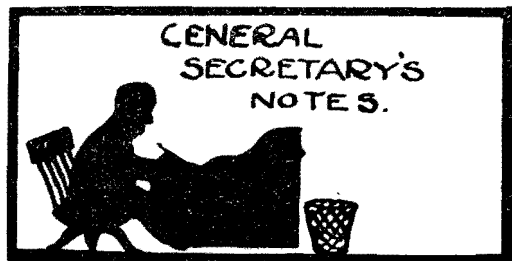


The Customs Journal.

No. 598.

September 24th, 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 Treasury regulations giving effect to Clause 5 of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill have at last come along. Though they contain nothing more startling than appears in Clause 5 itself, a perusal of them impresses one more than ever with the drastic nature of the restrictions the Bill places upon all Civil Service Associations—even on those which have never at any time shown political tendencies.

Possibly the only thing that was not really expected in the regulations now issued is the obligation on all Associations to apply for permission if they are to continue in existence. Practically every Civil Service organisation has already taken steps to conform to the new law, and it was the general impression that this common-sense action would be regarded by the authorities as sufficient and satisfactory, and that only organisations failing to comply with the law would be called upon to explain themselves.

Instead of this, however, each association must apply for a Certificate of Approval, and before this can be obtained the President and Secretary must make a written declaration that the constitution of the association is in accord with the regulations. The applications are to be made to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, who will forward them to the Treasury together with a report in each case. It is to be decided by the Treasury whether a Certificate of Approval may be issued or not, and any Civil Servant belonging to any organisation which has not obtained such a certificate by December 31st next will be regarded as breaking the law.

Needless to say, the Executive of the P.S.A. are fully alive to the situation. Application will be made in plenty of time, and, as the President and Secretary are in a position to make the statutory declaration, there is no doubt that the New Year will see us sporting the alluring title of "Approved Association," which will be the "legal key" to a new era of Association activity.

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Stout heartedness has always been a necessary attribute in a District Secretary who would survive the many disappointments he meets in performing the duties of his office. As a rule it is enthusiasm for a good cause that induces him to saddle himself with the burden of secretarial work for his colleagues, but there is no better method of getting the fire of enthusiasm damped down than to become a District Secretary. Often enough the ambition to take office arises through listening to grievance discussions that frequently occur in the depots and watch-houses. But it is not long before a new District Secretary discovers that, despite his best efforts, District meetings are very drab affairs sparsely attended, and minus the very people he is most desirous of helping. Few members are as loyal as they should be to their representatives, and District officers are hardly to be blamed if they become discouraged and drop into routine methods.

Speaking generally, the District officers of the P.S.A. are deserving of much better treatment than they get. They never fail to give prompt and adequate co-operation with the Executive in putting Association policy into effect, but all too often are they handicapped by the lethargy of their own constituents.

It is in the full knowledge of all the difficulties that I now make reference to several complaints I have recently received from members at outlying stations that they are neglected by the District Secretaries. It is stated that they hear nothing of what is happening within their own Districts. Peculiarly enough, the members who would take most interest in District meetings are those in isolated places who never have the opportunity to attend.

To meet the complaint of the small port men and to help in solving the problem of apathy in the larger ports, I have a suggestion to make to all District officers. I would propose that at regular periods throughout the year, say every quarter, the District Organiser and the District Secretary in each District confer together with the object of producing a newsy review of District affairs for publication in the "Journal." Sufficient material to fill a column is easily found in any District, and all that is required

is a determination to begin. In large Districts, local secretaries could be invited to send material along to the District Secretary.

If such a system could be inaugurated, the "Customs Journal" would at last fulfil the purpose for which it exists, and there is no doubt that a more lively interest in District meetings would follow. I hope that this suggestion will receive consideration at future meetings throughout the country.

