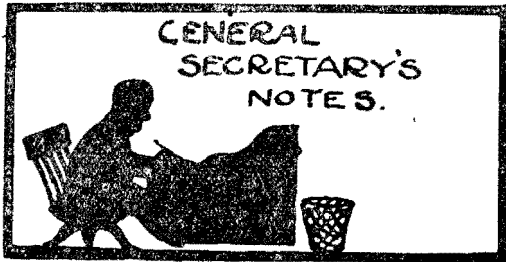


# The Customs Journal.

No. 589.

May 21st, 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 discussions that have taken place in Parliament concerning Clause 1 of the Trade Unions Bill are sufficient to increase considerably the grave concern of those who have regarded the Bill as a serious danger to industrial welfare and national prosperity.

Even the newspapers supporting the proposed new legislation are showing signs of alarm, and have been compelled to take notice of the extraordinary fact that those who are endeavouring to induce the House of Commons to accept the Bill find themselves unable to agree as to the proper interpretation of the most important points of Clause 1. The arguments amongst the legal men indicate that under this clause just as good a case could be made out for proving a citizen to be a criminal as to prove him innocent and law-abiding. At the time of writing, it is only too apparent that no authoritative statement is possible as to what would be the exact practical effect of Clause 1 passing into law. Not only is there a possibility that vindictive influences would have power to place perfectly harmless persons within the clutches of the law, but also there is a danger that really dangerous law-breakers could by means of clever counsel evade punishment for wrong-doing. Placed in this very awkward situation, the Government have had to promise a more definite form of words avoiding all ambiguity.

Presuming that this Bill has been drafted by men who well understand the legal significance of phrase or sentence, there is cause for uneasiness regarding the reason of the ambiguity which has resulted in even supporters of the Government calling a halt. One hesitates to

blame it on incompetence, but, if this should be the reason, it is far from reassuring to think that such can exist in connection with so serious a problem as the Bill is designed to deal with.

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In the Civil Service there is a gradual awakening to the importance of Clause 5. The Bill has not yet become law, but its shadow is becoming more obvious each day. Normal activity and development are gradually being arrested. Progress is being held up pending the fate of the new Bill. The energies of Service leaders are directed towards warding off the threatened dangers to Service freedom of action.

Civil Servants have but little time to decide whether they think they really could be more happy under the additional restrictions it is proposed to place upon them. Once the law is passed, only an illegal campaign will enable it to be repealed.

Those who are doubtful as to the rights and wrongs of the case could not do better than to turn up at the Albert Hall Mass Meeting which is being arranged for May 27th, at 6 p.m. Everyone with a live interest in his own affairs ought to make an effort to attend.

\* \* \* \*

The Annual Meeting of the C.S. Confederation comes at a time when there is plenty of material for lively discussion. The Confederation is very much in the limelight just now, and no doubt the newspapers will be keenly interested regarding the result of discussions in connection with up-to-date events.

The meeting will probably be much occupied discussing the ominous signs of forthcoming renewed attacks on Civil Service remuneration. Those members eager to fight these attacks are likely to find themselves in difficulties if they happen to have different views regarding the T.U. Bill.

The Annual Report of the Confederation shows a useful year of work, covering a wide field of activity. The report of progress in connection with the Superannuation Committee is more ample than on the last occasion, but there is still room for improvement, and there is likely to be the usual "breeze" when this question is discussed, unless some last-minute information of a soothing nature is forthcoming.

\* \* \* \*

The election of the Deputy Inspector-General of Waterguard to the Directorate of the Customs Fund is a matter upon which to congratulate the Department generally. The securing of Mr. Fitzsimons as a direct Waterguard representative is satisfaction in itself, but the triumph of organisation which achieved

this result in so conclusive a manner is additional cause for gratification. The poll was one of the heaviest on record.

It was, of course, impossible for our nominee to succeed by Waterguard votes alone, and therefore an expression of appreciation is due to our friends in other Departments who generously gave their assistance.

