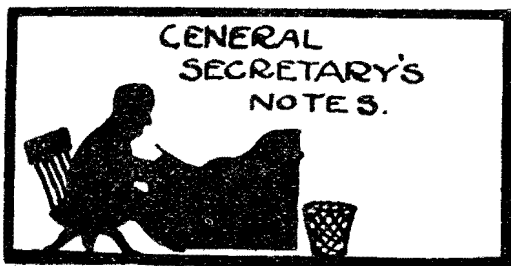


The Customs Journal.

No. 592.

July 2nd, 1927.

Fortnightly.



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

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

The meeting of the Waterguard Sectional Committee, held on June 21st, was productive of some very satisfactory results. At the time of writing it is not permissible to comment upon the proceedings in detail, but efforts are being made to have an agreed Report ready for publication elsewhere in this issue.

There was on the Agenda only one item emanating from the Official Side. This was the new reference regarding Seizure Awards. The Staff Side were treated to a very clear exposition of the Official views regarding the basis of these awards. The subject is full of possibilities for argument, and will, no doubt, occasion some lively discussion during Conference. Councillors would be well advised to give some time to studying the existing system of awards so as to be well prepared for the debate.

The most important of the remaining items were: Annual Leave, Uniform, Mackintoshes, Electric Lamps, and the efficiency of Customs Launches. From the tone of the discussions it was obvious that the Official Side has taken great interest in these questions, and the Staff Side were much impressed with the efforts being made to reach satisfactory conclusions.

It is unfortunate that a decision on the question of Annual Leave cannot be reported to the Conference. The Staff Side feel they have a very strong case, but it must be admitted that prevailing conditions make it imperative that examination of the merits of such a claim shall be exhaustive. Justification for any concession involving expense requires to be proved up to the hilt.

As was anticipated in these columns, the report on Uniform will be most satisfactory. Practical co-operation between the Official and the Staff Side of the informal sub-committee dealing with this subject has borne good fruit. It is, of course, quite impossible that complaints regarding Uniform could entirely be abolished, but it can safely be said that we are well on the way towards attainment of the possible maximum of satisfaction. The morale of the staff cannot help but be improved by the knowledge that a more human view is now being taken of their natural desires to be as respectably clothed during official hours as they are when off duty.

It will no doubt be of great interest to members of the P.S.A. to hear that Mr. A. E. Howell attended the meeting of the Waterguard Sectional, as a member of the Official Side. Mr. Howell is not exactly a stranger to the Committee, but this is his first appearance in the new role. His knowledge and experience of Whitley negotiations is pretty well respected and is still remembered.

The contribution by "Futurist" to the previous issue of the "Journal" cannot be passed by without comment. His letter is commendable for its vigour but not for accuracy. The exhortation to the younger members to wake up and let the Councillors know what they want is all to the good. The Executive would heartily endorse this advice, and if it were adopted, then District meetings would be much livelier affairs than they are at present, and Councillors would have less difficulty in discovering the wishes of their constituents.

"Futurist" has failed to realise that what he describes as lack of action on the part of the Executive is not due to apathy on the part of that Committee, but is the direct outcome of lethargy amongst the younger members. It is true that there is a vote in favour of monthly pay for A.P.O.'s, and it is also true that the E.C. conducted the plebiscite with promptitude and thoroughness, but what "Futurist" overlooks is, that despite all this, only about 50 per cent. of the membership could be prevailed upon to record their votes. It is an important matter, and the Executive being a democratic body, took the sensible course of referring the whole question back to the Council.

Again, we have a similar state of affairs regarding Promotion by Merit. A really live scheme was presented by the Executive to the Conference in 1926. This scheme suffered numerous amendments, until finally it was wiped out of existence. The E.C. was, in fact, instructed to formulate a new scheme based on new

points raised at the Council. The humour of the situation was, however, that no new points were raised—in effect, the principle of Promotion by Merit was itself rejected. This might not have happened had the younger members of the P.S.A. taken the trouble to attend District meetings for the purpose of expressing their opinions for the edification of Council members.

The settlement of local differences is not so unimportant a business as "Futurist" appears to think. There is at the moment at least one important port where this will be fully endorsed. The Districts form the roots of the Association, and if these are not kept healthy, the fruit will be scarce. An examination of a year's record of the Association's local activities would reveal clear evidence of the important bearing they have upon the main general questions. Proof that the Executive is vigilant and active regarding the broad issues will be found in the Annual Report about to be presented to the Conference. No one can say that the E.C. have not faithfully carried out their instructions during the year. They have, in fact, that ideal quality in any Executive body, of owning ideas somewhat in advance of the ordinary members.

Since "Futurist" has described the post-war entrants as the men who will prevent us from losing the great benefits the Association has already gained, it might be well to mention that out of the four A.P.O. representatives on the Executive, three of them are post-war men. Each of them is an acknowledged "live wire," and it is certain that not one of them would say he was out of harmony with his colleagues on the Committee.

* * * *

The issue of the revised copy of "Smuggling" regulations is welcomed with open arms by the staff. So far there is nothing but satisfaction expressed regarding the improved lucidity. The note of explanation in connection with Spirits in paragraph 1 seems to be much appreciated.

* * * *

The recently issued book entitled "Customs Regulations and Procedure" has been examined with a good deal of interest by Waterguard Officers. The sections devoted to descriptions of Waterguard formalities have, of course, received most attention. The chief comment appears to be that only a very bare picture of Waterguard work is presented and that an efficient P.O. really requires to have a practical knowledge of the bulk of the work described throughout the book. The publication is, however, merely an outline of Customs regulations, and, as such, it is a useful and interesting guide.