* * * *

The London Branch meeting on the 15th inst. fulfilled expectations of record attendance. Most of the evening was devoted to the discussion of P.S.A. finance. Several members were determined to get down to rock bottom on this subject, and the whole question was thoroughly thrashed out. The presence of the Treasurer, Mr. Sutton, enabled a detailed examination of the subject, and the matter was gone into almost as thoroughly as at a Council or Executive meeting. Finally, the meeting endorsed the financial policy of the Council.

It was impossible, however, to deal with the major portion of the agenda, and therefore it was decided to adjourn until the following Thursday.

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Speaking of the "Journal" reminds me that for some time past the Immigration Officers' Association have been considering the possibility of producing a periodical, and I now hear that arrangements are being made for a monthly publication, which will shortly make its appearance.

A membership scattered all over the kingdom creates a problem for the I.O. Association similar to our own. Realising the value of the "Customs Journal" to the Association, we can congratulate the I.O. Association on their enterprise. The difficulties they will have to overcome will be much greater than we have had, nevertheless, may the new journal meet with every success.

* * * *

An interesting inquiry reached the Headquarters Office of the Association recently.

Information was requested as to whether the V.E. Section Courses could be taken by members of the Clerical Department of the Customs and Excise. It is, of course, impracticable under the present circumstances to extend tuition in this direction, but the fact that such a request has been made ought to open the eyes of those of our members who have as yet not realised the value of the education scheme founded for them.

Many clerical officers are engaged on work requiring a knowledge of certain regulations, and at Parcel Post Depots they are interested in preventive work.

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In view of the fact that the London Water-guard Whitley Committee will shortly be discussing the question of staffing for the port, it is interesting to note that, according to the recently-published P.L.A. Report, there has

been an increase this year of two million tons in the trade of the port. This is due entirely to increased foreign trade. A decrease being recorded for coastwise trade.

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The Gravesend Customs House Staff and Sports Club Dinner, with Mr. J. W. Connaway, M.B.E., in the chair, will be held this year on Wednesday, September 28th.

This is the third annual dinner, and if it turns out as successful as those in the past, there is no doubt a very enjoyable evening will be spent.

The Gravesend Staff are anxious that as many London officers as possible should attend, but unfortunately there are not many who can do so.

The tickets are 7s. 6d. each, and can be obtained at the Association Offices, Beer Lane.

* * * *

I wish to inform members visiting London and desiring to call at Beer Lane, that the office is occupied practically every evening after 4 p.m. Provincial members are always welcome, and I regret that during the past few weeks several members have made fruitless journeys through coming too early in the day. It is always advisable to send a warning postcard or to telephone.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

LONDON.

A most successful meeting of the Branch was held at St. Katharine's Dock Hotel on Thursday, 15th inst., when over 40 members attended.

Mr. G. Abbott, P.O., occupied the chair, and as usual the whole of the Headquarters staff was in attendance, and it was early evident that the local members were fully determined to show their keenness in Association affairs, for as soon as the minutes of the previous meeting were disposed of, the members settled down to a rather lengthy and keen debate on "Rotation of Duties." The debate was ably initiated by Mr. Purser, P.O., who, speaking at length, explained the principles of the subject once again, although the matter had on more than one occasion previously received the consideration of the Branch. After a lengthy discussion, a resolution bearing on a previous Whitley agreement was adopted and forwarded to the Port Committee.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. M. J. Griffiths, P.O., for his report of the proceedings of the Council, who, in a very able speech, gave his impressions of his first Council and explained the thoroughness adopted in dealing with the Association's affairs and the direction of its policy. He remarked that he had learnt a very great lesson at his first appearance on the Conference, and was surprised at the business-like attitude in which our affairs were dealt with. He advocated that ordinary members should be

encouraged whenever possible to attend the subsequent Conferences, and see for themselves the manner in which the Council is conducted. After detailing the action of the Council regarding London's own resolution on the subject of Honoraria, the meeting entered upon a protracted and at times heated discussion on the financial aspect of the Association's affairs. Various members spoke on this important subject, and the arguments and comparisons used proved beyond doubt that London at all events was determined to keep the P.S.A. finances on a firm business basis.

