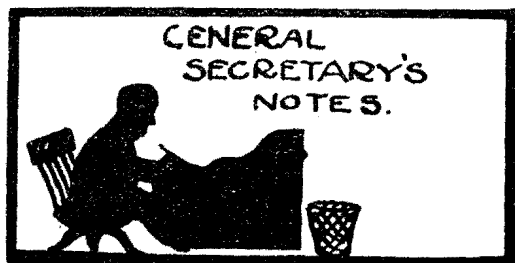


The Customs Journal.

No. 602

November 19th, 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.

Some of us had almost come to believe that those disagreeable persons who are never happy unless slinging mud at the Civil Service had been silenced by a dawning knowledge on the part of the public regarding the absurdity of stating that Civil Service salaries and wages are the root cause of high taxation. It is true enough that the public are gradually coming to see the utter stupidity of the senseless charges that have been made on this score, but, unfortunately, some of the individuals responsible for these attacks on the Civil Service have not yet realised this, and are once more resuming the old game. It is more unfortunate still that foremost amongst these ill-disposed people are some of our legislators, who make free use of newspaper columns to broadcast plausible but unreasoned statements concerning the Service. It is amazing that in this enlightened age so many palpably inaccurate statements made by responsible men are allowed to appear unchallenged in the public Press. The unfairness of it all is accentuated by the fact that Civil Servants, hedged in as they now are by restrictions of all kinds, are in a worse position than ever for defending themselves from this sort of thing.

Judging from the note that has been struck in the recently reopened campaign against Civil Service alleged extravagance, we will need the support of every champion of fair play if we are to survive the menace to our modest incomes.

Few Civil Servants have faith in the assertions that within Whitley is provided all the necessary machinery by which the Service can safeguard staff interests. At the most, it is hoped that this machinery will be so improved as to permit of the benefits with which it is now

credited. In the meantime, developments are watched with some anxiety.

* * * *

It is not at all reassuring to read statements such as were given publicly recently in the "New Civilian" as emanating from Mr. Macquiston, M.P. This gentleman is reported as having said that Civil Servants were too well off and too numerous, and "They were to owe undivided allegiance to the State. Civil Servants did not need trade unions at all, because their job was a gilt-edged one. They took it with their eyes open, and knew that when other people were wondering what they were going to retire upon they would have a comfortable pension and fifteen years' golf. The Civil Servant did not create anything. 'He lives off you and me.'"

This gives some idea of what we are up against, and it is interesting to note that Mr. Macquiston shares the views of our non-members regarding the needlessness of trade unions. We have, fortunately, very few non-members, and the percentage of membership in the P.S.A. is higher than in most other Service organisations.

* * * *

On Monday, the 21st inst., a Staff Side meeting of the Waterguard Sectional Committee will take place, followed by a full meeting on the Tuesday afternoon. Tuesday morning is set apart for a meeting of the Small Port Sub-Committee, and on Wednesday and Thursday of the same week an Executive meeting is being held. It is also expected to squeeze in a special meeting of the Customs Journal Sub-Committee in order that Executive members may attend. It is hoped to confine the Executive discussions to the two days, but as there are some very knotty questions to be dealt with, there is a possibility of the meeting extending to Friday.

This somewhat strenuous week will conclude with the Half-yearly Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation, and after that the Headquarters staff will be able to start thinking about a little leisure.

Preparation for these events is no small undertaking. Committee members coming to London for meetings rightly expect detailed and up-to-date particulars regarding current happenings and all matters for discussion. The co-ordinating of the necessary information involves considerable labour and occupies more time than is generally realised.

* * * *

Once again the Waterguard have had the honour of carrying the Departmental wreath to the Cenotaph on Armistice Day. On this occasion, however, the wreath was actually placed by a representative of the Secretaries' Office,

Mr. C. M. Woodford. This was generally regarded as a most fitting innovation, and one which might have well been adopted before, since it seems only natural that the indoor branches of the Department should take as prominent a part at this ceremony as do the outdoor people. Had it been possible for a member of the Board to have placed the wreath, this would have undoubtedly been received with even greater satisfaction.

The task of organising the Customs and Excise detachment was undertaken, as usual, by Mr. W. H. Powell. Anyone who has experienced the difficulties of getting through an Armistice Day crowd will appreciate the skill required to conduct, amongst such a throng, a band of some fifty or sixty persons. This feat was successfully accomplished, the Cenotaph was reached and the return journey made without a hitch.

The party, consisting of representatives of several branches of the Department, was much larger than last year; and Mr. Powell is to be congratulated on his scheme of organisation which functioned so perfectly.

I mentioned in the previous issue that Mr. Standing had earned distinction by winning his game at the recent big chess tournament held at the Ministry of Health. Since then I hear that another Waterguard man, Mr. R. E. Dudley, Preventive Officer, London, has been equally successful at the Kent County Association Correspondence Match. The Waterguard Chess Club has already made gratifying progress in membership, and these two successes coming at a time when the Club is in process of development will have a most encouraging effect. It looks like being a keen fight to possess the silver cup presented by Mr. C. E. Egan, to be competed for annually.

A proposal to form a Civil Service Club in London is causing much interest amongst Civil Servants generally. It is not the first time this suggestion has been made, but it is always approached rather gingerly through fear of non-success. There seems to be no reason why Civil Servants should be less able than other sections of the community to make a success of such a venture. Social organisations of this nature are essentially English, and, indeed, the word "club" is said to have no equivalent in any other language. Inability to form a Civil Service Club would almost indicate that the Service is lacking in one of the chief characteristics marking the people of a great nation—and that, of course, would be absurd.

Anyway, the Waterguard will not be backward in giving full support should the proposal reach a definite stage.

The Joint Committee of Customs and Excise Associations has recently been considering the filling of a vacancy on the Staff Side of the Departmental Council. At the meeting held on November 1st the seat was allocated to the Coast and Land Preventive Men's Association, and,

therefore, Mr. Jetten, General Secretary of that Association, will in future represent his Grade on the Council.