* * * *

The "Sunday Express" has published an extraordinary account of the smuggling exploits of an ex "Black and Tan" officer. He is said to have cleared a profit of £500 in six months. It is a pity his confessions did not include some reference to the method of disposal of the contraband.

The description of his encounter with "a couple of Customs men in a launch" is not at

all convincing. If there is any truth whatever in the yarn, it is pretty obvious that the gentleman concerned is being deliberately inaccurate in the details.

* * * *

The possibility of an examination for Preventive Officer being held next Spring is having an effect upon the membership roll of the Educational Scheme. The Central Committee are much alive to the situation, and, as well as coping with the work already in hand, they are making preparations to cater for the inevitable rush of applicants that will surely follow any announcement that an examination will take place.

* * * *

This month brings a further fall in the cost-of-living figure, which now stands at 63, as compared with 64 last month. The average figure for the previous period of six months was 75½, causing the operating figure to be 80. The average up to date for the current six months is 65½. There seems small likelihood that the governing figure for the next revision will be more than 65. In this case a drop of three twenty-sixths in the bonus will occur.

We are nearing the time when proposals for consolidation will be forthcoming, but there is no eagerness on the part of those who have studied the question to enter into negotiations of this nature at present.

J. MERRON.

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PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

RESULT OF ELECTION OF A.P.O. COUNCILLOR, LIVERPOOL AREA.

Members of the Liverpool Area are hereby notified that Mr. J. C. O'Shea, Asst. Preventive Officer, has been duly elected A.P.O. Councillor.

J. T. SUTTON,

Organising Secretary.

◆ ◆ ◆

TEST PAPER FOR PROMOTION TO C.P.O.

Written test taken by candidates for promotion to the Chief Preventive Officer Grade on June 10th, 1926.

* * * *

Write a report to the Board on one of the following:—

(Time allowed, 1½ hours.)

(1) Describe the regulations governing the importation of goods liable to Ad Valorem duties brought in passengers' baggage, or as crews' private effects.

State fully how you would deal with a case brought to your notice by a Preventive Officer in which silk dresses were found concealed in a passenger's baggage which was being declared by an agent.

(2) Assuming that as a Chief Preventive Officer you are visiting a newly-appointed Coast Preventive Man for the first time.—Report fully what procedure you would adopt so as to ensure that he became conversant with the duties of his office.

Note.—Only one subject to be taken.

SOUTHAMPTON.

A meeting was held at the Alexandria Hotel on April 28th, under the chairmanship of Mr. Jones, A.P.O. A fair number of members were present.

The proposal to place the resolution regarding the abolition of seizure rewards on the agenda of the Conference was carried.

The question of the rotation of duties was raised, and it was decided to place a resolution in favour thereof on the Local Whitley Council.

On the subject of conveying Landing Officers backwards and forwards to tankers, as a result of discussion, suggestions were put forward.

A large number of local grievances were keenly discussed and the action thereon agreed upon.

The meeting closed at 10 p.m.

A meeting was also held at the Alexandria Hotel on June 2nd. The chair on this occasion was occupied by Mr. Northfield, A.P.O.

It was agreed that the appointment of a P.O. and an A.P.O. at Eling was urgently necessary.

A proposal from Weymouth re cap covers was discussed and approved, subject to the amendment that two cap covers be supplied, the covers to be a size larger than the cap.

The suggestion from Weymouth re retirement at fifty-five was debated, subject to the proposition being amended to read "optional retirement."

The local officers were duly elected, and the meeting closed at 10 p.m.

[I understand that experiments are already being made on the subject of cap covers, and that future issues will probably be found more satisfactory.—Ed.]

HARTLEPOOL.

A meeting was held on June 9th. The District Organiser reported that the District was in a sound condition. There were fifty members out of a possible fifty-seven.

The report of the Whitley Council representatives was received.

The following officers were appointed:—Chairman, Mr. Staniland, A.P.O.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Roberts, P.O.; District Secretary and "Customs Journal" Correspondent, Mr. Warren, P.O.; District Organiser, Mr. Oak, A.P.O.

Local grievances were dealt with. Questions were asked with reference to the forthcoming Conference, and it was decided to call a special meeting upon receipt of the Conference agenda.

A special meeting was held on June 23rd to discuss the agenda of the Conference. A lively discussion took place on several of the items, and the meeting signified its assent or dissent on the various questions appearing for discussion by the Council.

DOVER.

A District meeting was held at the "Queen's Head" Hotel on Wednesday, June 8th. Various matters of local interest were disposed of. The meeting considered the question of the seniority of the post-war entrants, and after an interesting discussion, unanimously passed a resolution that age in yearly groups be the determining factor. A proposal re seizure rewards was adjourned for further local discussion.

The election of officers followed, resulting in the following being elected:—Chairman, Mr. Goldsmith, A.P.O.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Rolls, P.O.; District Secretary, Mr. Deans, A.P.O.; District Organiser, Mr. Rolls, P.O.

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.

PAT'S GOOD POINT.

Pat was a good husband, but occasionally he would go on the spree while his family got along as best they could.

When he died suddenly the neighbours were shocked, and a kindly woman chatting over the fence with Pat's wife tried to comfort her by talking of Pat's good points. "He was such a man of principle," she said. "And am I not the one to know it?" replied the wife. "Sure and every Saturday night from the first day we were married didn't he come home and place his pay envelope in front of me as regular as a clock. Not once did he miss all the time we were married. Of course, the envelope was always empty, but look at the principle of the thing."

