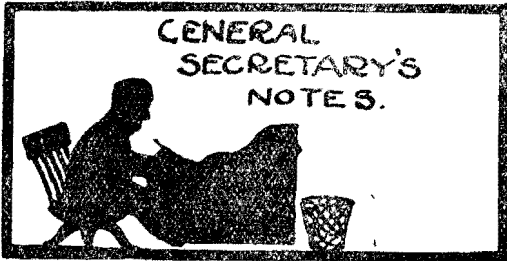


# The Customs Journal.

No. 587.

April 23rd, 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 Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill has turned out to be something far and away beyond what was hoped for by the anti-trade unionists, and is also a much more serious proposition than was ever anticipated even amongst the most anxious of trade unionists.

Those who have desired this Bill have been remarkably guarded in their comments since its introduction. It would seem that, being overjoyed at their almost unbelievable good fortune, they are fearful of saying anything that might further the preparations already being made by its opponents for bringing home to the public the exact effects the Bill would have in all its details.

There is evidence, however, that many responsible personages, who have had merely an honest desire for the reform of trade unionism but not to kill it, are very uneasy regarding the proposed new legislation. This is, of course, only to be expected, because no man of evenly balanced mind, and with any regard at all for historical knowledge, can fail to realise the possibilities of serious danger to the nation's welfare when an attempt is made to interfere with the legitimate aspirations of the common people. History teaches that even when such attempts are made from the loftiest of motives, they invariably end in disaster.

This cannot be regarded as a political question in the true sense—it is something very much deeper than that. Therefore it is that warnings of danger have been uttered by level-headed men from all parties. Men who are convinced that the Bill would seriously curtail the rightful liberty of the masses, and who realise

what would be the inevitable and perilous consequence.

No one could complain of reasonable measures for trade union reform, and if it turns out that, after all, the present revolutionary proposals can be whittled down to a more rational form, then those of us who love peace and prosperity will have much to be thankful for. One can only hope against hope that discussion on the Bill during its passage through Parliament may serve to show that the intentions of the Government are not so drastic as they seem.

It may be unduly pessimistic to think that the Government seriously intend putting into force every provision of the Bill, but one cannot ignore the serious situation that arises if it does become law as it stands. There is every possibility of this happening, because the ordinary man in the street has not sufficiently intimate knowledge of trade union principles to understand the real significance of the measures proposed for modifying them.

There appears to be a consensus of opinion, including even legal circles, that the far-reaching nature of the proposals would make it difficult for any trade unionist, or anyone else for that matter, to know exactly where he stood regarding the law. Endless litigation, with all its costliness, must be the inevitable result of this state of affairs.

It is obvious that in these circumstances there would be constant and bitter legal wrangles involving the more vigorous of the trade unionists; whilst many others, more mindful of their own personal safety, would adopt the very undesirable practice of nursing their grievances in silence.

\* \* \* \*

The position of the Civil Service is bad enough, but it is of secondary importance compared with the industrial position. It is proposed to make the Service a watertight community cut off from the rest of the world. Also there are to be pains and penalties for the breaking of new laws capable of numerous interpretations. But all this will not matter much either way if the general provisions of the Bill pass into law.

In that event it is tolerably certain that the unswerving loyalty of the Civil Service will, in spite of the new Bill, be the sheet-anchor of the Government during the stormy times to come. How often, and how many of, our legislators have been devoutly thankful in times of anxiety for the calm reliability, efficiency, and safety of the Service! The mind of the average politician is, however, incapable of solid gratitude, but revels in wordy compliments instead. If there really is any danger of disaffection in the State

Service, it could be eliminated rapidly and effectively by the Government adopting a policy of publicly defending its servants against the wicked calumnies and coarse abuse to which it is constantly subjected. The Service would be so very grateful.

\* \* \* \*

The Chancellor has devised a Budget that has called forth expressions of admiration on all sides. The dexterity with which numerous pitfalls have been avoided in the negotiation of a really difficult position is typical of the genius of Mr. Churchill.