Members are informed that by an agreement reached on the Departmental Council it will now be possible to obtain from the Department certificates in respect of absences on sick leave. Approved society members will greatly appreciate this concession, as it provides an inexpensive and expeditious means of producing the necessary evidence in claims for sick benefit.

By a National Council agreement the principle has now been established in the Civil Service generally, that no official may be compelled to take time off in lieu of overtime.

In the Waterguard this has been in force since 1914 as a result of Association representations on the subject. Not infrequently, however, the advice of the Association has had to be sought by members complaining of attempts to avoid the regulation. These attempts have in most cases been made in ignorance, and it is hoped that the recent general agreement will help to dispel lack of knowledge regarding the rule.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

GRAVESEND.

The largest attendance for over two years is recorded at the October meeting of the Gravesend District. Mr. A. J. Richardson presided.

A splendid description of the Annual Conference was given by Mr. A. W. Purdye, who answered all subsequent questions to the apparent satisfaction of his interrogators.

The meeting registered an emphatic protest against the increased honoraria given to the officers. There was one dissident.

Items of local interest were discussed, the meeting closing at 10 p.m.

COUNCIL ELECTION.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour of placing my name before you as a candidate for the post of Executive Councillor; and in asking for your support I wish to assure you that, in the event of my election, I shall devote myself wholeheartedly to whatever tasks I may be commissioned or permitted to undertake in the interest of our Grade.

Though I have not hitherto taken a prominent part in the affairs of our Association, I have, nevertheless, followed with keen interest its efforts on our behalf, and I shall, if elected,

spare no effort to co-operate with others in the work of forwarding and pressing the legitimate claims of the A.P.O.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

D. E. A. TUCKER.

ARMISTICE DAY.

Ninth Anniversary—November 11th, 1927.

Commencing somewhere about half-past ten, a steady flow of people of both sexes and of all grades began to filter into the Long Room, culminating at 10.55 to one big crush which all but jammed the entrances.

Just before the hour struck, the Chairman of the Board, Sir Francis Floud, entered by the east door and placed the Board's wreath at the foot of the memorial, closely followed by the various branch chiefs, each placing a wreath on behalf of their staffs. Mr. J. W. Connaway, M.B.E., officiated for the London Waterguard Staff—the wreath being in the shape of a cushion, made up of white flowers relieved by red lettering and by a silk miniature Customs flag sunk in the centre, the whole surrounded by a heavy white silk cord.

The seemingly long silence that preceded the official Two Minutes' Silence was broken by a clear note of the bugle and a sharp click of heels—then silence reigned again. But how different the second silence from the first. The preceding silence was purely one of anticipation—the genuine silence was a solemn realisation. The ceremony lost no dignity by its simple sincerity, and the fine rendering of the "Last Post" on the bugle made a fitting close.

A very representative collection of members from the different branches formed themselves into a guard of honour, and, probably unwittingly, made a good picture as they stood on guard over the Departmental wreath, with the memorial as a background.

At 11.15 the guard of honour proceeded with the Departmental wreath to the Harpy to embark on the launches which were to convey them to Westminster Pier.

It must have been a goodly sight from the bridge at Westminster. Visualise four smart launches, with the wreath and uniformed guard of honour in evidence on the first, coming up with the tide, stem to stern, each swinging off the pier at precisely the correct moment and berthing neatly alongside. It might have been rehearsed, but it could not have been improved upon.

From the pier the guard of honour proceeded, via New Scotland Yard, under police escort to Whitehall, and with due ceremony Mr. C. M. Woodford, M.B.E., did the final honours by placing the wreath at the Cenotaph.

W.H.P.

C. & E. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The eighty-eighth meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on October 19th, 1927, the chair being taken by Sir F. L. C. Floud, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

On behalf of the Staff Side, the Vice-Chairman welcomed Sir Francis Floud to the Department and the Whitley Council. He was confident that the era of the new Chairmanship would be as conspicuous as that of the past in regard to the efficient working of the Whitley machine, and he expressed the hope that the Chairman would find the greatest pleasure and happiness in his new post.

In expressing his appreciation of the kindly welcome extended to him, the Chairman stated that he reciprocated the desire that Whitleyism should continue on the firm foundation laid by his predecessor, Sir Horace Hamilton. He was a firm believer in the system, and was very glad to have been associated with its introduction in his old Department, where, largely through the help received from Mr. Young, then at the Treasury, the first scheme of re-organisation had been agreed in the Whitley Council. Whitleyism, a miniature of what the world was seeking through the League of Nations, rested upon sound argument and a mutual desire to appreciate the opposite point of view, as well as upon the determination to redress legitimate grievances where it lay within their power to do so. It was for each Side to co-operate in the endeavour to make the Department more efficient and a happier place in which to work.

SENIORITY.

The Council adjourned sine die a disagreement reported by the Waterguard Sectional Committee on the question of the seniority of members of the Preventive Officer Grade who for reasons outside their own control were unable to attend an examination for the rank of Preventive Officer, but were successful at a later examination.

PROMOTION.

With regard to the advertisement of vacancies in the Secretaries' Office to which outside recruitment is possible, it was agreed, as a modification of the Staff Side's proposal, that when a vacancy is advertised the attention of the Service will be drawn to the possible consequential vacancy.

APPROVED SOCIETY CERTIFICATES.

The Official Side agreed to sanction the issue of certificates of periods of sick absence on application being made to a superior officer.

COLLECTORS' OFFICES, HIGHER POSTS.

On a report from a special Committee, scales of leave for Senior Chief Clerks, Chief Clerks and Clerks, Higher Grade, were agreed to. The Council also approved a seniority list of Senior Chief Clerks and Chief Clerks.

Disagreement was registered on the Staff Side proposal, respecting the salary of Chief Clerks promoted to all first appointments in Collectors' Offices, that the latter should take effect from the date of the first appointments (May 1st, 1925) without prejudice to a claim for acting allowances prior to that date.