PARLIAMENT.

By "CARACTACUS."

III.—THE MIDDLE AGES.

It gave me very definite pleasure to read our General Secretary's remarks on this series, because they are particularly cogent in these days of industrial attack and counter-attack through the political machine, and because they indicate study such as makes him invaluable in the position which he occupies. We will try to examine the industrial aspect later on.

He has forestalled me, too, in touching upon the trend of the times towards centralisation, and the growing conflict of purpose between Common Law and Statute Law.

I disagree with him entirely, however, in his final remark, for Communism, or rather, what the world nowadays calls Communism, promises only a minority dictatorship founded upon force, and that is a vastly different and more evil thing than a centralised popular government. In some directions, too, it must be remembered that centralisation is not only desirable, but necessary, and as we live to-day, even inevitable. The difficulties, as I see them, are to decide *where* it is necessary, and to ensure that it shall not be indiscriminate.

If readers will keep his remarks in mind, however, they will serve as an admirable introduction to a future article.

We have briefly followed the evolution of Parliament as a whole; we shall now turn to the Middle Ages preliminary to concentrating on the House of Commons.

The Lower House has, from its earliest beginnings, been by far the most potent power in building up our Constitution, and the most significant factor in its preservation and interpretation, and from the end of the twelfth century onwards had an ever growing effect on the national exchequer. It is the House of the common people, and in its study we must go back to the people, and more particularly to their local life, for there we can best trace the stages of development of our embryo House of Commons.

At a time when Parliament and Crown were remote entities to the people, it was to the shire court or hundred that they sent their representatives on that business which immediately touched their everyday lives. It was there that they formed their first conception of citizenship, in feeling the impulse of common right and common duty; it was there that they took their first lessons in self-government, local government. Or *was* there a first lesson? For local government, also, was like Topsy—it just grew! In the shire court the people's representatives were appointed to present criminals for trial, to assess taxes, etc. The custom appears to have arisen of choosing certain knights of the shire

to act on behalf of the whole, and so the principle of representative action came to be established, to be confirmed later on when the king called such representatives to London to confer with him, but of that we will speak presently.

In the beginning of the twelfth century there began to be sent to the shire courts representatives of the central authority, more and more regularly as time went on, to oversee the collection of taxes and other moneys for the king's purse, and to consult with the shires on matters touching the king's needs. They were not then judicial, although now, of course, they have become legal circuit justices pure and simple.

At the beginning of the thirteenth century, then, the two principles had been accepted that the purse of the Crown was the business of the people, and that the people could best express themselves through delegates. It was then began the greatest period of development and definition of our Constitution, and, by reflection from us, of continental Constitutions, a long period of peace encouraging the process. Then, too, town life began to loom more largely and to develop as a breeding-ground for political thought.

Because the king was in constant financial need, he called his barons and the knights, citizens and burgesses together, in order to estimate what the country would give him, and their vigilant insistence on the sanctity of Charters effectually prevented indiscriminate taxation. Already the king was, to some extent, a suppliant. He was quick to recognise the importance of the new class of merchants and traders, of whom the citizens and burgesses were largely representative, and it was as well, for the same conditions which favoured constitutional progress also vitalised commercial and industrial development. Perhaps here, rather than in Stevenson's time, was the beginning of the industrial era. The Flanders wool trade was prospering and a home wool trade was springing up; merchants were beginning to exploit the wine trade in the Mediterranean, and to seek new markets and fields for development. To these ends they wanted trading facilities, and the king was astute enough to see that they would be willing enough to pay for them.

From the stage of being a money-finder, Parliament evolved into something much more important. Before granting money to the king, it would present grievances and demand a settlement. It is still primarily a place for such redress. It began to express its opinions in no uncertain tones on matters of moment of the day.

Simon de Montfort, when he had defeated the king in 1265, summoned Parliament, in order to

feel the strength of moral support he might expect from the people.

He went to the country. The trend of events is clear.

Nearly at the end of the century, Edward I. called a full Parliament to discuss the French and Scottish wars and the harassing of the barons. In the writs of summons appeared the words, "What touches all should be approved by all." The people were quick to seize upon this enunciation of another great principle. It indicates, too, a change of conception of the royal function, that the king was a *national*, not a sectional ruler, and that national responsibility was a joint one between him and the representatives of the people. The king realised that a consensus of public opinion and national favour was worth an additional army to him. Because the true resources of a country are vested in the people, it was inevitable that their assembly should ultimately dominate the Crown.

But note this; that while the populace might be divided into the four classes—ecclesiastic, warrior landowner, merchant and serf—Parliament did not take exactly the same form, even though there was a degree of segregation. If it had, it would probably have decayed as did those on the Continent. Instead, there came a saving unity in the struggle which had begun against the Crown, and which came to a head, at the cost of a head, with the Stewarts.

In 1254, war having drained the king's purse, he asked his barons for money. They expressed their willingness to oblige, but regretted that the smaller gentry would not pay. The king, therefore, instead of sending out his itinerant justices to the shires, invited the knights of the shires to Westminster in order to find out whether it was true that they really would not pay up and look pleasant. Hence a pure accident caused this new departure. The king got nothing from the experiment, and, having nowhere else to turn, raided the Church, thus making another powerful enemy.

In 1261, war having drained the king's purse, he asked his barons for money. They expressed their willingness to oblige, but regretted that the smaller gentry would not pay. The king, therefore, instead of sending out his itinerant justices to the shires, invited the knights of the shires to Westminster in order to find out whether it was true that they really would not pay up and look pleasant. Hence a pure accident caused this new departure. The king got nothing from the experiment, and, having nowhere else to turn, raided the Church, thus making another powerful enemy.