Drastic measures for raising money were expected by most of us, but somehow or other these anticipations appear not to have been justified. Nothing drastic has been proposed, and protests against additional taxation have been fewer and less noisy than is usual at Budget time.

The attention of the professional grouchers has therefore been directed more vigorously than ever towards alleged extravagance in the Civil Service. It is difficult to guess why the Chancellor allowed himself to be understood as endorsing the charges of over expenditure in the Civil Service. It can hardly be that he thinks these charges can be substantiated.

Parsimony in Civil Service Departments has now got beyond the merely painful stage, and will shortly develop a demoralising effect. It is positively certain that no business concern could remain solvent if similar niggardliness were adopted in the provision of equipment for the staffs to carry out their work. It is a principle now being preached everywhere in up-to-date commercial spheres, that the cheapest labour is well equipped labour, contented, and free from petty irritations. One can rarely pick up a business magazine nowadays without seeing some exhortation to employers to observe this principle if they desire to get a maximum of profit from their business.

It is almost amusing to realise that the same people who preach this dogma are, in fact, by their ill-informed criticisms of the Civil Service, the indirect cause of a reverse process taking place regarding Civil Servants. If they but knew it, they have ample evidence in support of their theories by studying the effect upon the Service of the miserly and irritating restrictions now in operation.

\* \* \* \*

Some critics have actually come to realise that this kind of so-called economy has been pushed as far as it will go, but, rather than abandon their cherished illusions about "waste," they now assert that some portion of the Civil Service should be lopped off.

So serious are they over the business that a happy little band of kindred spirits is, according to report, to undertake the task of finding out if there is any ground for their own confidently made allegations regarding surplus departments.

If surplus departments are found to exist in any quantities, the nation will no doubt be

grateful to these energetic gentlemen. But there is every reason to believe that the quest will be unsuccessful; and therein lies a danger to our salary scales.

The next move will almost surely be an attack on Civil Service pay. This has been fully anticipated by our Defence Committee, who are prepared for any immediate onslaught. The Committee have shown themselves in the past to be rather a tough proposition for our "gallant" opponents, and we can rest assured that the protection of our interests is in good hands.

\* \* \* \*

Another Committee giving a good account of itself is the Civil Rights Defence Committee, which was set up with the special object of countering any legislation for further curtailing the rights of Civil Servants. They immediately got to work on the Trade Disputes Bill, and the measures now being taken to safeguard the liberty we at present enjoy are very thorough.

Representation on the Committee is not confined to those Associations affiliated to "outside bodies." As a matter of fact, it includes influential organisations not affiliated in any way and who have never shown any inclination towards affiliation. They are, however, keenly alive to the danger of being deprived by the Government of the liberty to act in these matters according to their own judgment.

\* \* \* \*

Immediately the new rates of duty and changes in the tariff became known, the Education Committee got to work. I understand that the Secretary, Mr. Purser, took steps to be right on the spot when the official information came through. It was not long before the whole Committee was engaged upon the task of compiling the ready-reckoner booklet that has been promised. There is no doubt that, though the first edition will be a very useful publication, it will be capable of improvement. It is the intention to amplify the contents in subsequent editions, and therefore constructive criticism will be welcomed. Further particulars appear elsewhere in the "Journal," and all District Organisers are asked to take a personal interest regarding distribution and the sending forward of bulk orders from their Districts.

\* \* \* \*

At Shadwell Pier Head, London, Mr. C. E. Egan, C.P.O., recently presided over an interesting meeting of sports enthusiasts from the London Waterguard staff. From the discussion it would appear that Waterguard interest in athletics has been thoroughly awakened up. A strong Committee was elected, and a plan of campaign mapped out with the object of pulling off as many events as possible in the forthcoming Customs and Excise Annual Sports Meeting.

Undoubtedly the vigour of this movement is due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Egan. His expressed intention of presenting a gold medal to the most distinguished Waterguard athlete at

the sports is further proof of a keen interest in the fortunes of the staff.