UNATTACHED OFFICERS.

A Committee disagreement, adjourned in 1925, on the Staff Side claim for travelling expenses to Unattached Officers where suitable accommodation cannot be obtained, was now referred back for Committee discussion.

A Staff Side proposal that Collection removals of Unattached Officers be published in appendices of weekly General Orders was withdrawn, it being understood that an acceptable alternative arrangement was in force.

The question of the desirability of issuing a General Order on the agreement respecting the payment of Disturbance Allowance to an Unattached Officer on short periods of sick leave was considered, and adjourned for further consideration by the Official Side.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

The Staff Side moved to reopen the agreement of June 28th, 1922, relative to standards of office accommodation, and indicated the points deemed to warrant reconsideration. The proposal was adjourned.

UNIFORM.

A general agreement covering Waterguard Officers' uniform, reported by the appropriate Sectional Committee, was confirmed by the Council.

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS.

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

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACTS.

The Staff Side suggested that they should have been consulted in regard to the contents of General Order 74/1927 prior to its issue, under the standing arrangement, and also moved for the issue of a complete co-ordinated booklet dealing with the Acts.

In reply it was stated that the General Order was in the main expository; the necessary detailed instructions, contingent upon the issue of any Orders in Council, would be the subject of consultation. The existing instructions on the Acts would be reprinted and issued to the Departments.

STATISTICAL OFFICE.

The Council discussed a disagreement reported by the Office Committee on a scheme of organisation and staffing, the Official Side undertaking, on adjournment, to consider (a) whether every proposal to employ Writing Assistants should be made the subject of Whitley discussion, and (b) whether the position regarding the two remaining "acting" posts should be reconsidered in six months.

" P " CLASS.

The Official Side announced that in connection with recent increases of staff, a number of departmental clerical posts, probably not exceeding 200, must remain on a " P " Class basis so long as this fringe of unestablished posts continued.

UNITS OF WORK.

The Council referred back for reconsideration a Committee disagreement on a Staff Side proposal for a unit allowance for time spent on the public in stations where no public office is provided.

" TAKING OVER."

It was agreed to amend the instructions relating to the allowance, in certain circumstances, of a day between leave periods for taking over and handing over the books of a station, etc.

BEET SUGAR FACTORIES.

Consideration of a Committee disagreement on a Staff Side proposal to make these "time attendance" stations was adjourned.

FIXATION OF OFFICERS, Etc.

The Council ratified local agreements covering the establishment of six posts for Fixed Officers and 98 for Collection Unattached Officers, and adjourned sine die a disagreement on the local Staff Side proposal to add a number of Fixed Officers at Southampton Port pending re-scheming, the Official Side stating that the necessity for any increase on re-scheming was not yet proved.

OLD AGE PENSION WORK.

Upon enquiry by the Staff Side, the Official Side stated that there was nothing to add to previous announcements on the possibility of the transfer of this work from the Department. The Staff Side took occasion to state their opposition to such transfer and undertook to lodge a statement in support of their view.

PORT SCHEMES.

The Council confirmed local agreements covering Grimsby and King's Lynn (Outdoor) and King's Lynn and Gloucester (Indoor). A large number of London Port stations were also dealt with, and with the exception of a disagreed point regarding the re-grading of officials on files, the schemes for Newhaven (Outdoor) were also agreed upon.

OTHER MATTERS.

The Council dealt with a number of other decisions advised by Local, Office, Grade and Sectional Committees, including some which had been provisionally approved and applied since the July meeting, with results that have been communicated to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting was arranged to be held on November 16th, 1927.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman remarked that during the year now brought to a close only 19 of the 200 decisions

reached by the Council had been disagreements. These figures were an indication of the reasonable and patient deliberations of the Council. The only organic change effected was the creation of a Standing Committee to deal with matters affecting the Departmental Clerical Class, while the most notable events of the year were the resumption of recruitment to the Officer and Assistant Preventive Officer Grades and the open competition for entry into the Clerical Grade.

With regard to the Vice-Chairman's remarks, he assured the Council that he felt pride in his appointment, which, although it had come unexpectedly, would have been the very one he would have selected had the choice rested with him. It was one of the most ancient of Departments, with a great history and tradition behind it, and in none was the work more interesting and varied. The Department was also held in good repute by the public, which showed that the Officers lived up to their title of "Civil Servants" in their dealings with the public.

The Vice-Chairman said that they had ample evidence that the Whitley machine had worked well and smoothly. There had been no acrimonious discussion, each Side had appreciated the other's difficulties, and disagreements had been registered without any show of feeling. The Council's tranquillity was not due to Official Side laxity or Staff Side sluggishness. It could be said with candour that since its inception the work of the Council had been of benefit to the State as well as to the Department, and he trusted that this state of affairs would continue.

TO MEMBERS OF A.P.O. GRADE, SOUTH WALES AREA.

Gentlemen,—

Being nominated as candidate for the post of Councillor, A.P.O. Grade, South Wales Area, and having accepted, I respectfully solicit your support when voting.

Since joining the Waterguard, Association affairs have been of great interest to me, and as a District Official I have always endeavoured to execute official business in an efficient manner.

We have many grievances in this Department, but only by collective co-operation and sound representation can we hope to bring about a successful issue.

The question of failed officers is a point I have very much at heart. It has been debated many times throughout the Service, apparently without beneficial results, but I feel sure that all avenues are not yet closed whereby those men may obtain a brighter outlook instead of visions of a "Lamp and Tuck Stick" future.

Should the ballot result in my favour, I can assure you that everything in my power will be done for the betterment of our Grade.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. G. COLBURN.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, October 17th, 1927, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. W. H. James presided over an attendance of twenty-seven.

In connection with the vacant General Secretaryship of the Confederation it was reported that several candidates had been interviewed, and providing satisfactory arrangements could be made with regard to the remuneration to be attached to the post, it was anticipated that a recommendation would be forthcoming at the next Executive meeting.