The Organising Secretary, Mr. J. T. Sutton, in a lengthy speech at the end of the debate, quoted facts and figures regarding the receipts and expenses of the Association, and proved to the meeting that only business methods were adopted and that we were (in spite of a reduced bank balance) as sound as ever, a fact much appreciated by all members present.

The debate was concluded by the unanimous adoption of the following two resolutions:—

(1) "That this meeting expresses its full agreement in the action of the Council on the subject of Honoraria."

(2) "A vote of confidence in the Secretaries."

Owing to the lateness of the hour the Chairman put a resolution to the meeting, "That the remainder of the agenda be adjourned until the following week, when a special meeting would be called for this purpose." The unanimous adoption of this resolution terminated the meeting at 10.20 p.m., with the prospect of another lengthy discussion in store.

BRISTOL.

A meeting of the above was held at the Central Restaurant, Broad Quay, Bristol, on August 25th, 1927, at 7 p.m. Mr. Perryman presided over a fair attendance.

Election of District Officers.—Mr. Stonestreet was elected to the Chair for the ensuing year. Messrs. Griffin and Atkins were re-elected District Organiser and District Secretary respectively.

A.P.O.'s Badge.—It was suggested that the word "Customs" in the A.P.O.'s Badge should be erased and black laurels substituted.

Items of local interest were discussed and proposed action approved.

CARDIFF.

A District Meeting was held at the Old Arcade Hotel on September 2nd, a fair attendance being registered. The chief object of the meeting was to receive the report of the Councillors for the District. A vote of thanks was passed for their complete report.

An amendment to the constitution was moved regarding Rule 4, 5, to add at the end of the amended rule that: "of the officers, two shall be elected from each Grade. An A.P.O. elected

to a position shall retire automatically on promotion to P.O."

A proposal was also carried unanimously that voting at a Conference shall be confined to members representing Districts and the Officers.

On the retirement of Mr. P. A. Owen, P.O., from the District Secretaryship, Mr. Watson, P.O., was elected to fill the vacancy.

A local Organising Secretary for Cardiff was also appointed, Mr. F. Caldeleugh, A.P.O., being unanimously elected.

GRANGEMOUTH.

A well-attended meeting was held at the New Waterguard Office on September 13th, with Mr. D. McDougall in the chair.

Several local matters came up for discussion (as usual) and were satisfactorily disposed of. A resolution was carried unanimously that more interest be taken in keeping the "Customs Journal" to the fore by contributions, which may be of interest to members outside the port of Grangemouth.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

SOUTH WALES.

Correspondence for Mr. C. H. Goodliffe, District Organiser for the South Wales area, should in future be addressed to—

"Castel,"
Hastings Avenue,
Penarth.

THE CUSTOMS FUND.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR.

The Editor,

"The Customs Journal."

Dear Sir,—

With reference to the announcement in the current issue of the "Journal" of the resignation of Mr. N. R. White, and of a special meeting of subscribers of the Customs Fund to fill the vacant post of Auditor, I should welcome an opportunity through your columns of informing the subscribers that I propose to offer myself as a candidate for the post.

I have received promises of substantial support from practically every Grade in the Department, including prominent members of the Waterguard Service, and I am encouraged to hope that other subscribers who have not been reached will give me their support in the subsequent election.

It is my intention later to issue a circular individually to subscribers setting out the grounds on which I base my candidature.

Yours faithfully,
F. G. PERKINS,

PARLIAMENT.

By "CARACTACUS."

IX.—LABOUR AND LAW.

One of the best means of appreciating the extent of our advance is to contrast the law as it was in the past and as it is to-day, and here the intention is to outline some of the laws which most nearly touched the common people in the "good old days."

The first things we should consider are what legislation does, what it can do, and what it should do, and these are largely matters of opinion; but there are broad points upon which all can agree.

