceremony at Edinburgh University, the degree of Bachelor of Science was conferred on Miss Dorothy E. Aspinall, younger daughter of Mr. James Aspinall (retired), for some years Preventive Officer at Leith. We are happy to be able to publish this item of news, and hasten to congratulate Mr. Aspinall on the success of his daughter in obtaining this degree.

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We hope to be in a position to publish a report of the Conference in the next issue of the "Customs Journal." The General Secretary touches upon some of the work of the Council in his notes on another page.

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The "Customs Journal" came in for more discussion than usual, and several suggestions for its improvement were put forward. The Council was unanimous on one point, and that was, that it was not considered advisable to continue with the Christmas Number idea. There are quite a number of reasons for this decision, among them being the question of cost, the relation to the Christmas season of the articles submitted, and the fact that the useful articles could be published at any time of the year and would quite possibly be of more use if published at any other time than at Christmas. Another suggestion put forward was that the "C.J." should be published monthly. However, Districts are to be given an opportunity of discussing the future of their journal, and more will be said on the subject later on.

## 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.

## LONDON ENTERTAINS THE COUNCIL.

"You have made a splendid beginning, London! Keep it up!" Thus concluded the account by one of last year's councillors of the drive through London to Hampton Court Palace, organised for the benefit of the members of the 1926 Conference.

This year, on July 5th, the first day of the 1927 Conference, the duties of hosts were again carried out by several members of the London staff, under the leadership of Mr. W. H. Powell, and the evening was devoted to a combined motor coach and motor boat excursion through London to the upper reaches of the Thames. Leaving Anderton's after tea, the party—an extremely amiable one—experienced the thrill of dodging through London traffic to Richmond. The drive took us through some very fine residential districts, where there was plenty of elbow room between houses. Well-kept front gardens were pleasant to gaze upon, and Suburbia looked its best.

The Londoners pointed out places of interest on the way. It is really necessary to have some good Cockney guides on an occasion such as this—the more the better. Very few of us know our Greater London well, and once away from the neighbourhood of the river, where we are all experts, a little uncertainty creeps in. Still, it did not take long to reach Richmond, where a roomy motor boat was waiting alongside to convey the party to those parts of the river where cargo vessels are regarded as interlopers. Past Eel Pie Island and through Teddington Lock to Kingston (where a foreign-going vessel in charge was proudly

pointed out)—the London hosts knew this portion of the river only too well in their experience of the past few years, and were able to keep their guests well supplied with items of interest.

It was during this trip that we witnessed the eclipse. The account of last year's trip contained references to the men of Scotland; but this year the Scot was overshadowed by the men from the West. Wales was so well represented that the party at times took on a real Welsh complexion. It was a member from Wales, too, who kept the party convulsed with his bubbling humour.

We landed at Hampton, and found a room ready for us, where we discussed light refreshment and participated in one of the most enjoyable smoking concerts it has been our privilege to attend. Members of the company contributed various items, with Mr. Bert Rogers at the piano—and there was no lack of volunteers. It was surprising to note the number of those present who were able to do credit to themselves in a song or a monologue. These proceedings closed with a national song of each of the sections of the British Isles, and "The King."

From this distance up river, getting home by way of the river was a late job, but we got to Richmond before the trains had ceased running for the night, and everything went off without a hitch.

There is no doubt that a function such as this on the evening of the first day of the Conference dispels that feeling of strangeness that is evident among the councillors on the first day. There is a noticeable difference in the atmosphere on the day following.

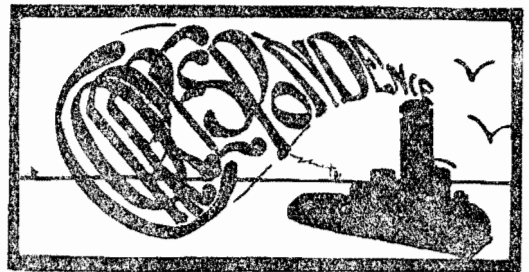
Mr. Powell is to be congratulated on his organisation of a very successful and enjoyable evening, which was thoroughly appreciated by all who took part in it.

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 10. R×Kt   | Q×R+        |
| 11. K—K2   | Kt—Q5+      |
| 12. K—Q3   | B—Kt5       |
| 13. Kt—Q5  | B—R4        |
| 14. P—B3   | Q×RP        |
| 15. P—KKt3 | Q—R7        |
| 16. P×Kt   | P—QKt3      |
| 17. P—QKt4 | B—QR3+      |
| 18. K—K4   | P—KB4+      |
| 19. K×KP   | Q×KKtP+     |
| 20. K×P    | R—K1        |
| 21. B×B    | P—R3        |
| 22. P×B    | Q—KKt4 mate |

All unfinished games in Round 2, Section 1, should be sent to Mr. Doodle on 31st inst. Round 3 in both Sections should commence on August 1st; Section 2 players are asked to play their matches in Rounds 1 and 2 as soon as possible.

Will all members please note that the time limits fixed by the Committee are: For moves, 2½ hours; for games, 3 months. If the limits are exceeded without good reason, the offender forfeits the game under club rules and British Chess Federation Law 43, pars. b and c. Claims for forfeiture of any game should be sent to the Referee together with a sealed move.