A report was received that agreement had been reached between the Associations concerned that the "P" Class should not be included in the schedule to be attached to the terms of remit to the Arbitration Court in connection with the claim for revised night rates. It was agreed accordingly to withdraw the request that had been made to the Staff Side of the Subsistence Committee for the inclusion of the "P" Class in the schedule.

Consideration was given to a report of a Sub-Committee appointed by the National Staff Side to consider the acquisition by the National Staff Side of the "New Civilian." It was decided that the Confederation representatives should support in broad principle the favourable recommendation of the Sub-Committee, and should not be precluded from considering any ideas or suggestions that might emanate from other groups.

At the request of the Civil Service Clerical Association it was agreed that the Confederation representatives should move the National Staff Side to ask for the appointment of a special Committee of the National Whitley Council, under the constitutional provision adopted at the meeting of the National Council on July 1st, 1927, to enquire into the conditions of employment of Writing Assistants. It was also decided to give notice to the National Staff Side that the Confederation would move for a similar Committee to enquire into the conditions of employment of the Typing Grades.

It was decided to nominate Mr. W. Ewart Llewellyn for the chairmanship of the National Staff Side, and to nominate Mr. G. Chase for re-election as one of the Secretaries of that body.

An adjourned resolution, "That steps be taken to discharge the Higher Grades Committee of the National Staff Side" was withdrawn, in the hope that this would help towards unity in the Civil Service.

A Report was received from the Finance and Organisation Committee covering the statement of accounts for the half-year ended September 30th, 1927, which was adopted. The Committee also reported that a donation of £50 had been received from the Civil Service Clerical Association implementing a promise previously made in connection with the "P" Class membership of the Confederation.

In connection with an application for affiliation received from the Devonport Dockyard Established Men's Association, the Committee stated that information requested had been supplied and the Association had been recommended to secure affiliation with the Confederation through the medium of the Admiralty Established Civil Servants' Federation.

Certain constitutional amendments arising from the adoption by the Annual Council of the Report upon the Secretariat and Headquarters Staff were submitted by the Committee and adopted for presentation to the forthcoming Half-yearly Council Meeting.

Notice was given that a meeting in connection with the organisation of the waitresses and kitchen staff employed in Government office canteens had been held, at which the Confederation had been represented. It was reported that a successful meeting had been held and an ad hoc Committee had been appointed to consider the question further.

The General Purposes Committee reported that a measure of success had been obtained on both of the Arbitration cases in which the Confederation had recently given assistance, namely, the Association of Sashin Office Clerks (Special Class), and the Attendants' and Repairers' Association, Public Record Office. In both cases the Association concerned had expressed appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Confederation.

The Committee further reported that claims by two Associations for representation on the Administrative Side of the War Office Departmental Whitley Council are being dealt with, and that negotiations are in progress between the Confederation and the Scottish Office on a re-organisation scheme affecting the Accountant of Court's Clerical Association.

A recommendation from the Committee was adopted, namely, to refer to the National Staff Side, with the suggestion that it should be dealt with by the Superannuation Committee of the National Staff Side, the following resolution:—

"That action should be taken to press for the abolition of the over-riding maximum on Bonus Pension."

A claim for payment of charge pay to charge-men employed on overseeing duties had been the subject of prolonged consideration by the Committee, and they recommended that under all the circumstances no action should be taken by the Confederation in this matter. The recommendation of the Committee was accepted.

The following resolution was moved on behalf of the Customs and Excise Federation:—

"That steps be taken on the National Whitley Council to ensure that advertisements on official stationery shall be subject to the approval of the Departments concerned."

After consideration it was decided to ascertain through the National Staff Side whether similar objections were held by any other Associations represented there, and to enquire from the Stationery Office as to the facts regarding the acceptance and approval of such advertisements.

A report received from the delegates to the Congress of the International Federation of Civil Servants and Teachers, held at Nuremberg from September 17th to 20th, 1927, was deferred until the next meeting.

The Special Committee appointed to take any necessary action arising out of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927, presented a report in the form of several documents which had been circulated to constituent organisations, in which were embodied decisions by the Registrar of Friendly Societies on certain points of difficulty which had been represented to him by Confederation representatives.

One point of difficulty in connection with the Act and Regulations from this Report was referred to by a representative of the Admiralty Established Civil Servants' Federation, and an undertaking was given that the Confederation would attempt to resolve this difficulty by communication with the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

The following resolution, moved on behalf of the Customs and Excise Federation, viz., "That, pending the provision of Pensions for Widows of Civil Servants, steps should be taken to extend the privilege of voluntary contributorship under the National Health Insurance Acts to all established Civil Servants," was referred to the General Purposes Committee for report to ensure that this point was adequately covered by existing Confederation policy.

Reports were given of recent proceedings of the National Staff Side, and particular reference was made to the resignation of Mr. W. J. Brown as Chairman of the Staff Side of the Subsistence Committee. The Executive Committee, after hearing the reasons for Mr. W. J. Brown's resignation, unanimously agreed that the Confederation representatives on the National Staff Side should give general support to Mr. Brown in the attitude he had adopted in this matter.

The attention of the Committee was drawn to a recent Treasury Circular in connection with Civil Servants engaging in private occupation, which had been issued without prior consultation with the National Staff Side, and it was intimated that the National Staff Side would probably be taking suitable action in the matter.

BARRY DOCK SEIZURE.

At Penarth Police Court on November 2nd, the chief engineer of the s.s. "Crucy," from Amsterdam, was charged with smuggling 3 lb. 5 oz. O.S. tobacco, 2.40 gall. perfumed spirits, and 1.28 gall. wine n.c. 42 deg. The offender was fined £50.

Messrs. A. R. Sture and H. W. Webber, A.P.O.'s, working under the direction of Mr. Hopkins, P.O., found the goods concealed in the three columns of the main engines.

Mr. J. Keiran, C.P.O., conducted the case for the Department.