In 1261, we find the king appealing to the "communes" against the charges of misgovernment levelled at him by the barons. The latter called an assembly of knights at St. Albans, and the king countered by asking them to meet him at Nottingham instead. Now we have the spectacle of each opposing faction appealing to the people, and their representatives naturally felt their power and profited by it, and consolidated it by compromise. Our whole history is one of compromise.

Rival factions successfully revolted in turn against the king, and invariably turned to the people for parliamentary sanction; the barons beat Edward II. to his knees, and left it to Parliament to compel his abdication; it was Parliament that recognised his son as Edward III.

Again it was Parliament that deposed Richard II. and hailed Henry IV. Evidently the power of the Crown was now in a parlous state, and while the reins of power were nominally in the hands of the barons, the people were the real arbiters.

The Tudors undoubtedly went a long way to re-establishing the power of the throne, and they did it, not by force, but by efficiency, by giving to the communally the impression that their every wish was graciously met, and so concentrated the national pride in their own persons. In point of actual fact, they were taking the people along on leading strings. It was a great bluff. It was what is, nowadays, vulgarly termed "cod"; the people were badly "led up the garden." But still the power of Parliament was not destroyed, it was merely obscured, and when the pride of the Tudors became too arrogant and overweening, Parliament met Wolsey with a blow, and Elizabeth with admonition on the question of monopolies. She badly over-reached herself.

The stage was now all set for the final drama of that period. The Stewarts set their ridiculous assertion of Divine Right against the authority of Parliament. They claimed the right to appoint their own ministers, largely foreigners. James I., a product of an atmosphere of repression, ran wild when he came to this country, and was misguided into thinking that it was a suitable field for indulgence in what a perfervid imagination thought to be his royal prerogative.

Charles I. irritated the country still more with his arrogance and spendthrift habits. He offended the growing consciousness of the people by his policy, and did what was the worst thing he possibly could have done by ignoring Parliament and its power. The antagonising effect of the Stewart reigns was cumulative. The result was inevitable, and Parliament was once again vindicated.

By the end of the Middle Ages, then, the Crown was showing very distinct signs of weakness and decay; Parliament proved more than correspondingly strong and virile, and the people had definitely established their sovereignty. There has been an ebb and flow of power. That sovereignty has had its periods, periods of obscurity when it has been temporarily overshadowed by the power, either of the Crown, the nobility, or the industrial and commercial kings, but that same sovereignty, however often, however strongly challenged, is paramount still, and will always have the final triumph.

PRESENTATION.

DARTMOUTH.

At a pleasant little function held in the Custom House, Dartmouth, on June 21st, a presentation was made to Mr. F. J. Forth upon his retirement after forty-two years' service.

Mr. B. T. White, C.P.O., presided, and in the course of his speech referred to the sterling qualities of Mr. Forth, whom he had known for thirty-six years, and wished him many years of well-earned rest.

Messrs. H. J. Drummond, late Officer-in-Charge; W. S. Clark, Officer-in-Charge; W. A. Stone, Prev. Officer; F. G. H. Smith and R.

Francombe, A.P.O.'s, also expressed their appreciation of his past services and good-fellowship, and hoped he would live many years to enjoy his retirement.

Mr. White, in a few well-spoken words, asked Mr. Forth to accept a gold watch-chain and Albert from the staff at Dartmouth and a few colleagues in the district as a mark of their appreciation of him.

The recipient suitably replied, and hoped he had done his best with those with whom he had come in contact.

BETWEEN TIDES.

PARAGRAPHS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

LONDON.

During the past two weeks the South Side Cricket team has had an opportunity of meeting two clubs that had previously inflicted heavy defeats. In the first of these two matches, against the Fambridge eleven, a side which had before dismissed us for a total of nine runs, we built up a score of 90, and at one time seemed to have every prospect of winning. It was not to be, however, and Fambridge ultimately won by a very narrow margin.

On Saturday last, against Butler's Wharf, the opposing side took it upon themselves to repeat the operation of a fortnight before, and registered a victory by fifty runs.

BO'NESS.

At the Linlithgow J.P. Court on June 16th a fireman of the Belgian steamer "Rosa," from Bruges, was charged with harbouring and concealing 4.25 gall. of Brandy, .13 gall. of Perfumed Spirits, 27 lb. of Cigars, and 2 lb. of Cigarettes.

Mr. P. McLellan, C.P.O., prosecuted on behalf of the Crown, and sued for the treble duty-paid value, £199 14s. The offender pleaded guilty and was fined £199 14s. or six months' imprisonment.

The goods were discovered under the floor of the engine-room by Messrs. V. R. Fox, P.O., and S. C. C. Long, A.P.O.

GRAVESEND.

On Wednesday, June 15th, the Gravesend Custom House Sports Club entertained at cricket the Special Branch C.I.D., Scotland Yard. The match was twelve a side, and commenced at 4 p.m., the visitors taking first knock on an easy wicket. Success soon attended the home team, A. Brown catching Wilson off his own bowling with the total at 9. He followed this up by getting Wirdman caught by Lucas with 14 runs on the board. Then Peel and Rees became associated, and by some hard hitting carried the score to 54 before the former was bowled by

Thomas in attempting to hit the ball out of the ground. Relf, the next man in, assisted Rees to take the score to 73 before the latter was bowled by Lucas. Buckell did not stay long, being smartly run out by Lucas with the total at 77. Wickets now began to fall quickly, six men being out for 83, seven for 90, and eight for 97. Partridge and Pocock came together, and the score mounted rapidly to 120, when there was an interval for tea. When play was resumed the last two wickets fell for the addition of 9 runs, the innings closing for 129, Partridge carrying his bat for 25.