Judging from the determined attitude of the prospective competitors, something in the nature of a Promotion Board is likely to be necessary to determine the merits of possible recipients for the medal.

\* \* \* \*

There need be no apology for once again referring to the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the P.S.A. Council. There is evidence that quite a few members still fail to realise the importance of this meeting. It is curious that members who strenuously object to the Executive doing anything without Council authority are inconsistent enough to lay the blame for Association policy, where they disagree with it, upon the shoulders of the Executive. Surely it must be obvious that if the advantages of a Council Meeting are not fully used by the members they cannot expect the Executive to interpret unspoken instructions.

There is nothing more tiresome than the member who causes disruption by raising all sorts of crude questions at District meetings throughout the year, regarding Association policy, and yet cannot, when the all-important pre-Council meeting comes along, formulate one coherent resolution.

The other bugbear to District Secretaries and to Chairmen at District meetings is that pathetic individual who will waste everybody's time fiddling round with the Rules and Constitution. Constitutional amendments, if they are sound, are always welcome, but it is a positive certainty that the man who always has a bee in his bonnet regarding this subject is incapable of constructive thought in the interests of Waterguard progress. The object of most of this Constitutional quibbling is to trammel the Association officers at Headquarters, but the reason given is that a greater efficiency and output of work is desired. The quickest way to disillusion these misguided reformers would be for them to pay a visit to 13, Beer Lane, to see things for themselves. No better time than the present could be chosen for such an inspection, and it would be greatly to the satisfaction of the people doing the work.

J. MERRON.

**OBITUARY.**

**Mr. C. ALLEN.**

The remains of the late Mr. C. Allen, C.P.O., were laid to rest in the Eastern Cemetery on March 30th. Although Mr. Allen had only been in indifferent health for some time, the news of his decease came as a shock to his late colleagues. A large number of Waterguard Officers attended the funeral, all Grades being represented. Among the many beautiful floral tributes was one from the Waterguard Staff, Leith, and one from the Waterguard Staff, Grangemouth, at which port Mr. Allen was stationed prior to his retirement.

**AT LAST.**

The booklet of duties mentioned in the last issue of the "Customs Journal" is now available. **THERE IS ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF COPIES.** The booklet contains twenty-two pages, showing duties chargeable on Tea, Tobacco, Spirits and Wines (full and preferential rates), single, double and treble duty-paid values; tables of duties on Silk Tissue and Apparel; scale of fines on non-dutiable Merchandise in baggage, and fines on ships in smuggling cases.

Size.—5½ in. by 3½ in., in paper and linen covers.

Prices.—10d. and 1s. each, plus postage; or 10s. and 12s. per dozen, post free.

Post your application immediately to:—The Secretary (V.P.C.), Preventive Staff Association, 13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3.

Please send me ..... copies (\*paper, linen) covered, tables of duties, etc. Postal Order, payable to C. R. Purser, London, value ....., enclosed.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

\* Delete word inapplicable.

**PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.**

**LIVERPOOL.**

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch was held in the Common Hall on Wednesday, March 30th. Mr. J. Clayson occupied the chair.

Suggested amendments to the Association constitution were carried, the meeting recommending a new paragraph to Rule 3 to apply to Association members in arrears with subscriptions. It is suggested that members who are more than twelve months in arrears shall cease to be members, and shall only be allowed to rejoin with the approval of the members of a Branch meeting. Regarding Rule 4, paragraph 5, it is suggested to delete all after the first sentence.

A report of the recent Local Whitley Committee meeting was presented to the meeting. Satisfaction was expressed on the conduct of the Waterguard cases on staffing arrangements and the complaint re the s.l. "Scout" for river work.

Dissatisfaction was freely expressed over the attitude the Board has recently adopted towards the aspirations of the Waterguard in the matter of the entrance examination for A.P.O.'s, and also with the non-inclusion, with the Departmental Clerical Class, of members of the A.P.O. Grade wishing to enter the Officer Grade.