The added interest which the Fund now has for the Waterguard ought to result in many more of our members taking advantage of the very favourable facilities available for life assurance, etc. A study of Customs Fund literature is well worth while.

\* \* \* \*

The report of seizures made on board a yacht at Southampton will have been rather interesting to most Waterguard Officers. There is no doubt that skill was displayed in locating the contraband, and that it is the kind of skill that is supposed not now to exist in the Department. Not only does it exist, however, but on this occasion delicacy and caution would be needful, and this is a complication which rarely entered into the exploits of the "good old days." Nowadays the tender feelings of the smuggler is almost a first consideration.

The Mayor, I notice, in dealing with the case, is reported to have commented upon the abuse of special privileges extended to yachts. Cases such as this could hardly justify the general withdrawal of these privileges, but there seems to be no reason why yacht clubs could not be prevailed upon to take disciplinary action against their own members who showed carelessness in this respect. Naval officers are subject to such measures, and the adoption of similar methods regarding yacht owners and their crews would be in the interests both of the Revenue and the clubs.

It cannot be denied that the high duty rates prevailing must be a great temptation to adventurous yachtsmen, and if no serious smuggling is taking place it is a great tribute to the keen sense of honour of the yachting fraternity.

\* \* \* \*

The news that Barclay's Bank have decided to increase the annual leave of 12,000 of their clerks is rather refreshing from the Civil Servants' point of view. It is stated that the thirty days' leave now to be allowed will enable the employees to give better service.

The Waterguard Officer, subjected to continual change of duty hours, including a goodly proportion of night work, would more than appreciate a full month of normal existence if only to experience the joys, for even a brief period, of ordinary social conditions.

\* \* \* \*

The P.S.A. Executive meeting will be held on June 1st, and the three succeeding days. As usual there is a large volume of business to be tackled. In addition to this, the Committee will deal with business in connection with the forthcoming Conference.

The Headquarters staff are working at full pressure preparing for these important events, and any delay in dealing with correspondence that is not urgent is due to this cause. It is hoped that members will exercise their usual forbearance during these periods.

J. MERRON.

## PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

### NEWCASTLE.

The annual meeting was held at the Clock Vaults Hotel on May 12th, and officers for the ensuing year were elected.

A proposal that all aerodrome stations should be taken over by the Waterguard provided an interesting discussion.

A resolution in support of the examination of free goods by Waterguard Officers commanded a long and exhaustive debate, and it was ultimately decided to leave this matter for the present in abeyance.

The question of failed A.P.O.'s brought forth some very lively and instructive points, and it was the general opinion of the members that a revival of the Principal Coast Officer Class would be a very economic and suitable way of meeting the situation, as it would tend to a sense of security in regard to a more direct and efficient control of the Coast Preventive Men, and would be of great assistance to the visiting C.P.O.

The enthusiasm of the members was most marked on the discussion of retirement. After expression had been given to various views, it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the E.C.

The members generally were of the opinion that the present scale of leave now obtaining would be more satisfactory if consideration were given to an officer's scale of pay, for it was obvious that at present some grades whose remuneration was less had, in the matter of leave, a very distinct advantage.

Before the meeting closed a very warm tribute was paid to the efforts being put forward on behalf of the staff by the V.E.C., and in particular for the publication of the Ready Reckoner, which supplied a long-felt want and which was deeply appreciated.

## THE V.E.C.'s OFFER.

Readers are invited to forward to the Editor their opinion of the recently published booklet of duty tables. The Committee is seeking criticism of a constructive nature which would be extremely useful in the preparation of a future edition.

Ten shillings will be awarded to the sender of the criticism which, in our opinion, is the best. Entries must reach the Editor by the last post on Monday, August 22nd, 1927, and must include the sender's name and address.