We may agree, for instance, that the Legislature should not limit individual freedom, except in crime, or in other matters which affect the safety and well-being of others, and that which is theirs. Sometimes, we must also agree, in a country governed by a largely indeterminate constitution such as ours, it is often difficult, sometimes impossible, to apply that principle strictly, and it can readily be seen that ambiguities may creep in, necessitating periodical revision to meet the degree of abuse and injustice which must inevitably arise. Perhaps this may serve, to some extent, to keep alive the reformist spirit which makes so much for progress. Our social institutions were slowly evolved from aboriginal customs, moulded by the various warring influences, Roman, Saxon, Danish and Norman. Our legislation has been a process of compromise, and, particularly in the nineteenth century and the twentieth, has been in the nature of concession to demand.

But in the matter of individual liberty, to discriminate wisely as to what the State should do and what it should avoid, we need to trace the relationship between the State and the citizen, which has been one salient object of this series. In any case, it is impossible to draw a clear distinction between the proper spheres of State control and individual endeavour.

Constitutionally, of course, Parliament has only one limitation to its competency for anything it may choose to enact, and that is the economic one of means. About the best definition I ever heard of the Constitution was, that it is the totality of the common law and the statute law for the time being in force. Whatever Parliament does, then, although it may be morally bad, and morally unconstitutional, according to the strict letter its every act is a part of the constitution immediately, and, strictly speaking, it cannot perform an unconstitutional act.

Accordingly there is plenty of room for Parliament to regulate individual liberty by repressive legislation, by the enactment and administration of penal laws, by force, but the good statesman will strive to govern by the education

and development of a sound public opinion, realising that the moral improvement of a man must come from within, that it cannot be imposed. That is one reason for the dismal failure of Prohibition in the United States of America.

For a parallel reason the Legislature should not attempt, or even profess, to do things for the individual which he can reasonably be expected to do for himself. It should encourage necessary changes, but should not enforce them. Undue pressure, such as is being exerted in this country and in certain others at the present time, for instance, in the industrial world, is the greatest enemy of its own object, and, such is human psychology, encourages deliberate evasion and even open rebellion. The aim should be for a maximum of self-reliant liberty of action by sheer force of conviction, and a minimum of restriction and compulsion. Do away with the self-reliance and pride of the people, and the country will immediately enter on a down grade.

The legislature and its executive should endeavour to preserve internal peace by mutual trust as between individuals and bodies. It should promote equality of opportunity in order to develop the best that is in every man, or better still, every child, for the real wealth of the nation is always, and in all ways, the sum of the capacities of the individual citizens. The State should protect the individual against aggression, whether it be criminal, moral, industrial, or by force of foreign arms. But, above all else, it should foster individual courage, efficiency, initiative, enterprise and material well-being.

It is, to me, an open question whether labour leaders were well advised to use influence to the end of securing legislative betterment of hours, conditions and wages, for it seems clear that such a policy involves an admission that the legislature has a logical right to enforce conditions which may be unpalatable or unacceptable to them, by the lengthening of hours, and the reduction of wages, etc. Consider the coal-mining problem. Again, labour leaders seem to forget that the Government is more often in the hands of that interest which is likely to use such a precedent against the interests of the labouring man. It seems to be bad tactics, somehow. Such a thing as enforcing an eight-hours day is not a good thing unless circumstances are such as to leave no option in the interests of the public welfare.

Even in this last direction there can be no hard and fast rule. Nobody, for instance, would question the desirability, the necessity, of the

Factory Acts and the legislation concerning the employment of women, children and young persons in mines. Female and juvenile labour are, in many industries, cheaper than male labour, and without legislation abuse would certainly creep in, to the ultimate detriment of the national health and pocket. Here there is, it is true, some curtailment of individual liberty, but who would go so far as to quarrel about it? It stands to reason that if the male worker could work, in these industries, as cheaply and as efficiently without the female and the juvenile, the legislation which controls their employment would cease to have significance, and would sink into the limbo of the forgotten.