A notice of motion for a reduction of subscription for A.P.O.'s under five years' service was given for the next meeting. The attendance was good, and an enthusiastic meeting closed at 10 p.m.

## C. & E. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.

The eighty-third meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on March 30th, 1927, the Chair being taken by C. J. T. B. Grylls, Esq., C.B., C.B.E.

### PROMOTION.

The Official Side stated that careful consideration was being given to the claims of Clerical Officers holding higher appointments on an "acting" basis in the Statistical Office in connection with promotion to substantive appointments made in other Headquarters offices, and the question was re-adjourned.

The Staff Side having referred to the possibility of an artificial barrier having been created against the promotion of Typists to the Clerical Class, the Official Side pointed out that the relative agreement of the National Council made it clear that no absolute barrier existed, but that they could not go beyond that agreement.

### TRANSFERS.

With reference to the proposed voluntary transfer of three Officers to the Junior Executive Grade, the Staff Side gave notice that they would raise the question of the limitation of these transfers to the Officer Grade.

With regard to the seniority of Officers so transferred, it was ascertained that no decision had been reached by the Official Side.

The Staff Side enquired as to the difficulty experienced by applicants in obtaining transfers from the Treasury Clerical Class within the Department to the Departmental Clerical Class, and from the C. and E. Departmental Class to other Departmental Classes. The Official Side replied that the present difficulty arose from the dislocation ensuing upon the setting up of the Departmental Class and the substitution for Temporary Clerks generally by Southborough entrants. When arrangements were more stable applications would be considered on their merits.

### ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

It was agreed that a post of Deputy Accountant-General be added to the establishment, but a disagreement was registered on the dropping of the post of Chief Accountant.

### INSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS.

It was agreed that Unattached Officers who have not received complete instruction shall be given any necessary further instruction as early as practicable in so far as this can be done without removal from their present Collections.

### FIXATION OF OFFICERS.

On the basis of Local agreements, it was agreed that five more Fixed Officers be appointed in London and Glasgow.

### FIXED OFFICIATORS.

Twenty-two further centres for Fixed Officiators were agreed upon on the basis of Local agreements.

### COLLECTION UNATTACHED OFFICERS.

Arrangements were agreed with regard to the appointment of Collection Unattached Officers, based on the foreseeable regular and permanent employment of a certain number in each Collection. Details of the scheme are in course of publication, and the actual number of posts will be discussed in each Local Committee concerned. Vacancies will be advertised as they arise.

### CHECKING DUTIES.

It was agreed that the employment of Clerks in London Docks on checking duties outside the Warehouse Accounts Office be discontinued.

### OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The Official Side stated that in view of demands which might be made on the staff in the immediate future, it had been decided to extend to the May delivery of Pension Order Books the temporary arrangements regarding postal delivery in force on the occasion of the two previous deliveries.

### LEAVE-YEAR.

The Council confirmed Office Committee agreements altering the leave-year to May 1st—April 30th in the Secretaries', Accountant-General's and Solicitor's Offices.

### UNITS OF WORK.

An agreed unit was fixed for cases of Liquor Licence Reduced Duty.

### OTHER MATTERS.

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

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, April 27th, 1927.

## C.S. HOUSING ASSOCIATION, LTD.,

### REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The second annual general meeting of shareholders of the Civil Service Housing Association, Ltd., was held at Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., on March 23rd, 1927. Mr. George Middleton, J.P., Chairman of the Association, presided, and was supported by Mr. W. Ewart Llewellyn, Vice-Chairman; Mr. A. J. C. Edwards, Treasurer; Mr. Walter G. Boys, Secretary; and other members of the Committee of Management. There was a good attendance of shareholders.

In his address, the Chairman congratulated the shareholders on the success of the Associa-

tion, and drew attention to the figures shown in the report and accounts, from which it appeared that during the period ended December 31st, 1926, 116 Civil Servants had been assisted by means of mortgage advances to purchase houses for their own occupation. These advances had been made under a very favourable arrangement, and, in view of the success which had attended the efforts of the Association, the Chairman expressed the hope that it might, before long, become financially independent from top to bottom. In this connection he announced that the possibility of forming a Civil Service Building Society would be closely examined by the Management Committee during the year 1927.