## BETWEEN TIDES.

### LONDON.

The North Side Sports Club are fixing up cricket matches for the summer. The Secretary, Mr. G. H. Clague, is anxious to receive the names of all members willing to take part in the matches at the earliest possible moment, in order that a good representative team can be put in the field against the teams that have accepted the invitations.

\* \* \* \*

The South Side Cricket Club held the last of its winter social events on Tuesday, May 3rd, in the shape of a dance at the New Cross Palais de Danse. There was again a good attendance, and Mr. Egan, who makes a point of attending these functions, was supported by Mr. Fleet, President of the North Side Club, and Mrs. Fleet, together with friends from the North Side. Prizes were awarded to lucky winners in the spot dance, and complimentary tickets were also presented by the management. The prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. Fleet.

We have heard a rumour of a possibility of a flannel dance or two during the summer, but this is not yet officially confirmed.

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### SOUTHAMPTON.

A Nottingham merchant, charged with illegally importing and concealing 9½ lb. of cigars, was recently fined £49 8s. 6d., together with a fine of 10s. and 4s. costs.

The officer who seized the goods was Mr. C. Dedman, A.P.O.

\* \* \* \*

Two bottles each of rum, brandy and liqueurs were found by Mr. C. Northfield, A.P.O., in a car imported by a chauffeur, who denied possession of anything dutiable either in his baggage or in his car.

The Mayor ordered the offender to pay the treble value and duty of the articles concealed, a fine of 10s., together with the costs of the Court. His Worship congratulated the officers on their vigilance.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. G. E. Ladhaus, C.P.O.

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## THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION AND THE TRADES DISPUTES BILL.

The following resolution has been passed:—  
“The Executive Committee of the International Federation of Civil Servants and Teachers, in session at the Hague, April 27th, 1927, vehemently protests against the Trades Disputes Bill of the British Government, and particularly Clause 5, which would prevent British Civil Servants from affiliating with other British workers and with Civil Servants in other

countries for the improvement of their conditions of service, and decides to give notice of this resolution to the League of Nations, the International Federation of Trade Unions at Amsterdam and the Press.”

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## CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, April 25th, 1927, at Central Hall, Westminster. The business on the agenda not being concluded, an adjourned meeting was held on Monday, May 9th, 1927, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. The attendance at the first meeting was thirty, and the attendance at the adjourned meeting was thirty-one. Mr. W. H. James presided on both occasions.

A communication from the National Staff Side was received, asking for the views of the Confederation on a proposed All-Service Programme, and after some discussion it was decided that the Confederation express agreement with this proposed Programme.

At the April 25th meeting consideration was given as a matter of urgency to the Married Women (Employment) Bill, and a motion, moved on behalf of the Civil Service Clerical Association, was adopted in the following terms:—

“That this meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation hereby expresses its opposition to the Married Women (Employment) Bill receiving its Second Reading on April 29th so far as this Bill affects the Civil Service, on the following grounds:—

(1) That the general removal of the marriage bar at this moment would decrease the already scanty promotion prospects of women Civil Servants.

(2) That it would involve the loss of marriage gratuity benefit to women who still desired to resign on marriage.

(3) That at a time when unemployment is particularly heavy, and great difficulty is being experienced in placing girls on leaving school, no encouragement should be given to those who can afford to leave paid employment to remain therein.

At the same time, this Committee considers that, under existing regulations, something should be done to enable hardship cases amongst married women, such as those of deserted or legally separated wives, and women with husbands dependent upon them because of the permanent incapacity of the latter to earn for reasons of ill-health, to be established, if at present unestablished, or to be reinstated if established Civil Servants.

It therefore instructs the General Purposes Committee to look further into this point with a view to action being taken thereon.”

At the May 9th meeting it was reported that the Second Reading of this Bill had been defeated in the House of Commons on April 29th, largely at the instance of the Confederation.