The home team then took their knock, but opened rather disastrously, the first and second wicket falling with the total at 6. Dines and Lucas then carried the score to 28 before Lucas was bowled by Relf for a well-hit 16. Grey left with the total at 31, and Dines was bowled by Relf with the score at 35. Page also was out at the same total, and the next wicket fell at 47. Two more wickets fell with 54 on the board, the innings closing at 67, Barlow being not out with 25 to his name.

The game was well attended by the staff and their friends, among those present being Mrs. Donaldson and her two daughters, and our late C.P.O., Mr. Blake, and his wife. This is our second defeat at the hands of our visitors, but we hope for revenge when we visit them at Imber Court, Thames Ditton, on August 10th. Scores:

C.I.D.

Wilson, c and b Brown	0
Wirdman, c Lucas, b Brown	9
Peel, b Thomas	28
Rees, b Lucas	23
Relf, b Lucas	19
Buckell, run out	4
Dyer, c and b Lucas	3
Hoare, c and b Brown	1
Glasscock, b Lucas	0
Partridge, not out	25
Pocock, b Brown	11
Hastings, b Barlow	2
Extras 3, no-balls 1	4
Total	129

GRAVESEND CUSTOM HOUSE SPORTS CLUB.

Thomas, c Hastings, b Relf	6
Brown, b Glasscock	0
Dines, b Relf	6
Lucas, b Relf	16
Grey, c Dyer, b Glasscock	3
Barlow, not out	25
Page, c Peel, b Relf	0
Palmer, c Peel, b Relf	6
Varney, c Peel, b Glasscock	3
Thorogood, c Glasscock, b Peel	0
Sharrock, c Glasscock, b Rees	0
Hammond, b Peel	0
Extras	2
Total	67

SWANSEA.

At the Swansea Police Court on June 25th a greaser on the s.s. "Eibergen," from Rotterdam, was charged with smuggling twenty-one silk articles. He was ordered to pay the single duty, £5 6s. 8d., the goods to be confiscated.

The articles were found by Mr. R. Roy, A.P.O., a member of the rummage crew under the supervision of Mr. MacEnaney, P.O.

The case for the prosecution was conducted by Mr. F. Blewett, C.P.O.

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

The Annual Meeting of the members was held in Room 120, Custom House, London, on Wednesday, June 8th, when Sir H. P. Hamilton, K.C.B., President of the Fund, occupied the chair.

Before proceeding with the business, the Chairman referred to the loss the Fund had sustained owing to the retirement from the Service, and in consequence from the Executive Committee, of Mr. N. R. White. Mr. White joined the Fund in 1890, was elected to the Committee in 1896 and a Vice-President in 1923, and during his long period of service he had devoted his time, thought and energies to enlarging the scope of the Fund to the great benefit of its beneficiaries. It was agreed on the suggestion of Sir Horace that he should, on behalf of the members, send a letter of thanks to Mr. White for his devoted services to the Fund.

In presenting the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, the Secretary mentioned that in 1912 the Fund was in a moribund condition. Since that year there had been a steady increase in membership, in income, and in the amount disbursed in grants. As showing the progress that had been achieved, he had extracted the following particulars from the Reports:—

Membership.—1912, 491; 1917, 1,077; 1922, 2,575; 1927, 3,650.

Income from subscriptions.—1912, £192; 1917, £385; 1922, £1,098; 1927, £1,936.

Dividends.—1912, £150; 1917, £193; 1922, £256; 1927, £443.

Invested funds.—1912, £5,389; 1917, £5,889; 1922, £7,039; 1927, £11,580.

Grants paid to maintain and educate children, under Rule 23.—1912, £304; 1917, £342; 1922, £535; 1927, £852.

Grants paid to widows, Rule 26.—1912, £242; 1917, £229; 1922, £257; 1927, £508.

During the year ended March 31st last, 9 new applications for help to maintain and educate children were considered by the Committee, and grants were authorised in each case. They were now paying grants on behalf of 80 children, the largest number in any year since the Fund was instituted. Of the 43 families now being helped, 9 were resident in London, 7 in Scotland, 2 in Ireland, and the remaining 25 in

various parts of England. Benevolent grants had been paid during the year to 31 widows, and of these, 4 were over 80, 9 were over 70, 10 were over 60, and the remaining 11 were under 60 years of age. These facts supported the opinion that the need for the Fund was as great to-day as at any time since it was founded in 1866.

The Report and Statement of Accounts were adopted.

The following officers were elected:—

President: Sir H. P. Hamilton, K.C.B.

Vice-Presidents: W. Donaldson, Esq., I.S.O.; E. A. Harris, Esq., C.B.E.; J. L. Mackie, Esq., C.B.E.; T. Morton, Esq.

Members of the Executive Committee: S. Fennell, Esq., Surveyor; G. Brown, Esq., G. Dingley, Esq., S. J. Thorne, Esq., T. Morton, Esq., W. B. Whitaker, Esq., B. Wheeler, Esq., Officers; A. N. Lake, Esq., Prev. Officer; H. L. Collins, Esq., H. S. Wheeler, Esq., and M. J. Sullivan, Esq., Asst. Prev. Officers.

Auditors: G. W. Putnam, Esq., and W. Quimby, Esq.