SMALL PORT WORK.

By "VAGRHETH."

MERCANTILE MARINE.

In a previous issue I gave a general outline of Board of Trade work as done by a Preventive Officer in charge, but, as the discharge of crews from foreign-going ships is work which particularly affects most small ports, I propose to enter into that phase of the work more fully.

The master of a ship is required to give the Superintendent of Mercantile Marine twenty-four hours' notice of his intention to pay off crew and must deposit the official Log Book and Wages Agreement within forty-eight hours of the ship's arrival. Once the official Log is deposited with the Superintendent none of the entries can be altered, but the master may give a correct entry on a separate sheet of paper, which is attached to the official Log. The wages and effects of deceased seamen, and seamen left behind, must be delivered up with the Log Book and Agreement. It is the duty of the Superintendent to carefully examine the entries in the Log Book and Agreement for statements respecting fines and forfeitures, deceased seamen's wages and effects; wages and effects of seamen left behind; discharges or desertions, and should report all cases in which such entries are not made in proper form. Neglect on the part of the master to enter one offence in the Log may deprive him of his power of proceeding under the Merchant Shipping Act with a view to enforcing punishment for such offence upon his return; and omission to enter in the Master's Book (F.1) deductions from the wages of seamen as they occur, may prevent such deductions being admitted, especially in the case of deceased seamen, or seamen left behind. Care must be taken to observe if any seamen have been irregularly engaged or discharged whilst the ship was abroad. The Superintendent should note if the draught of water has been entered upon each occasion the vessel entered and left a port. In the case of a Cardiff shipowner recently, who was on trial for overloading, and thus causing the loss of the ship, considerable importance was attached to Log Book entries of draught. When the master has neglected to make these entries a report on Form S.103 is to be forwarded to the Board of Trade. Entries with regard to boat drill and inspection of life-saving appliances are to be checked. Enquiries as to births and deaths during the voyage are to be made and the Log Book examined for entries. When the examination of the Log Book and Agreement is completed, the blue backs of the Log Book are to be removed, all relative papers attached, and the documents forwarded to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.

One of the most important duties which a Preventive Officer in charge has to perform as Superintendent of Mercantile Marine is to en-

quire into the cause of deaths aboard ship. It is in the nature of a coroner's inquest, and must in all cases be undertaken by the Superintendent himself. In the case of a death on a foreign-going ship it is his duty to find by examination whether the entry in the official Log is a true record of the cause of death, and it is usually sufficient to interrogate the master, steward, or medical practitioner who grants certificate of death. Where friends or relations demand an inquiry in the absence of a certificate of death by a medical practitioner, the Superintendent is to conduct a formal inquiry, special care being taken in cases where ill-treatment, or any act of master and crew, is concerned. The log is to be endorsed as to cause of death by the Superintendent, and the evidence forwarded to the Board of Trade with Form Inq. 6. In the case of deaths on fishing boats where it is necessary to hold an inquiry, the facts should be reported to the Board of Trade, and Form Inq. 7 forwarded in every case. Although the Merchant Shipping Act does not contain any special provision in regard to deaths on vessels in the home trade, the Superintendent may, if he has cause to suspect that death is caused by ill-treatment or negligence, hold an enquiry, but he has no legal authority or power to compel witnesses to make statements or sign them. He should, however, endeavour to obtain all information and report to the Board of Trade on Inq. 9. Where a coroner's inquiry is held, the Superintendent should exercise his discretion as to holding an informal enquiry and should in any case obtain an official report from the police of the coroner's findings and attach it to Inq. 9. In every case of death on board a ship a return on Form B. and D. 1 should be sent to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen, whilst inquiry reports are forwarded to the Marine Department, Board of Trade. An account of deceased seaman's wages and effects is rendered by the master on Form W. and E. 1. This form is examined by the Registrar-General. A claim is then made by the next-of-kin, which is duly testified before a Superintendent or a minister of religion, and if in order, the Superintendent at the nearest port receives an authority on Form W. and E. 6 to pay the claim and deliver the effects. The payment is brought to account on Schedule 28 at the end of the month, and the relative documents returned with it to the Finance Department.

When a crew is being paid off the Superintendent must see that each man is handed his account of wages and that, as the men are paid in his presence, the amount paid is entered against the man's name in the agreement. The men should be given to understand that, in signing off the agreement, they release the owner

and master from all further liability as regards the wages due for the voyage. When a seaman desires to except from the release any specified claim, he should sign the release on Form M., altered to meet the case, and the claim should be noted on the back of the form and the agreement noted accordingly. In reckoning months, one calendar month is calculated from the day of the first month to the day numerically corresponding to that day in the following month less one. A seaman discharged at a port may arrange to have his wages transmitted to him at the Mercantile Marine Office or Post Office near his home. The master prepares a Form (Dis. 3a) with the names of the men, and enters the gross deductions to be charged against each man's wages. The seaman makes a formal appli-

cation on Form Dis. 3b or Dis. 3bb. The Superintendent then gives the seaman an authority on Dis. 4 or Dis. 4a to claim his wages at his home M.M. Office or Post Office. If the seaman requires it, he may have a railway voucher given him (Dis. 6), which he can exchange for a railway ticket. After making the necessary adjustments, the money received from the master is brought to account on Schedule 37. The seaman's Discharge Book, Form M., and authority are then sent to M.M. Office or Post Office of payment, where, in the case of the Superintendent, the signature of release on Form M., and a receipt for the money on Schedule 40, are obtained.

(To be continued.)

COMMUNISM.

By J. C. O'SHEA.