During the last six centuries many attempts have been made to prescribe and proscribe the conditions of labour, and these have always proved to be non-effective. The Statutes of Labourers (1350) fixed the daily wage, piece rate, harvest and term rates, of masons, plasterers, carpenters, farm workers, and other skilled artisans, imposing imprisonment upon those seeking employment abroad from their own hundreds, who, if they could not be found, were to be outlawed, and on arrest and imprisonment, to be branded on the forehead with an "F" in token of falsity if the complaining employer so desired. It voided all existing combinations of workmen, and prohibited future ones. Later, under Richard II., two Acts prohibited the payment of more or less than a given rate of pay, directed that a juvenile who had served in husbandry up to the age of twelve years must so remain all his life, and prohibited the villein from leaving the service of his lord. With Henry V. the penalty for the payment of more than the standard rate of wages was to be imposed only on the recipient, and in 1423 it was enacted that a request for too high wages should be punished by imprisonment. Three years later justices were empowered to fix by proclamation the rates of pay for artisans and labourers, to arrest and examine those suspected of receiving too much, and, if they were found guilty, to imprison them. The rate for carpenters, masons, and other skilled craftsmen at this time was fourpence per day, of which one penny was deducted if food was supplied.

In 1463 an Act made it optional what clothes a labourer might wear. There followed a host of enactments which purported to regulate the conditions of employment of leather workers, shoe, harness and pattern makers and saddlers, and the prices of cloths, hats, and numerous other manufactured goods, while additional penal laws were imposed. Every single one of those laws failed and fell into disuse, for the very simple reason that they were unworkable. Finally, in Elizabeth's reign they were repealed, and in order to

"banishe idleness, advance husbandrye, and yecdle unto the hired pson both in time of scarcitee and in time of plentye a convenient proporcon of wages."

new laws were passed. Justices and magistrates

were to fix piece prices and wage rates, and contracts of service were forbidden for a less term than one year. Every person from twelve years to sixty years of age who was not lawfully engaged as a seaman, miller, miner, or in any of the other recognised trades, or as a scholar, except he was a gentleman born, was compelled to be an agricultural labourer. The hours of work were laid down as from mid-March to mid-September, from five o'clock in the morning, or before, until seven or eight o'clock in the evening, with not exceeding half an hour each for breakfast and "drinkinge," one hour for dinner, and between mid-May and mid-August, half an hour for sleep, while from September to March they must be at work from daybreak until nightfall. Artisans must do agricultural work at harvest time if required, or be put in the stocks. The attitude of mind was that the labour of the lower classes was a part of the public order, and idleness in any form was a breach of the public peace involving criminal punishment. The peculiar mentality which could entertain such a fantastic conception is not, even yet, extinct among our gentlemen born and some others, and it is only fifty-two years since it disappeared from English law with the Act of 1875.

What we call "State interference" has always been more or less anathema to the English mind, and although a great change has taken place in the last few years, it is to be hoped that this dislike will remain as a safeguard that State action shall be confined to necessary reforms, at least while our present system of society continues. Where, for instance, hours of labour have been regulated for women and juveniles, their hours have tended to become also those of the men employed with them, but where wages are regulated by law the minimum has a tendency to become the maximum, which is, speaking generally, evil, for the prosperity of the country depends on trade, which in turn depends first on the purchasing power of the people. Carrying the argument to its logical conclusion, if we are to avoid chaos, an ever-increasing degree of poverty and unemployment, with their inevitable reaction on trade, labour-saving devices should result, not in dispensing with labour, but in cheapening of commodities and increase of purchasing power through earning power. It seems economically bad in the long run, to restrict output, and it would be much better to increase consumption. A solution of the unemployment problem is more likely to be found along these lines than any other.