The Chairman referred to the opening of the Association's Legal Department, which he described as a step towards making the Association an independent and self-contained concern. He felt sure that members of the Association would appreciate the new service which the Association was thus rendering to its clients, and the reduction in charges which the enterprise of the Association would render possible.

The Chairman expressed the gratification of the Committee of Management that they had persuaded an eminent solicitor to take up the position of solicitor to the Association. Mr. Marcan, who had been appointed, had for many years been in practice on his own account, and he had also had valuable experience as one of the assistant solicitors to the Treasury and in the office of the Middlesex County Council (where he had been employed exclusively on housing work). The Chairman pointed out that the services of the solicitor to the Association would be available for all Civil Servants in matters connected with housing, and in such other matters as Mr. Marcan could undertake on their behalf without interfering with housing business.

The Chairman pointed out that the installation of the Legal Department had been rendered possible by the transfer of the offices of the Association to new and commodious premises at 7, St. George's Square, and in this connection he wished to thank the Association of Officers of Taxes, the owners of the building, for the courtesy and consideration which they had extended to the Housing Association, who had become the tenants of this kindred Association. He assured the shareholders present that they and any other Civil Servants would always be assured a warm welcome if they should visit the Housing Association's offices.

The Chairman referred to the numerous types of clients with whom the Association had dealt during the period under review. These clients had included officers of both sexes and of all Grades in the Civil Service, including Postmen, Sorters, Messengers, Clerical, Executive, Administrative, and Professional Officers and Assistant Secretaries.

The Chairman stated that neither he nor the Committee of Management would rest content with the success which had been achieved, but would continue to labour in order that they

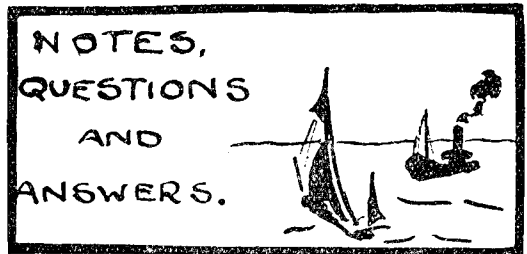
might provide, within the independent resources of the Association, houses and funds for the acquisition thereof, suitable to and within the means of all Grades of Civil Servants, from the highest to the lowest.

The Chairman announced the declaration of a dividend on the shares in the Housing Association, payable on April 30th, 1927, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, calculated from the date the share capital was received by the Housing Association up to December 31st, 1926.

Suitable provision was made for honoraria to officers for the work done in 1926 and for the future payment of remuneration to the Secretary. The Committee of Management was instructed to examine, during 1927, the question of the appointment of a full-time Secretary.

The accounts as audited and circulated were adopted.

The following were appointed to the Committee of Management to serve until the next annual general meeting: Mr. George Middleton, J.P., Chairman; Mr. W. Ewart Jlewellyn, O.B.E., Vice-Chairman; Miss Dorothy Hall; Mr. G. Chase, A.M.I.N.A.; Mr. J. T. Houlihan; Mr. F. S. Jones; Mr. J. G. Magrath; Mr. F. A. A. Menzler, F.I.A., B.Sc.; Mr. F. P. Pratt, F.S.I.; Mr. S. Slocombe; Mr. A. C. Winyard; and Mr. G. F. H. Wraight, F.S.I. Mr. S. A. Purdie was unanimously re-appointed Auditor.



All contributions relative to this column should be addressed to "Scrutator," c/o The Editor, 91, Tressillian Road, Brockley, London, S.E.4.

Our colleague "Solway" has again obliged by submitting answers to the questions asked in "Journal" No. 585.

These answers are published below, and as I do not quite agree with some of the detail given in these answers, my comments follow.