At both meetings of the Executive Committee considerable attention was devoted to the question of notices of discharge served upon established workmen at Chatham, Devonport, and Portsmouth Dockyards. Prompt action had been taken by the Confederation in these cases, at the request of the Admiralty Established Civil Servants' Federation, the Admiralty authorities had been interviewed, and visits to Chatham had been made by Mr. Chase and Mr. Millwood, who had addressed a mass meeting of established workmen at Chatham on May 3rd under the auspices of the Chatham Dockyard and District Civil Servants' Association. It was reported to the Executive Committee that, out of thirty-five notices of discharge given at Chatham, twenty-five had been withdrawn altogether, and three others suspended for further enquiry; of six cases at Devonport, two of the notices had been suspended for further enquiry; and the few cases at Portsmouth were still under consideration. Appreciation had been expressed by the Admiralty Established Civil Servants' Federation of the action taken by the Confederation in this matter.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee consideration was given to the Report of the Special Committee of the National Staff Side on the setting up of Grade and Sectional Committees, and it was agreed that the Report be supported, subject to certain amendments. At the adjourned meeting it was reported that the National Staff Side, at its meeting on May 6th, had postponed consideration of the Report for six months.

Reports were given of the progress of the campaign against the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill. A successful meeting of Members of Parliament had been held at the House of Commons on April 28th, at which speeches had been delivered, among others, by Mr. W. J. Brown and Mr. Ross Wyld; and lobbying work was proceeding. The Civil Rights Defence Committee had decided to hold a Mass Demonstration of Civil Servants at the Albert Hall on or about May 20th, 1927, on the subject of the Bill. Consideration was given by the Executive Committee to the question of possible amendments to Clause 5 of the Bill, and it was decided that a free hand be given to the Confederation representatives on the Civil Rights Defence Committee on this question.

The General Purposes Committee reported that in view of the possibility of legislation being introduced to amend the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, constituent organisations of the Confederation had been asked to submit points in regard to which amendment of the Act appeared to be desirable. These proposed amendments, together with others recorded in previous Confederation decisions, are under consideration by the General Purposes Committee.

The General Purposes Committee is also considering the recently issued Report of the Crown Proceedings Committee (to which the Confederation submitted a Memorandum in January, 1926), with special reference to any clauses of the proposed Bill embodied in this Report which may affect the interests of Civil Servants.

Proposals from the Executive Officers' Association on the subject of adjustments of salary on transfer from higher to lower scales, and vice versa, were endorsed, and agreed to be referred to the Confederation representatives on the National Whitley Council, with the recommendation that they should be taken up on the Standing Joint Committee on Re-organisation.

The Parliamentary and Publicity Committee reported that, arising out of the reference made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech on April 11th to the possible restriction of new entrants to the Civil Service, the Committee had authorised a statement to the Press on the following lines:—

"We take the view that the small increase which has taken place in the numbers of Civil Servants from 1914 to 1926 is due to the increased work which Parliament has placed upon the Service.

Unless Parliament is prepared to reduce this amount of work, the existing Service must be maintained.

The additional work which falls upon the Civil Service from year to year owing to the growth of population, and the increased responsibilities which Parliament is continually placing upon the Service, calls for the existing staff, and, in order to maintain the staff and repair any wastage in it, it is necessary that open recruitment should be maintained and not curtailed."

On the initiative of the Confederation, the National Staff Side had decided to undertake the revision and bringing up-to-date of "The Truth" series of leaflets.

Consideration was given to the question of the four seats on the National Staff Side rendered vacant by a recent secession from this body, and it was decided that the Confederation representatives should continue to support deferment of the filling of these seats, but that, should it be decided by the National Staff Side to proceed to fill the seats, application for two seats should be made on behalf of the Confederation.

## SMUGGLING AT KING'S LYNN.

Before the Lynn magistrates on May 10th a local rivetter was convicted and fined by the Bench £23 1s. 8d., or 61 days' imprisonment, for attempting to defraud the Revenue.