State insurance such as we have to-day is an example of that kind of legislation which is believed by some to undermine the self-reliance of the people. In a measure that is undeniable, yet it is still a necessity; but one is tempted to wish that it had been more in the nature of an encouragement to individual voluntary efforts. It does work in that direction to some extent, and it is true that building and benefit

societies and co-operative societies are increasingly prosperous. On the whole, perhaps the

signs of the times are healthy, even if we do experience a reaction now and again.

SMALL PORT WORK.

By "VAGRHETH."

The General Secretary, in his notes of a previous edition, expressed the opinion that too little was heard of the work at small ports. I am inclined to agree that the value set upon this particular branch of Waterguard work is, in the mind of the average large port man, not a very high one. As an officer who has spent most of his time in large ports, I can safely say that this valuation is largely based upon lack of knowledge of the class of work performed by a Preventive Officer in charge, and I propose to give a general outline in order to try and eradicate any misconception there may be on the matter.

The work of a Preventive Officer in charge is not always as "cushy" as one would imagine. It calls for a comprehensive knowledge of the various Regulations and Acts of Parliament which are to be enacted at every port, and through such bodies as the Board of Customs and Excise, the Board of Trade, the Admiralty, Trinity House, etc., and various local bodies collecting harbour dues, etc., through the medium of the officer in charge. Very often the P.O. in charge is regarded as the local government representative, from whom the inhabitants seek information and opinions on all manner of subjects, which, although they are outside the pale of his duty, he generally gives with that grace and tact which becomes a public servant. As a Receiver of Wreck he is often obliged to act as peacemaker among salvors who are wrangling over sharing the proceeds of wreckage. He performs a certain social function and takes a definite place in the local order of things. Whilst never subjected to the hardship of the alternating night work of large ports, it is a mistake to think that a P.O. in charge "has every night in bed." I have often heard this expression, and am inclined to think that it is an idealism of most Waterguard Officers. In any case, I know of small ports where the officer is generally called out two or three times a week for arrivals during the night. Then, of course, there is that element of uncertainty—that irksome fact of being more or less tied to one's work day and night. Unlike his brother officer in the large ports, a P.O. in charge cannot make any definite arrangement or go home assured of freedom until next day. As a general rule, the cost of living in a small port is about the same as in a large port, for, whilst house rent may be cheaper and travelling less, such things as coal, clothing and food are, as a rule, dearer. I admit to once fondly imagining

that in a small place one could get plenty of cheap farm produce, and that it would be easy to procure a house with a nice little plot of land, and keep a few fowls, etc., or, failing the house with land, to rent a plot. Now I find that, after all, these were only figments of the imagination. The farmer will not sell his produce cheap nor is the landowner anxious that you should mar his outlook with unsightly cabbage patches and hen houses. That bit of lamb we had last Sunday cost two shillings a pound. However, we will turn from the domestic side of small port life and outline the work.

Every small port has its own peculiarity, and it would be unsafe to say that the work at all these places is the same. The work does, however, fall into certain broad classes. At nearly every small port you will find that, apart from ordinary Customs work, most of the Preventive Officers in charge are also Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, Receivers of Wreck, and Collectors of Light Dues. At the older ports he is also Registrar of Shipping and Registrar of R.N.R. It often happens that the P.O. in charge is also the collector of harbour dues for a local Board exercising Parliamentary authority in that respect.

Taking the Customs side of the work, this is by no means confined to ordinary Waterguard duties, for the Preventive Officer in charge also deals with dutiable as well as free cargoes, and performs all Long Room work. When a vessel arrives from foreign the P.O. generally calls upon the local Coast Preventive Man to rummage the vessel. Owing to the fact that the Coast Preventive Man does not notify the P.O. where he is likely to be found, it often happens that the P.O. does the rummaging himself. There seems to be a certain reticence on the part of some Chief Preventive Officers to instruct the Coast Preventive Men to provide the nearest Preventive Officer with copies of their weekly programmes. Indeed, it is difficult to understand why the Coast Preventive Men are not in the charge of the nearest P.O. Vessels may arrive at any of the various creeks within the port, and, as these creeks are often unapproved places, the merchant makes a request on Form 200A, and the Preventive Officer levies the charge for his or the Coast Preventive Man's attendance. This charge is shown in the cash book as a deposit until the Chief Preventive Officer certifies its correctness, or it is brought to account immediately as an R.O.D. (receipts other than duties) receipt. The R.O.D. entries