Sir,—In answer to the questions in "Customs Journal" No. 585, the following is, in my opinion, the correct procedure:—

(1) The P.O. at Blyth would board, rummage and clear the vessel inwards on arrival, endorsing the Clearing Notes: "In water ballast, called for bunkers only." If any stores are placed under seal, or live stock on board, a Letter of Advice would be prepared and forwarded to Leith. On the arrival sheet the

tonnage would be recorded in Column 11, and in Column 12, "Called for bunkers only"; on the sailing side the tonnage would be recorded in Column 10 and remarks in Column 11. This is very important, as it allows the Long Room Officers to send the correct return to the Board of Trade; also it keeps the tonnage of the trade of the port correct. (See Shipping Returns No. 12006/1923, pars. 1 and 2, and Appendix C, Table (1)).

A bunker coal certificate, Form No. 92, required for coal shippers coastwise.

On the arrival of the vessel at Leith the P.O. would board the vessel in the usual way, run-mage and clear inwards on arrival, withdraw Clearing Notes issued at Blyth, and, if satisfied with stores (if any), endorse same and attach to Leith Clearing Notes, and forward to Long Room, Custom House. The master would report his vessel inwards from Hamburg via Blyth in water ballast, and at the same time he would enter his vessel outwards for foreign.

(2) The same procedure will apply, except that the Blue Book and Clearing Notes would be endorsed: "No cargo landed at this port, called for bunkers only," and the final clearance of vessel would be effected on completion of discharge at Leith.

(3) In regard to the silk scarves and silk handkerchiefs, I would detain them, take name and address, and report to my superior officer, as in my opinion the value on the goods exceeds ten shillings.

(4) Define a "Dip-Rod."

A dip-rod is used for ascertaining the quantity of liquid any vessel is capable of holding, and what it actually contains when partially full.

The folding dip-rod used by the Waterguard Officers is 36 inches long, and the straight dip-rod used by the Landing Officers is 48 inches long and about half-an-inch square. Two of its opposite sides are decimally divided. These two sides indicate the perpendicular diameter and the dry and wet inches.

Define "Builder's Certificate."

A Builder's Certificate is a document issued by the builder, and is required to be produced in evidence on first registry of vessel.

(a) In the case of a British-built ship, a Builder's Certificate, that is to say, a certificate signed by the builder of the ship, and containing a true account of the proper denomination and tonnage of the ship, as estimated by him, and of the time when and the place where the ship was built, and of the name of the person (if any) on whose account the ship was built, and if there has been any sale, the bill of sale under which the ship, and share therein, has become vested in the applicant for registry.

(b) In the case of a foreign-built ship, the same evidence as in the case of a British-built ship is required, unless the declarant who makes the declaration of ownership declares that the time and place of the building are unknown to him.

(c) If the builder makes a false statement in the certificate he is liable for each offence to a fine of £100.

(d) In the case of unregistered vessels making a coasting voyage before Registry, permission must be obtained from the Principal Registrar, and the tonnage as stated in Form Survey No. 59 must be noted on transire.

#### REFERENCE.

The particulars regarding the arrival returns are very interesting and should prove useful to those officers who have to deal with such. My reason for not retaining the List 142 at Blyth is that, as the vessel does not report there, this document is required at Leith, at which place report is made. This also applies to case (2).

I also refrained from mentioning Blue Book in question (1) as at some ports this book is not used for "ballast vessels." The Blue Book would, however, be necessary at Leith in case (2).

Question No. 3 did not give sufficient detail to return a definite answer. I cannot understand the reason for detention without further detail. What bearing has 10s. value in the case?

Here are a few questions on this incident: Was duty paid on board? Are the goods personal property? What is the weight of the goods? Does the value exceed £1 10s.? Are any of the goods worn on the person? Are they re-imports?

These are some of the questions that require answering before any definite decision can be reached.

Regarding the answer to Question 4, I would remind "Solway" that the dip-rod can only give "approximate" quantities, as stated in my original answer.

"SCRUTATOR."