The defendant was seen by Mr. Barton, A.P.O., carrying a large package which, when opened, was found to contain 17 lb. tobacco, other sorts; 1 lb. of Cav. tobacco was also discovered on his person.

The case for the prosecution was conducted by Mr. J. H. Stevens, P.O.



It seems that we must say good-bye to our friend "Scrutator," who, for a variety of reasons, has had to relinquish responsibility for the N.Q.A. Column. For about three years he has, with unflinching regularity, forwarded his "copy" for publication, and has never failed us; a matter for which we are extremely grateful.

When the new Vocational Education Committee was elected, the gentleman using the nom-de-plume "Scrutator" was one of the three to comprise that Committee. Their work since inauguration has been very heavy indeed, and it has been a matter of surprise to most of us that time has been found to complete the N.Q.A. Column for each issue. It has, however, been done, but it must have meant a liberal use of midnight oil. There is also a rule of the Committee that the tutor is to be the only medium between the Committee and the pupil. It can readily be seen that each pupil who corresponded with "Scrutator" (whose identity was not known) unwittingly broke this rule, and put "Scrutator" in an extremely awkward position. Many of our readers will sadly miss his fortnightly contribution, which has proved of inestimable benefit to large numbers of our members.

Whether the N.Q.A. Column is to be continued or not is a matter that must be discussed in the immediate future. It has been a feature of this journal ever since its inception nearly a quarter of a century ago. We can quite see that it is now physically impossible for "Scrutator" to continue, and we take this opportunity of assuring him that his work has been greatly appreciated in many directions, and of thanking him for the splendid manner in which he has kept the column going. He has been an education department in himself, and, as we have already said, will certainly be missed.

\* \* \* \*

We are now right into the cricket season. Waterguard sport is organising itself to a greater extent than ever before. London, heretofore well behind in this direction, is showing that it is possible to get going; and the report of a successful match in this issue is the result of a winter of serious preparation. It is possible that within a week or two there will be two Waterguard teams in London, one on each side of the river. If this comes about, London Waterguard sport should be firmly established.

Preparations are going forward in the matter of entries for the C. and E. Sports during the

summer, and we understand that the Waterguard will be represented at the Civil Service Sports Meeting. These fixtures are not limited to London.

We should be glad to publish sports reports and accounts of matches from the provinces. Some of the outports have old-established clubs that one does not hear enough of.

## PRESENTATION OF IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL

TO

Mr. A. A. DAVIE—LATE PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LONDON.

On Wednesday, the 11th instant, in Room 14 of the Custom House, London, Mr. Donaldson, Waterguard Superintendent, in the presence of a large number of the staff, including Messrs. Woodford and Denny of the Secretaries' Office, presented the Imperial Service Medal to Mr. Davie. Mr. Donaldson paid high tribute to the conscientious and reliable manner in which Mr. Davie had served the Department, and wished Mr. and Mrs. Davie many years of happy retirement.

Mr. Fooks, C.P.O., whose association with Mr. Davie went back to their youthful days at Gravesend, said that the Crown had had no better servant, and he only regretted that Mr. Davie had not been awarded higher rank; but this, no doubt, had been prevented by age. Mr. Clark, retired C.P.O., said that whilst he could not go so far back as Mr. Fooks, he could testify to the sterling service by Mr. Davie in latter years. Mr. Woodford said that he was specially pleased to be present, as Mr. Davie was a link with his (Mr. Woodford's) father, they having served together at Gravesend in the early nineties. He had also had personal touch with Mr. Davie in their respective capacities as officials, and he had always found him anxious to give every assistance. The Imperial Service Medal was not an empty decoration, but was awarded only to those whose records stood the closest investigation. Mr. O'Flynn said it had been his good fortune to partner Mr. Davie during the last few years, and their association would always be a pleasant recollection with him. Mr. Merron said that he looked upon Mr. Davie as an ideal Waterguard Officer, and prophesied many years of health and happiness for the medallist. Mr. Evans, in offering his good wishes, said that he noted with pleasure that the medal was being presented to Waterguard Officers a good deal more frequently than in years gone by. He took it to be a sign that the Waterguard was in greater favour than before.