The Secretary, on behalf of the Executive Committee, formally moved that the existing Rule 2 be cancelled and that a new rule as drafted be adopted in its place. He explained that this amendment of rule had been rendered necessary to meet the objections of the Inland Revenue Department, which had contended that this was necessary if the Fund was to be regarded as established for charitable purposes only, within the meaning of the Income Tax Act of 1918, otherwise the dividends on the Fund's investments would be held liable to Income Tax. The amount involved was over £100. The Committee were definitely of the opinion that this amendment of rule involved no change in the principles or policy which had governed them in the administration of the Fund in the past. The new rule was adopted.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Auditors, and the usual honoraria and a vote of thanks was accorded to the Hon. Secretary.

In moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. Morton congratulated Sir Horace Hamilton on his appointment as Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade. He said that he had been very successful as Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise and had done much for the welfare of the members of the Department. It was very gratifying that, in spite of the many claims upon his time, he had found it possible to take an interest in the affairs of the Benevolent Fund of the Department, and he was sure he was merely expressing the views of the members when he asked their Chairman to accept their thanks for the help he had given them in their efforts to lighten the burdens of the dependents of deceased members of the staff. They parted with him with regret, but they were united in wishing him every success in his new post. Mr. Barnard, in seconding the motion, said he agreed with all that Mr. Morton had said. From the particulars, given earlier in the meeting, of the progress the Fund had made during the past few years, it was seen that they had a strong and healthy Fund, and he was

sure that not a little of this was due to the deep and abiding interest their President had taken in all the efforts that had been made to make it a fund worthy of the Department. The motion was put to the meeting and carried with acclamation.

In acknowledging the vote of thanks, Sir Horace said it always gave him great pleasure to preside at these meetings, and although he was going to another Department, he would follow with great interest the future work of the Fund. They were doing a great work, and he hoped—indeed, he was sure, it would continue to grow.



It is necessary from time to time to call attention to the need for signatures to all matter sent in for publication. The Editor cannot take responsibility for the insertion of matter that has not been vouchsafed for by the signature of the sender. Omissions of this kind are likely to cause delay in the publication of important items.

* * * *

The report of the C. & E. Orphans', Widows' and War Memorial Fund in this issue will be read with extreme satisfaction throughout the Service. Of all the claims upon us, none is more deserving of support than this Fund, the efficiency of which, backed up by a very devoted staff, is undoubtedly the chief factor in its rapid growth in recent years. The number of Waterguard Officers who are members is very much greater now than it was a few years ago; but, surely, for the sake of the kiddies who may be left behind at a time when a father is most needed, the Waterguard should show a 100 per cent. membership in such a useful object. A letter to the Hon. Sec., Room 9, Custom House, London, E.C.3, will ensure full particulars within a post or two. A quicker method still will be to ask your nearest colleague. Ten to one he is a member.

* * * *

Attention is drawn to the letter under the heading "War Bonus Arrears." The Civil Service Joint Committee is anxious that no avenue may be left unexplored by which possible claimants to war bonus arrears can be reached, and wishes to take every possible step to advise claimants of the position.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting was held on Monday, June 20th, 1927, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. G. Chase, Vice-President, presided over an attendance of twenty-five.

It was reported that the resolution adopted by the Annual Council of the Confederation on May 21st, 1927, calling attention to the delay on the part of the Treasury in furnishing certain information desired by the Industrial Court in the Provincial Differentiation Arbitration case, had been forwarded to all Members of Parliament and to the Industrial Court. An acknowledgment was received from the Secretary of the Industrial Court stating that the resolution would be placed before the Division of the Court dealing with the case. It was also reported that the hearing of the Provincial Differentiation case would be resumed on July 12th.

A letter was received from the Parliamentary Officer expressing the view that, bearing in mind the debate which took place in the House of Commons on May 30th on Clause 5 of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill, the Confederation should consider whether it should put forward as part of its general programme the improvement of the Civil Service arbitration and Whitley Council machinery. It was agreed to suggest to the National Staff Side that these subjects should be placed on the Staff Side programme, and also to refer the matter to the General Purposes Committee of the Confederation for more detailed consideration.

A letter was received from the Customs and Excise Federation calling attention to the advertisements on official stationery, which in some cases were considered to be objectionable. It was agreed to ask the Customs and Excise Federation to frame a definite motion on this subject for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

A report was given by Mr. G. Chase of recent proceedings of the National Staff Side, in the course of which it was mentioned that Staff Side and Joint meetings of the Superannuation Committee have now been resumed.

On the motion of the Executive Officers' Association, a resolution was adopted in the following terms:—

"That the Civil Service Confederation should seek, through the National Whitley Council, an agreement with the Official Side that, upon taking up posts in regard to which appointment is conditional upon the possession of professional or specialised qualifications, existing Civil Servants should enter the new class at their present salary plus accrued increment, or at the minimum of the new scale, whichever is more favourable to the officer concerned, and should proceed thence in normal course by the usual increments on the new scale; provided that any officer on a class subject to provincial differentiation, who is transferred to London from the provinces, on taking up such a post shall be deemed first to

be transferred on compulsory terms from the provincial to the London scale of his old class, and thence to the new scale on the above terms."

A resolution from the Inland Revenue Stamping Department Association on the subject of substitution pay was referred to the General Purposes Committee for consideration and report.