We are reminded by the arrival of greetings from the south-west coast that the holiday season is upon us, and that some of our fortunate colleagues are already enjoying well-merited relaxation in pleasant surroundings. There are many places to choose from for a holiday, and a glance at the advertisements appearing from time to time in this journal should prove of use in offering suggestions. One in particular, appearing in No. 583, and signed by an old colleague who has left the Service, offers bright prospects and restful surroundings. Visitors to Ivy Cottage, Reydon Southwold, will be sure of a warm welcome from Mr. Herrington.

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

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Room 120, Custom House, on Monday, 4th inst., when T. Morton, Esq., presided, and other members present were Messrs. Moffatt, Quin, Widdowson, Thorne, Medwin, O'Flynn, Abrahams, Healey, Barnard, Price, Howard,, Softly, Eperon, Parkes, and Johnson.

The minutes of the preceding meetings were read and confirmed. The Secretary presented a Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year. This showed that £1,936 from subscriptions, £256 from donations, and £443 from dividends, had been received during the year. Grants for the maintenance and education of children amounted to £853, and to widows, £503. This is the largest amount disbursed in grants since the Fund was established 60 years ago.

Membership continues to grow, and the Secretary submitted a list of 47 names for election, and all were accepted. This number, together with those elected at the three preceding meetings, makes a total of 150 new subscribers for the year, and the total membership is now 3,677.

Two applications from widows, one with one child, and the other with two children, were considered, and in both cases the children were elected to benefits, at a present cost of £15 and £20 respectively. Applications from seventeen widows, all of whom were over 60 years of age, and eight were over 70, were submitted for consideration for grants. In each case the Visiting Committee reported that help was necessary, and recommended that the maximum grant of £15 be authorised. The Executive Committee accepted the recommendations.

In accordance with the Rules, reports by the Visiting Committee on the welfare of the children on whose behalf grants are being paid were presented. In each case the report stated that the children were being well cared for and properly educated.

The draft of the Annual Report and the Accounts were approved, and the Secretary was directed to have them printed for circulation to the members. Authority was given to the Secretary to fix a date in June for the Annual Meeting of members.

**LONDON CRICKET.**

The South Side Cricket Club opens the season on May 14th at their ground at Lower Sydenham, when the visiting team will be Dover Road C.C. A good attendance is anticipated, and the fortunes of the Club will be watched with keen interest in Waterguard circles. Everything points to a successful season.

**THOSE SCHOOL CHILDREN AGAIN.**

In a village near Chepstow the other day, one of the girls was sitting for an examination for a scholarship at a Monmouth school. One of the questions was: "Name six minerals."

It was some time before she could remember six, but at last they came to her, and she answered: "Ginger beer, ginger ale, lemonade, soda water, Seltzer water, and kola."

B.J.B.

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SCHEME.**

The Second Term commences in the second week in May. Applications should reach the Association Offices by the first post on Monday, May 2nd, so that work may be allotted to the Tutors.

The Secretary (V.E.C.),  
Preventive Staff Association,  
13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3.

Please enrol me for Preliminary Course  
Intermediate Course (delete Courses not required) in Waterguard  
Advanced Course

Departmental Regulations. Postal Order, payable to C. R. Purser, London, value..... (insert amount), enclosed.

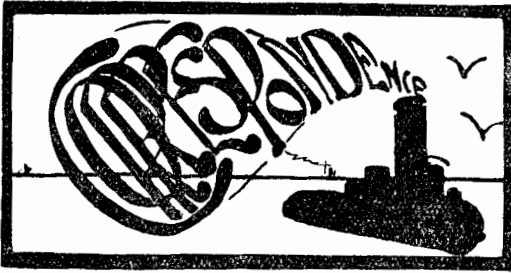
Name .....

Address .....

Tutors,—Messrs. Angus, Ashford, Finley, Gardiner, Gordon, Jeffreys, Lake and Sheehan,

Please indicate Tutor desired.

Fees: 5/-, 12/6 and 20/- per term respectively.



The name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication) should be given in all letters to the Editor, who accepts no responsibility for the views expressed.