In reply, Mr. Davie spoke of the real pleasure it gave him to receive the medal, particularly at the hands of Mr. Donaldson, and in the presence of so many old friends and colleagues. He assured all present that the ceremony of that afternoon would live long in his memory.

## CIVIL SERVICE TRAVEL ASSOCIATION.

In spite of the fact that the Association was not started until late in 1926, when most Civil Servants had already made their holiday arrangements, it has proved a great success. Correspondence from members shows that the arrangements have been widely appreciated.

This Association was formed to arrange tours at moderate rates in winter and summer, for members of the Civil Service in its widest sense, their wives, and friends or relatives travelling with them.

Contracts with special hotels will be made on behalf of the Association by Sir Henry Lunn, Ltd., who will take all the financial responsibility for the payments made. Any margin of profit in any year will be used by the Committee, after paying a fixed percentage for organisation and general management, for the benefit of members of the Civil Service.

The Association intends to give special attention to the needs of Civil Servants who wish to take their families (including young children) to Continental seaside resorts. The Association will be able to give full advice and to make all arrangements, thus meeting a need not hitherto provided for.

Booking Deposit, 5s. (first instalment of fare for any tour), to Secretary, Civil Service Travel Association, 6, Endsleigh Gardens, London, W.C.1.

## CUSTOMS FUND ELECTION.

Dear Sir,—I shall be much obliged if you will allow me through your columns to express my appreciation and thanks to the subscribers to the Customs Fund who supported me with their votes at the recent election of Director; and also to thank those of my colleagues in all Departments who assisted my candidature. I am fully conscious of the honour that has been done to me as representing the Waterguard Department, and I desire to acknowledge the generous response that the subscribers have given to our appeal for representation on the directorate of our great Service institution. I shall give my best service to the office to which I have been elected in an endeavour to maintain the Fund's sound and progressive policy.—I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,  
J. G. FITZSIMONS.

May 6th, 1927.

Sir,—Allow me through the medium of your columns to thank most cordially the Fund voters who placed me second on the poll at the recent election. I congratulate your readers on the election of a representative of the Waterguard, as I have always considered, with hundreds of my colleagues of the Landing Staff, that the ex-

pressed desire for representation of such an important section of the Service should be both respected and assisted.—Yours, etc.,

W. LITTLER.

Dear Sir,—An apology is due from me to many hundreds of members of the Fund for permitting my name to figure in the list of candidates without circularising them as to my intention and policy. This process, hallowed by tradition and justified by effect, had to be neglected by me on this occasion owing to an unexpected rush of other business transpiring at the season of the usual electioneering campaign.

It is a source of gratification and surprise to find such a large volume of support forthcoming when I asked no man for his vote, but all those who were so good as to give it unsolicited may rest assured that they will not find me so negligent or apparently discourteous on any future occasion.—Yours, etc.,

C. A. W. SANDERS.

## C. & E. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.

The eighty-fourth meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on April 27th, 1927, the chair being taken by A. J. Dyke, Esq., C.B., C.B.E., Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

### PROMOTION.

In respect of the question previously raised by the Staff Side as to whether the claims of Clerical Officers holding "acting" higher appointments in the Statistical Office had been considered in connection with promotion to substantive appointments made in the Secretaries' Office and Accountant-General's Office, the Official Side now stated that a scheme of re-organisation for the Statistical Office would be put forward to the Office Whitley Committee at its next meeting, and that this scheme had an important bearing on the "acting" appointments in question. The claims of the officers concerned to substantive higher posts in Headquarters establishments would be considered with those of other members of the basic Clerical Grade serving in Headquarters establishments, and no special application for consideration in connection with any particular vacancy would be necessary.