A resolution moved by the Civil Service Clerical Association to the effect that action should be taken to secure that the amount of retiring gratuity shall be calculated on the whole of cost-of-living bonus was adopted. Two other resolutions from the Civil Service Clerical Association: (i.) asking that action should be taken to press for the abolition of the overriding maximum on bonus-pension, and (ii.) putting forward a claim that members of basic classes who, on reaching the retiring age of 60 years, have not completed 30 years' pensionable service, should be allowed to remain until the age of 65, or until such earlier age as they attained 30 years' service, were referred to the General Purposes Committee for consideration and report.

The question of the relations of the Confederation to (i.) the National Federation of Professional Workers, and (ii.) the International Federation of Civil Servants and Teachers, was considered, in view of the provisions of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill now before Parliament. In the case of the National Federation of Professional Workers, notice of withdrawal had been given on March 30th, 1927, expiring on September 30th, 1927. It was decided that the affiliation of the Confederation to the National Federation should be continued beyond the date of the expiration of the six months' notice, i.e., September 30th, 1927, up to December 31st, 1927, or until such other date as the Confederation may be legally compelled to withdraw from affiliation. In taking this decision the Executive Committee wished to indicate its desire to remain in affiliation with the National Federation up to the last moment that such affiliation remains legally possible.

In the case of the International Federation of Civil Servants and Teachers, it was reported that the affiliation of the Confederation to this body, which was undertaken for a period of two years, would normally expire in September, 1927. After discussion a resolution was adopted in the following terms:—

"That we continue our affiliation to the International, but that we give provisional notice to take effect if and when we are required by law to disaffiliate."

It was also decided that two additional delegates should be appointed to represent the Confederation at the Congress of the International to be held in Nuremberg in September, 1927, making, with the standing delegate, Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, three representatives in all.

Members of Standing Sub-Committees of the Confederation were elected as follows:—

General Purposes Committee.—Mr. W. G. Boys, Mr. W. J. Brown, Mr. Reg. D. Crook, Mr. T. Rees Jones, Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, Mr. F. C.

Osgood, Mr. E. Rogers, and Miss Rose Smith-Rose.

Finance and Organisation Committee.—Mr. H. J. Brewer, Mr. A. J. Ellis, Mr. G. C. Holyoake, Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, Mr. H. S. Judge, Mr. J. Merron, Mr. S. Slocombe, and Mr. G. R. Speed.

Parliamentary and Publicity Committee.—Mr. R. McC. Beannish, Mr. J. W. Chapple, Mr. F. Cooper, Mr. H. J. Hammond, Mr. J. H. Macrae-Gibson, Miss E. C. Maguire, Mr. E. Rogers, and Mr. A. Smith.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL WORKERS.

It will be observed that the report of the Civil Service Confederation Executive meeting reported in this issue contains reference to notice of disaffiliation with the N.F.P.W.

The letter which follows, from the National Federation, will be read with interest by many of our members.

95, Belgrave Road, Victoria,
London, S.W.1.
June 21st, 1927.

The attack by the Government on Trade Union organisation, and particularly on the protective organisations of salaried workers, has acted as a stimulus to development and consolidation of forces. There is no longer any shadow of doubt as to the identity of interest of not only salaried workers engaged by ordinary business companies, but of all such workers, whether engaged in public, semi-public or private employment. The Trade Unions Bill, which reaches its third reading on June 23rd, is a gratuitous contribution to this point of view held by the National Federation of Professional Workers since its inception in 1920.

The Bill has further strengthened the growth of co-operation between manual and non-manual workers' protective organisations, for in many of its clauses both types of workers are attacked indiscriminately without any distinction or reference to function or apparent knowledge of or concern for the effect produced. The identity of treatment removes the last illusion that may have been held by the most innocent member of the non-manual workers' organisations, that he occupied a position of privilege. This disregard for consequences may be heroic or otherwise, according to the point of view of the parties concerned, but it is certainly not conducive to improved relations between salaried employees—who number several millions—and the present Government or the employers' representatives who have backed the measure.

While the Bill has made the task of the National Federation easier, it has in other ways made its work more difficult, in so far as the functions which it may have to perform are necessarily extended. The purely political, as

distinct from industrial, aspects of the Federation's work have been hitherto purposely almost negligible, in order that concentration might be devoted to economic, health and educational advancement. The important legislative changes the Federation has indirectly effected have almost all been of this intimate character. The Bill forces, by its Parliamentary interference with those apparently simple functions and its challenge even to the elementary right of freedom of association, attention to matters on which it might otherwise not have made other than passing observation or protest. The Bill offers a definite political programme to salaried workers' organisations, a programme, too, which has the advantage of being in common with that of all organised employed workers.

In addition, the enforced separation, by means of restrictive legislation, of Civil Service membership from those of their professional colleagues, whether in individual unions or by direct affiliation of their representative organisations to the National Federation, has made inevitable an attempt to have these external restrictions removed, which can only be accomplished by defeating in a constitutional manner, in the constituencies, those who have introduced the undesired legislation. The Service has found in an increasing degree that its remuneration and conditions are governed by those obtaining in outside industry and employment. The admitted defensive safeguards and informative sources are being completely segregated. The Government, in effect, says to the Service: "You need have no fear, we are not going to cut off your head—we are only trying to paralyse you."

This addition to the imposed legislative programme, as indicated, unites all employed workers and adds to the weight of the other cogent reasons, including interference with normal economic, social and educational activity, at home and abroad, by which the Bill has introduced a direct motive and encouragement to intensive development.

(Signed) WM. C. KEAY.

WHAT IS "NEGRO-HEAD" TOBACCO?