#### EFFICIENCY.

Sir,—H.M. Customs and Excise is generally admitted to be one of the most efficient Departments of the Civil Service, and I take it that the Waterguard, being a branch of the C. and E., is included in this admission. That being so, are we to allow ourselves to feel a gloss of self-sufficiency creep over us at the realisation of being members of this admittedly great Department, and, as a consequence, remain content with our relatively low status as compared with other branches, or are we to make further efforts towards efficiency, and thereby raise our status in the Department, and, incidentally, raise the efficiency of the Department as a whole?

Since the amalgamation of the P.O. and A.P.O. Associations, the biggest step forward has been the inauguration of the Vocational Education Scheme, and in the advancement and extension of the scheme we have the means whereby we may, individually and collectively, attain to a fuller state of efficiency, and ultimately raise the Department to a higher level. To help to achieve this end the following suggestions are made, and, I trust, will be given consideration and acted upon:—

(1) That each A.P.O., on joining the Service, be immediately supplied with copies of the various Customs Regulations (including all General Orders appertaining to the work of the Department), with the relative amendments.

(2) That opportunity be given these officers to amend the Codes and General Orders supplied during official hours.

(3) That a systematic check of the Regulations be made once a quarter to ensure that the Regulations are amended to date.

(4) That the question of the Preliminary Course of the V.E.S. being given free to all A.P.O.'s who have paid one year's subscription to the Association funds be considered.

(5) That the possibilities of the V.E.S. be explored with a view to extending the scheme to the training of Preventive Officers for the position of Chief Preventive Officers.—Yours, etc.,

APA.

Sir,—I have nothing to retract from my letter which appeared in your issue of the 21st ult., in reply to your correspondent "Hopeful."

In your last issue a would-be dictatorial Oracle—a veritable Daniel come to judgment—appears on the scene and he introduces stupid irrelevancies and cheap scurrilous ribaldry which has taken him a month to put together. This rubbish I treat with the contempt it deserves.—Yours, etc.,

"OLIVER."

#### WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB TOURNAMENT.

The following game is now finished in Round 1:—

J. MacKay, P.O., Leith. J. C. O'Shea, A.P.O.,

White.

Liverpool. Black.

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. P—K4      | P—K4           |
| 2. Kt—KB3    | Kt—QB3         |
| 3. P—QB3     | P—Q4           |
| 4. B—Q3      | B—K3           |
| 5. Q—R4      | Q—Q3           |
| 6. P—QKt4    | Castles Q side |
| 7. P—QKt5    | P × P          |
| 8. B × P     | QKt—Kt1        |
| 9. Q × QRP   | Q—QKt3         |
| 10. Q—QR4    | KB—B4          |
| 11. Castles  | P—KB4          |
| 12. B—QB2    | P—K5           |
| 13. Kt—K5    | KKt—B3         |
| 14. Kt—QR3   | QR—Q5          |
| 15. P × R    | B × P          |
| 16. Kt—QB4   | Q—QB4          |
| 17. B—QR3    | Q—Q4           |
| 18. B—QKt3   | Kt—Q2          |
| 19. Kt—Q6+   | Q × Kt         |
| 20. B × Q    | B × Kt         |
| 21. B × QB   | B × QB         |
| 22. P—QKt6   | R—K1           |
| 23. P × QBP  | R × B          |
| 24. P × Kt+* | B × Q          |

\* White claims a Queen.

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| 25. KR—QB1+ | K—Q1     |
| 26. Q—QR5+  | P—QKt3   |
| 27. Q—KBP   | KR—R3    |
| 28. P—KKt3  | B—Q3     |
| 29. Q × KP  | B—K4     |
| 30. P—Q4    | B—Q3     |
| 31. Q—QKt7  | R—K3     |
| 32. P—Q5    | Resignst |

+ Probable mate would be.

- |           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| Q—QBS+    | R—KB3 |
| KR—K1+    | K—K2  |
| Q—K8 mate | K—KB2 |