### TRANSFERS.

The Staff Side enquired as to the recent limitation of applications for transfer to the Executive Grade to members of the Officer Grade, and the Official Side replied that after careful consideration it had been decided that it was in the public interest to fill three of the five available vacancies from this source if

suitable candidates were forthcoming, the other two being filled by promotions from the Treasury Clerical Class.

#### AGE OF RETIREMENT.

It was agreed that to the schedule of exceptions to the agreement of July, 1923, whereby the age of retirement of Headquarters Staff was fixed at 61 (with qualifications as to the Board's absolute discretion and as to the broken periods), the following posts should be added:—Office Keeper, Assistant Office Keeper, Surgery Attendant, Lithographer, and House Porter. It was understood that the addition of the two first-mentioned posts to the list of exceptions would re-act on the basic grade whose members had prospects of promotion to these posts.

#### ISSUE OF GENERAL ORDERS.

The Staff Side having pointed out that the delay in issuing the General Order relating to the May delivery of Old Age Pension Order Books had detracted from any benefit which might be obtained from the relaxations permitted, the Official Side stated that the matter was under enquiry.

The Staff Side also called attention to the delay in issuing the General Order relating to the revision of the forms for Annual Returns by Users of Industrial Methylated Spirit, and the Official Side expressed regret that this was not done earlier, the delay having been due to an oversight.

#### DEPARTMENTAL CLERICAL CLASS.

It was agreed that a standing committee be appointed to deal with matters solely affecting the Departmental Clerical Class as a whole.

#### OTHER MATTERS.

The Council dealt with a member of other decisions advised by Local Committees, including the creation of Fixed Officiator centres, with results that have been advised to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, June 1st, 1927.

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## CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

### TRANSFERS.

Preventive Officers: Blann, E. L., Portadown Land Barrier, Belfast, to London; Mumby, L. W., Runcorn, Manchester, to Rye, Dover.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

Retirement.—Preventive Officer: Mederson, N. W., London.

### VACANCIES.

Preventive Officers: Fishguard, Swansea, 1.6.27; Runcorn, Manchester. (An allowance of £30 per annum for performing Long Room work, etc., is assigned.)

## PRESENTATION.

### MR. A. V. SIMPKIN, A.P.O., FOLKESTONE.

An interesting event took place in the Long Room of the Custom House, Folkestone, on the afternoon of Saturday, May 14th, 1927, when Mr. A. V. Simpkin, Assistant Preventive Officer, was presented with a Jacobean oak cabinet gramophone and records and a silver cigarette case, suitably inscribed, to mark the occasion of his transfer—after sixteen years at the Port of Folkestone—to Swansea. The gifts, jointly given by his brother officers, Southern Railway officials, Home Office Immigration Staff, the C.I.D., and other friends, were presented by Mr. D. M. Louden, Landing Officer, Folkestone.

Mr. J. T. Mackins, C.P.O., was in the chair. In his opening remarks he wished God speed and good luck to Mr. Simpkin. By the presentation, he said, his friends and colleagues were giving concrete expression to their appreciation of his many good qualities, regret at losing him, and best wishes for his future well-being. Letters were read from Mr. A. P. Jones, Chief Clerk, Long Room, and Mr. H. E. Jury, Stationmaster, Folkestone Harbour, regretting their inability to be present and expressing good wishes for his future.

In making the presentation, Mr. Louden expressed the hope that the future would be bright for Mr. Simpkin, and that the gifts would give him and his family much pleasure; and that when he was away he would sometimes think of his friends in Folkestone.

Verbal tributes to his sterling qualities were paid by Messrs. Smith, Reid and Thomson, of the Landing Staff; Mr. E. J. Fooks, representing the Dover Officers; and Messrs. Atkins, Harts-horn and Venning, of the local Waterguard Staff. The Home Office tribute was conveyed by Mr. Mercon, who wished him the greatest success and happiness in his new surroundings. Mr. East, of the C.I.D., and Messrs. Smith and Page, of the Southern Railway, also added their regret at his departure and hopes for a happy future.