Please also note Law 37, par. d. London is one point up in their match with Newport.



**WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB.**

**SECTION 2—ROUND 2.**

L. E. Knight, Sharpness. White.	S. H. Matthews, Newport. Black.
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

- |                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| 1. P—K4        | P—K4    |
| 2. Kt—QB3      | Kt—QB3  |
| 3. Kt—KB3      | Kt—X1B3 |
| 4. Kt—Q5       | Kt×P    |
| 5. Kt—Kt5 ?    | Q×Kt    |
| 6. Kt×P on B7+ | K—G1    |
| 7. P—KR4       | Q—B4    |
| 8. P—KB3       | Kt—Kt6  |
| 9. R—B3        | Q—B5    |

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.

**RETIREMENT.**

Sir,—In the last issue of the "Customs Journal" I noticed that the request for optional retirement at 55 has been raised again.

I am of the opinion that the Waterguard should have the terms of the Prison Warders' Superannuation Act, 1.1.21, made applicable to it.

My reasons for being so desirous are the multitudinous, intricate and often dangerous duties

performed by us, not forgetting the increased flow of promotion caused thereby. I am pleased to state this opinion is shared by an ex-Councillor and my colleagues on this reactionary station.—Yours, etc.,

“NOW NOT YOUNG AT 55.”

◆ ◆ ◆

### MONTHLY SALARY.

Sir,—When commenting upon my contribution to the “Journal” of June 18th, you term the action of the E.C. in referring the monthly payment of salaries scheme back to the Council as “sensible.”

Although only 54 per cent. of the membership voted, there was a decided vote in favour, and I cannot agree that the E.C. took the proper course. If the matter was not of sufficient interest to the remainder of the members to induce them to vote, then their unrecorded wishes should have been ignored. If such consideration were to be extended to members who fail to attend district and local meetings, very little business would ever be transacted.

With regard to the Promotion by Merit scheme, I should like to make a suggestion which I do not think would be detrimental to the interests of the pre-war entrants. I would suggest that the examination should be open to anybody with eight years of service, and who has not already been called up for the second time, and that promotion for those who pass should go by seniority, instead of by the number of marks obtained.

In closing, I should like to say that I do not fail to recognise the value of the Association's work in the settling of local differences. What I wished to imply was that so much time is occupied in discussing matters of interest to the grade as a whole, that the value of a scheme will depreciate to a great extent before it can come into operation.—Yours, etc.,

“FUTURIST.”

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### THE FAILED A.P.O. PROBLEM—WITHOUT AN APOLOGY.

Sir,—Much time and patience has been expended on the burning question of our failed A.P.O.'s, with the not unexpected result of deadlock, practically every Committee (and their name is legion) set up to devise a plan having commenced with the insurmountable handicap of trying to solve a many-sided problem with the one idea—the suiting of individual prerogatives.

These debates, although abortive, may prove of value if only to convince us we must not dissemble if we earnestly wish to help those individuals who are ready and willing to help themselves.

As a sympathetic observer who has taken no little interest in this subject, I have noticed with regret one scheme after another shelved as impracticable—the regrets being for the admitted difficulty of treating the subject, and not for some of the (Gibbertian notions that have cropped up as a result.

The time is long overdue for a little plain speaking, even though plain speaking at any time may be deemed imprudent by some of our Association “sub-hunters,” and we should no longer disguise the fact that the only solution for the absorption of these men is in the Department to which they belong, and the suggestion that they should take what is tantamount to a supervisory position over another Grade, without first having qualified in an executive capacity, is without doubt courting disaster, if ever the measure was seriously admitted as a practicable suggestion on which to state a case.

Scheme after scheme having been rejected, I myself would hardly presume to dazzle your senses with a scheme, so brilliantly conceived so as to cramp the style of the Committee set up by the E.C., in the dim beyond, to deal with this subject. A propos, where is this Committee?

However, after so much preamble, I dare suggest the only feasible solution lies in the direction of slow absorption of these men into the P.O. Grade under the present scheme of promotion by merit.

I advisedly say “slow,” to prevent some of our ex-Service colleagues from rushing violently into print before waiting to finish my tale.

In the future examinations for the P.O. Grade, and particularly the next, there could be included without much inflation a quota—say ten—“third-timers.”

Applications from candidates, with age limit of between 40—45, could be made through the proper channels, where a certain amount of weeding could, and should, be done, for, again, to speak plainly, weeding is necessary; but the “triers” need have no fear on that account, I think.

The effects of such a proposal on the aspirations of our colleagues on the waiting list may cause them some apprehension, but their consideration and generosity may applaud a scheme, which although does not profess to please everybody, aims at giving the “triers” the third chance which it has been my experience to know is all they desire.

There have been various contributory reasons for the failure of some of these men, e.g., studying under difficulties during the war period, when minds were more concerned with “Zep.” bombs than with friendly Mr. Ham. So many causes contribute to failure that it would be difficult to state any root cause of the trouble, but I hope that due consideration would be given to such and similar cases, if and when the time should come to make a closer investigation of the capital stuff with which these “triers” of our Service are made.—Yours, etc.,

BUZZER. ✓