In its general sense Communism refers to any social system in which all property, or at least all productive property, is owned by the community instead of by individuals. Thus understood it would comprise Communistic Anarchism, Socialism, and Communism in its strict sense. Communistic Anarchism would abolish all private property and, in addition, political government. Socialism would hand over to the State the ownership and management not of all property, but only of the material agencies of production. Now, Communism in its strict meaning demands that both "production goods," such as land and factories, and "consumption goods," such as dwellings and clothing, should be the property of the whole community. It may, therefore, be said to distinguish itself from Socialism inasmuch as it calls for a greater degree of common life and a greater measure of equality. The latter emphasises production and distribution, the former life in common. A further important difference is that Communism implies the organisation of life and industry by small federated communities and not by a centralised State. Absolute Communism, therefore, may be defined as the common ownership of both industry and its products by small federated communities living a common life.

The idea of the communistic principle is nothing new. As a matter of historical fact, it is thousands of years old. Experiments in Communism were made in Athens as far back as 1300 B.C., and at a more recent date in Sparta, but without any great degree of success. From time to time numerous communistic efforts have been made elsewhere, especially in the United States of America, but to claim that they have resulted in Communism is somewhat similar to claiming that the explosion of gunpowder always means war.

Plato, a student of Socrates, and Sir Thomas More, a Lord Chancellor of England, both expounded, with great skill, the idea of an ideal commonwealth.

Plato in his "Republic" held that the State exercised unlimited power. Accordingly, the latter should control education, marriage, births, the occupation of its citizens and the distribution and enjoyment of goods. It should enforce perfect equality of conditions and careers for all citizens and for both sexes. Nevertheless, it was intended that this ideal State should have slaves. The scheme was essentially aristocratic in the original meaning of the word. It advocated government by the intellectually best. Plato himself wrote, "Unless philosophers become rulers, or rulers become true and thorough students of philosophy, there shall be no end to the troubles of the States and humanity." The unreality of it all and the remoteness of its chance to be tested by practice must have been evident to its author, for, at a later date, in his "Laws" he sketches a modified scheme which though, he thinks, inferior to the plan outlined in the "Republic" is, nevertheless, nearer to the level of what the average State can attain.

In 1516 More's "Utopia" was published. When he wrote, the dark evening of the bright morning of the Middle Ages was approaching. The withdrawal of large tracts of land from cultivation to be used for sheep raising, the curtailment of the tenants' rights to the common and the rise in rents had already begun to produce insecurity and poverty. By way of contrast to those conditions, More drew his ideal picture of the State of Utopia. In Utopia all goods are held in common and all meals are taken at the public table. There is no community of wives, such as Plato advocated in the "Republic," but the dignity and sacred rights

of the family and of the individual are upheld. Again, however, there are slaves to do all disagreeable work, but they are all convicted criminals. The work is really an exercise of the imagination with much really brilliant satire on the world of the time. Real persons, such as More himself, take part in the dialogue with Raphael Hythlodaye, a mythical character, who, in the course of his wanderings, chanced on the Island of Utopia. As a result, an air of reality pervades the whole, which leaves one sadly puzzled as to where truth ends and fiction begins. This would appear to be precisely what the author intended. There can be little doubt that he would have been as delighted at entrapping William Morris, who discovered in it a complete gospel of Socialism, as he must have been with his contemporaries who proposed to hire a ship to send out missionaries to his non-existent island.

The assertion so often made, that Christianity in its beginning was communistic, is without much foundation. Certainly, at Jerusalem the lives of a few were governed by the communistic principle. The arrangement, however, which was entirely voluntary and spontaneous, only existed for a very brief period. Most of the ascetic and monastic orders which have existed, and which exist to-day, exhibit some of the features of Communism. Their Communism, if it may be so described, differs from that of the economic Communists in that its primary object is not, and never has been, a more just distribution of goods. Furthermore, one very important feature of Communism is wanting to nearly all these communities, namely, common ownership and management of the material agents of production from which they derive their sustenance. In this respect they are more akin to wage-earning bodies than to communistic organisations.

Communism is held out by many to-day as the golden key to a new life where practically all of the social evils would be unknown and where man would be assured of the means of living a full and free existence under a just economic code. On the other hand, there is the voice of the people proclaiming that legally enforced Communism is disproved by the verdict of experience, and that it is a mistaken, although perhaps a well-meant, interpretation of the sublime moral truth that all human beings are equal in the sight of the Creator and that all have essentially the same needs and the same destiny. It may be, as somebody has said, that unless we succeed in restoring the Institution of Property, we cannot avoid restoring the Institution of Slavery.

PRESENTATION.

Mr. J. W. DONOVAN.

At a smoking concert at Gravesend on October 28th Mr. J. W. Donovan, P.O., who has retired after serving 35 years in the Department, listened to sixteen speeches in his praise,

Thirty-four years of his service have been spent at Gravesend.

Mr. E. L. Sharrcock presided, supported by Mr. J. A. O'Connor. Among the large gathering were Mr. W. Donaldson, I.S.O., M.B.E. (late W.S.), Mr. W. J. Blake (late C.P.O.), Mr. J. Gleeson, Mr. J. Forde, and Dr. Pentreath (Port Sanitary Authority). The Immigration Staff was represented by Mr. T. W. Yeldham. Messages of good wishes were received from colleagues at Sheerness and Chatham, Mr. F. C. Cook, M.B.E. (Home Office), and Mr. A. B. Cubitt (C.I.O.).

The speeches conveyed many deep expressions of friendship. Dr. Pentreath took advantage of the opportunity of commenting upon the cordial relationship existing between the officers of the Port Sanitary Authority and the officers of H.M. Customs.

The presentation, which took the shape of an inscribed gold watch, was made by Mr. W. H. Heath, who, amid applause, urged Mr. Donovan to wear it out. Mr. Donovan, in his reply, found it a hard drag to part with good pals. He thanked the assembled company for the honour that had been accorded him.

The presentation was made during an excellent concert, contributed to by Messrs. C. J. Prisley, W. H. Heath, W. Varney, T. Maynard, J. De Mora, R. J. Hammond and A. R. Millward. Mr. H. Taylor's accompaniments were greatly appreciated.