At the close, the thirty odd representatives of the various departments present joined lustily in the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow" and the "Frothblowers' Anthem."

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## CRICKET.

### LONDON SOUTH SIDE CLUB OPENS THE SEASON WITH A WIN.

For the first match of the season the South Side Club entertained the Dover Road C.C. at Lower Sodenham on May 14th. A long spell of dry weather had left the pitch very hard, and it was anticipated that the ball would play some awkward pranks. Under the circumstances, however, conditions were not so very bad, and the pitch was fairly "cricketable."

Mr. C. E. Egan, C.P.O., was present, and had the satisfaction of seeing the club over which he presides win its first match by 63 runs to 22.

Dover Road batted first, but could do very little against the bowling of Messrs. Knott and Steers. Mr. Knott lost no time in capturing a wicket in the first over; indeed, he was responsible for the dismissal of seven batsmen. Mr. Steers did well at the other end, and, as the score shows, proved very difficult to score from.

The South Side batting display gives promise of some good games during the season, and there is no doubt that supporters of the club will be gratified at the way the team has shaped, for it should not be forgotten that it is a new club and that many of the members have not played for years. Mr. Steers, fourth man in, carried his bat for 31, and his fearless hitting was a pleasure to watch. At one time partnered by Mr. Baldwin, another batsman who can send the fieldsmen on a chase to the boundary, it seemed that the pair would remain set. Mr. Baldwin was, however, caught when he had increased the score by seven. Mr. Pescod, who will make club history, retired early as the result of a particularly smart catch in the slips.

Altogether, it was a very enjoyable afternoon, and club members and supporters are unanimous in their prophecies that the club will give a good account of itself in this its first year.

On May 28th the club is at home (Lower Sdenham) to Farnbridge C.C., and on June 4th visits Butler's Wharves C.C. at Perry Hill, Catford.

## WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB CUP TOURNAMENT.

### SECTION 1—ROUND 2.

F. G. Boodle, A.P.O., Newport.      W. W. Bishop, A.P.O., Sharpness.

White.

Black.

- |             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| 1. P—K4     | P—K4   |
| 2. P—Q4     | Kt—QB3 |
| 3. P×P      | Kt×P   |
| 4. Kt—KB3   | Q—K2   |
| 5. Q—Q4     | Kt—QB3 |
| 6. Q—K3     | Q—KB3  |
| 7. Kt—QB3   | B—QKt5 |
| 8. B—Q2     | Kt—K2  |
| 9. QKt—Q5   | Q—Q3   |
| 10. B—B4    | KB—B4  |
| 11. Q—KB4   | Kt—Kt3 |
| 12. Kt×QBP+ | K—Q1   |
| 13. Q×Q     | B×Q    |
| 14. Kt×R    | Kt—Kt5 |
| 15. Castles | P—QKt3 |
| 16. Kt—KKt5 | Kt—K4  |
| 17. B—B3    | Kt×B   |
| 18. Kt×KBP+ | K—K2   |
| 19. Kt×R    | B—QKt2 |
| 20. P—K5    | Kt×KP  |

- |                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| 21. B×Kt on K4 | B×B     |
| 22. QR—K1      | Kt—QB3  |
| 23. Kt—QB7     | K—KB1   |
| 24. QR—K3      | B×Kt    |
| 25. QR—KB3+    | K—K2    |
| 26. R—K1+      | B—K4    |
| 27. R—KB7+     | K—K3    |
| 28. P—KB4      | B—QR3   |
| 29. P×B        | Kt×P    |
| 30. R×KKtP     | K—KB3   |
| 31. R×RP       | P—Q3    |
| 32. R—R6+      | K—Kt2   |
| 33. R×P        | K×Kt    |
| 34. R×Kt       | Resigns |

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

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