With most tobacco the leaves are allowed to ferment a little, after which they are pressed until a certain amount of dark-coloured liquid has been squeezed out, thus weakening the strength. Negro-head, on the other hand, is not only allowed to retain its own juices, but is actually made stronger still by the addition of the juices from other tobacco. The result, of course, is an extraordinarily strong tobacco, which is packed and pressed into sticks, the latter then being generally soaked in some fluid like molasses to lend a binding.

The name is probably derived from an old planter's mark on the cases in the days when the tobacco fields were harvested by negro slave labour, and may well have been suggested by the colour of the product caked under this process.

B.J.B.

C. & E. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.

The eighty-fifth meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on June 1st, 1927, Sir H. P. Hamilton, K.C.B., being in the chair.

RECRUITMENT OF OFFICER GRADE.

Proposals in regard to the selection of Departmental Clerks for promotion to the Officer Grade having been conveyed to the Staff Side prior to the meeting, the Staff Side intimated agreement therewith but without prejudice to their position in regard to any similar promotions in future. The Official Side stated that the methods of selection now proposed were applicable only to the present promotions.

TEMPORARY WOMEN PENSION OFFICERS.

With regard to the proposed recruitment of 40 or 50 Temporary Women Pension Officers, the Staff Side suggested that recruitment should proceed on lines similar to those in operation for Permanent Officers, except that no age limit should be imposed. The Official Side undertook to provide the Staff Side with the terms of the proposed arrangements and conditions of service. The terms of service would necessarily vary from those applicable to a permanent staff, but the only age limit fixed was a minimum of 25 years.

HOURS AND OVERTIME.

The Council confirmed a disagreement reported by the Outdoor Service Sectional Committee on the proposed hours of attendance and overtime rates for the Officer Grade.

AGE OF RETIREMENT.

It was agreed that existing regulations regarding the age of retirement for Officers should be modified so that Officers will normally be retired on attaining the age of 60, but that an Officer who has not completed 40 years' service when he attains the age of 60 may be allowed to remain in the Service, provided that his health and efficiency continue to be such as to enable him to perform all the duties of his Grade, until either he completes 40 years' service or attains the age of 65, whichever is the earlier.

COMMON SENIORITY.

The Council adopted a Special Committee's Report, which included two lists of the men and

women members respectively of the basic grade of the General Clerical Class serving in the Department. These seniority lists combined the several Office lists formerly in operation.

NORTHERN IRELAND SERVICES.

Arising out of statements made in the Northern Ireland Parliament, the Staff Side requested information respecting the possible transfer of services and personnel. It was stated by the Official Side that no immediate question was involved. The question of the possible transfer of Officers from the Department to the Northern Ireland Service appeared to be one primarily for the Irish authorities, while the conditions of service of those who remained in the Imperial Service would remain a matter for the Department. Facilities for joint discussion would be given on any particular aspect of the matter coming within the province of the Whitely Council.

OVERWORK.

The Staff Side referred to two Collections in which work appeared to be excessive, and the Official Side, during the discussion, indicated that each case was under investigation or treatment.

FIXED OFFICIATORS.

Arising out of the proceedings at a Local Committee the Staff Side intimated their view that the existence of redundant or supernumerary Officers in a Collection should not affect the question of establishing or filling Fixed Officiator centres. The Official Side stated that the position was being investigated.

HIRING EXPENSES.

Disagreement was registered regarding the proposed payment of hiring expenses incurred in travelling to and from an Officer's residence for public business when a public conveyance is not available.

MAPS.

It was agreed that Ordnance maps be provided for country Stations, including general Excise business and involving travelling other than by public conveyance or walking. The proposed supply of maps to town Stations was not agreed to.

SUGGESTIONS.

The Council received a schedule of Suggestions which had been forwarded by the Board for information.

OTHER MATTERS.

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

The next meeting of the Council will be held on June 29th, 1927.

WHAT IS A SPORTSMAN?

We saw this in the pavilion last week, when we suffered another defeat:—

"A sportsman is a man who does not boast; nor quit; nor make excuses when he fails. He is a cheerful loser and a quiet winner. He plays fair and as well as he can. He enjoys the pleasure of risk. He gives his opponent the benefit of the doubt, and he values the game itself more highly than the result."

THE GREEN-FLY ON YOUR ROSES.

The following paragraph is culled from the "News of the World" of Sunday last, and will be found particularly useful at this time of the year:—

The myriads of green-fly that are now making the rose trees hideous to look upon and unpleasant to touch are not inevitable, as many amateur gardeners seem to think. Take half a pint of ordinary household paraffin, pour it into six gallons of water, add a pound of soft soap dissolved in a little hot water, whip up the whole lot until it is thoroughly mixed, and use the resulting emulsion for spraying the trees. Next morning there will scarcely be a live green-fly to be seen. A week later, repeat the spraying. That will account for the flies which have hatched out from eggs laid immediately before the first spraying. Two or three more sprayings through the season will be enough to ensure clean roses all the time. Failing a proper spraying syringe—an ordinary greenhouse syringe is useless—it answers quite well to put the insecticide into a jug and to immerse each infested bud or shoot bodily in that. The above emulsion is equally good for cleaning fruit trees and bushes and almost every plant favoured by green-fly.

THOSE JEWS AGAIN.

When Morris and Rosebaum returned to lunch after their morning walk on the pier, the palms of Morris's soft white hands were red with sunburn.

"Oi! Oi!" exclaimed his old mother, "look at his hands. Vat have you been doing dat your hands inside should look like lobsters?"

"I knew it," said Rosebaum. "I take him out for a blow before lunch, and he would talk business with a man he met."

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

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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