We continue to receive messages expressing regret at the discontinuance of the N.Q.A. Column. This feature disappeared in consequence of the author's activities on the Central Committee of the Vocational Education Scheme. As mentioned in our notes of September 10th, enquiries are received from officers of all grades, and it is impossible to ignore the wishes of Association members who desire to make use of this publication. The members of the Central Committee have their hands much too full to contribute articles such as were supplied by "Scrutator." The important work they perform takes up much more time than is generally realised.

We would remind our readers that the "Customs Journal" exists primarily for the use of members of the P.S.A., and although full use has not ordinarily been made of these pages, there is no reason whatever why this should not be done if members will take the trouble to

communicate with the Editor. It is a mistaken notion that articles on the regulations cannot be published. There are many subjects that could be treated from time to time. Opportunities are, also, seldom sought for obtaining information through this channel. Members are quite entitled to ask questions on such subjects as Association Policy, Finance, Regulations, etc. Enquiries would be forwarded by the Editor to the proper quarter demanded by the nature of the enquiry—to the General Secretary, Organising Secretary, Central Committee Secretary, and so forth, and replies published as received.

We wonder that advantage is so seldom taken of the facilities that could be afforded by the "Customs Journal."

We would welcome such enquiries.

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An article in a recent number of "John o' London's Weekly" on the subject of smuggling is distinctly refreshing. The public Press, as distinct from the daily Press, seems to take a much more thoughtful view of the question. The article suggests that to what extent the present recrudescence of smuggling is attributable to the reduction of the coastguard force is highly debatable. History fairly clearly indicates that a "boom" in smuggling is to be expected when tariffs are raised to high levels and when duties are levied on easily concealed articles. "The Revenue forces of to-day are highly organised and impeccable, whereas in earlier times an alliance between smugglers and the forces of the law was not unknown. Moreover, although the ordinary citizen may still regard smuggling as a venial offence, he is scarcely likely to afford that actual assistance in the disposal of the goods which was such a valuable asset to those engaged in 'Free-Trading' in olden times."

We note with gratitude that there is still encouragement and appreciation to be had from our fellow countrymen at a time when certain sections are only too ready to regard us and the Civil Service in general as a horde of parasites.

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Welcome to the latest addition to Civil Service publications. "The Immigrator," monthly, is, as its title suggests, the official organ of the Immigration Officers' Association. No. 1 made its appearance in October. "The Immigrator" bids fair to prove itself of immense value to the organisation it serves, and we wish it all success in its future.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

To November 7th, 1927.

TRANSFERS.

Preventive Officers: Exchange—Chaplin, E. P. E., Leith, with Welsford, E. F. W., Swansea.
Assistant Preventive Officers: Exchange—McLaughlin, L. J., Leith, with Mitchell, M. C., Granton, Leith. Butterworth, A., Manchester,

to Partington, Manchester; Kennedy, T. T., Liverpool, to Glasgow.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

Retirement.—Assistant Preventive Officer: Jones, C., Partington, Manchester.

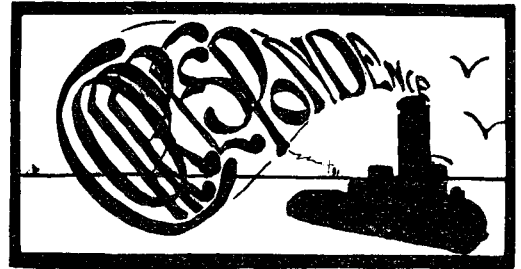
Death.—Assistant Preventive Officer: Chapman, J. T., Hull.

VACANCIES.

Preventive Officers.—Greenock, 1.12.1927; Falmouth, Plymouth, 15.12.1927.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Chaplin, A. W., Chief Preventive Officer, Upper Section; Jackson, R. S., Preventive Man.



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.

HONORARIA.

Sir,—At a London meeting prior to the Conference a proposal for a reduction of the subscriptions of A.P.O.'s (on the ground of the difference between the salaries of P.O.'s and A.P.O.'s) was turned down. A member who opposed the proposal said that if this was allowed to go forward it would cripple the Association. I might say that the Council is trying to bring this about by giving increased honoraria at a time which is not opportune.

The reason the London meeting of September 15th was unanimous in its agreement with the Council's action on honoraria was that the Conference had by then awarded an increase and the action had to be abided by.

What we should know (by way of our journal) is the amounts of the increases to Association officials, the present amounts, and the reasons for the increases.—Yours, etc.,

A.E.S.

THE PAY OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

Sir,—The replies of Mr. S. E. D. Ball and "Ex-Boy Messenger" to my previous letter are to be commended in one respect only—they both advocate the spirit of unity among our members, which is a very commendable state of

mind. I would point out, however, that their arguments are based on the probable success of a general claim for increased pay, which is a matter of considerable doubt if we are guided by the Post Office awards and our General Secretary's notes on the subject. These latter, in my opinion, are discouraging, to say the least.

Need I say more as to our prospects in this direction? But it is generally admitted that the 1923-5 ex-Service men have a genuine claim to increased pay, that they are labouring under a great injustice, and not only is their pay inadequate, but totally unfair by comparison with earlier ex-Service entrants.

Why this disparity? In all other matters we are equal—work, responsibilities, etc.—there is no reason whatever for favoured treatment, and, like Mr. Ball, we shall be pleased to forget our "Ex-Service" title only when we receive equal pay.

Furthermore, I contend that this is an urgent matter that our Executive should take up immediately instead of ignoring the difficulties under which we exist, and waiting to be pushed into action.

Also, we should not lose sight of the fact that an Arbitration Court may reduce wages, and that possibly our general scheme for increased pay may ultimately prove to be one of reduction to the level of the 1923-5 ex-Service men, which would mean a further host of men qualifying for Mr. Churchill's post.

In conclusion, I must say that under ordinary conditions I disapprove wholeheartedly of sectional claims, but the exceptional circumstances of this case are very obvious and warrant such a course being taken. In Liverpool, I am pleased to say, we have the support of a number of members who are not concerned in the claim who, far from dubbing us selfish, believe we are entirely justified in asking for what is, at the most, fair play.—Yours, etc.,

A.E.F., Liverpool.

(The essential point, i.e., that the case has been fought (in 1924) is not dealt with in this letter.—Ed.)

APATHY.

Apathy—otherwise, indifference or listlessness; one sometimes wonders if this state is bred through pure cussedness, laziness or selfishness. Is there much of it in the P.S.A.? I believe that there is, far more than there ought to be. Take a glance at the minute books of the various districts, and you will note the poor attendances at the majority of the meetings.

I believe that it is caused by too many of the members thinking "It's nothing much to do with me, let someone else do it," or "They can get on without me." Ask a number of non-attenders the day following a meeting what kept them away, and ten to one one of these excuses will be advanced, unless one, holder than the rest, tells you to mind your own business. Yet you will find that the majority of those who fail to attend are the first to complain if things fail

to go just as they think they ought. "Why can't we get this or that?" "Why doesn't the Association take action?" We hear threats of resignation. If the local officials do not act according to expectations, great are the lamentations; but this type of grumbler seldom has the courage to attend a meeting and state his views. No, it is in the office that he is heard at his best—or shall we say worst?

I ask them, is it fair? Meetings are usually held once a quarter, and surely it is not a lot of time to give to the Association, at the outside sixteen hours per annum. Is it fair that District officials should do all the work, only to receive in return many complaints that could be obviated by a smaller show of inertia? The arguments given in the office should be ventilated in the meeting.

Another type of individual is the one that is disgruntled because he is not asked to take up office of some sort. I don't say too much about him because his motives are worthy, and I admire him for wishing to take active part. This should not keep him from meetings. We cannot all be officials at the same time. Their turn will come if only they attend meetings and make themselves heard. Their colleagues will be able to estimate their worth.

There is also the sad case of the individual who is tucked away at a small place and is unable, through considerations of distance and difficulties of travelling, to attend his District meetings. He lets all interest drop, fails to reply when his District Secretary forwards to him reports and agendas, and never gives the opinion that may be of some value. There is nothing more disheartening than to try and stimulate interest in various quarters and to receive no response.

I think everybody that has the interest of the Association at heart, but has, through some reason or other such as I have mentioned, allowed interest to flag, should make some attempt to overcome the indifference that is getting the upper hand. Don't let your voice be always heard only in the wrong place. Attend the meetings, or if that is impossible, communicate with your District Secretary and air your views that way. He will be bucked to know that interest is alive in his District, and your views will be of considerable help. By doing this the Association will be materially strengthened.

"BRIT."

CUSTOMS WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB.

Much interest is being aroused by the gradual progress of the Waterguard Chess Club, which has now firmly established itself within the sphere of the social activities of the Waterguard staff.

The Club has now twenty-four playing members and five Vice-Presidents, and hopes shortly to be able to announce the name of its first President. The objects of the Club are to encourage the playing of chess and to foster and

increase the spirit of friendship among its members.

At present the members are engaged in a tournament divided into two sections of ten players each, with games against each other in the sections. The Club is now affiliated to the Kent County Chess Association, and as a result three of its members have played in representative games in the Kent v. Sussex and the Civil Service v. The Rest matches. There are also two teams of five players each engaged in a correspondence tournament managed by the Kent County Association. Of these ten matches the first result is already to hand, and is a win for the Waterguard, one member of "B" team being successful in ten moves.

The Committee is at the moment busily occupied in formulating a comprehensive programme for the next playing season, which is due to commence about May 1st, 1928.



The Club is fortunate in having the active interest of Mr. C. E. Egan, C.P.O., who is the first Chairman, to whom the members are deeply indebted for the gift of a silver Championship Cup (seen above), which is to be competed for annually. The Committee has decided that the winner of the present tournament shall be the first holder of this cup, and in future seasons the cup shall be competed for on the K.O. system. Should the trophy be won on three separate occasions by one member, it shall become the property of that particular member.

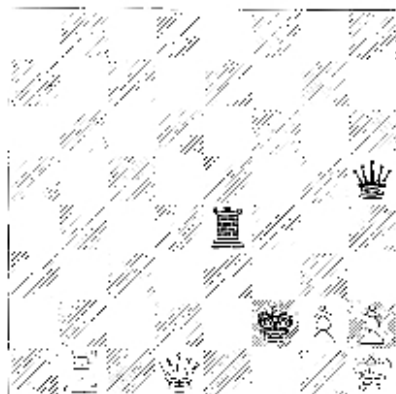
The progress of the Chess Club, together with the keen interest displayed in its welfare throughout the country by Inspectors, Superintendents and Chief Preventive Officers, is yet another sign of the healthy and steady advance in status of the whole Department. Who, a few years ago, would have dared to predict that members of the Waterguard would be members of the same team as a member of the Hon. Board and play together in the same match? But such has actually happened. On the other hand, who would now dare to say that such social activity which is now manifesting itself among us cannot but reflect upon the official duties of those who participate in healthy and educational pastimes?

The success of the various social enterprises already under weigh in our Department is due in no small degree to the human interest shown by our administrative superiors, an interest which, in the past, was very conspicuous by its absence.

Evolution of this nature is bound to proceed, and one might predict that in the future the whole framework of our present system of welfare may be completely changed. Is it not possible for every member of our Department to become a member of our social club, which could also embrace the activities of the P.S.A.? We could then have one body guiding and improving not only our Service interests, but also our off-duty activities. After all, do not these two interests go hand in hand?

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PROBLEM No. 3.



Black to move and mate in two.

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Solution to No. 2.

1. P-Kt6. 2. R-B8.

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CUP CONTEST.

Section 1.

Round 3.—Mr. Boodle beat Mr. Dudley.

Section 2.

Round 2.—Mr. Douglas beat Mr. Ellis, adjudicated; Mr. Sandford beat Mr. Terry.
Round 4.—Mr. Douglas beat Mr. Smallwood.