are prepared and sent, along with the relative Form 200A, to the District Collector. A record of charges against merchants is kept in a book (C. and E. 4L) designed for that purpose. To cover overtime charges, merchants sometimes enter into bond, or they have a standing deposit from which charges are deducted, or they pay a deposit as each occasion arises.

(To be continued.)

HOSPITAL SAVING ASSOCIATION.

Hospital Saving Association patients when attending hospital should clearly understand the following points and be careful to carry them out:—

1.—Green Vouchers must be obtained prior to attending hospital from the Group Secretary, stating the name (in full), age (and relationship of the patient to the contributor, if for a dependant). The Green Voucher should be handed in on the occasion of the first visit. The patient has then made his or her position quite clear, and will be recognised accordingly.

2.—In cases of emergency, after due explanation, presentation of the Green Voucher may be delayed until the second visit, but the Group Secretary should be informed immediately, and every care taken not to abuse the confidence the hospital authorities have shown. In cases of emergency, the contributor's card may be shown as evidence of eligibility. This impresses the importance of having cards signed and filled in showing payments up to date.

3.—Continuation Vouchers are required when patients transfer from the out-patient department to the in-patient side, and sometimes in cases of protracted illness. When a Continuation Voucher is asked for, patients should consult the Group Secretary at once and follow his instructions.

4.—Green Vouchers are only issued for co-operating hospitals and infirmaries, and only to members not in arrears with contributions. In cases where patient is treated at a non-co-operating hospital, a receipted account for payments made to the hospital should be forwarded to the Group Secretary in order to obtain reimbursement.

An immense amount of trouble and inconvenience will be saved if these rules are followed. Green Vouchers are no longer effective at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. Three new co-operating hospitals have been added to the list: Herefordshire General Hospital, Hereford; West Cornwall Dispensary and Infirmary, Penzance; Royal United Hospital, Bath.

W. W. BISHOP, Group Secretary,
Waterguard Group P. 582.

* * * *

The quarterly accounts have been presented for audit, and the returns have been forwarded to headquarters.

The total number of members has now reached 72, and the total amount paid into the bank is £26 1s. 8d. Four claims have been dealt with during last quarter, one member being reimbursed £2 2s.

Contributions for quarter ending November 30th are now due, and should be forwarded to the Collectors as soon as possible.

V.E.C. TERM NOW COMMENCING.

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

Preliminary Course
Please enrol me for 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, Finley, Gardiner, Gordon, Jeffreys, Lake, Sheehan, and Thomson.

Please indicate Tutor desired, and choice of Tutors will be given as far as possible.

Fees: 10/0, 15/0 and 20/0 per term respectively.



Efficiency relies, among other things, upon interest from first to last. In a machine, its fitness for the work it is destined to perform is largely dependent upon the care that is shown in its design and manufacture, for hastily put together mechanism cannot give the output that would be given had it received the keen interest of its producers. Interest, however, does not end here, but is transferred to those who have the handling and running of the machine after it has been delivered to those requiring it. So long as it is running, care has to be constantly taken that it is receiving all that it needs: in some cases the lubrication of bearings, the pressure of steam, the supply of current, and so forth. Even when not working it is not to be forgotten. It must be examined to see that there is not too much wear in certain parts, the replacing or repairing of parts not properly functioning, ensuring that no internal or external influence shall cause a stoppage or bad work when it is next used. The machine that practically runs itself needs much in the way of attention.

* * * *

Bodies of men are often engaged together in special work, each man an individual, yet part of a machine intended to carry out a set task. One hears of an army described as a machine, and according to the degree of interest shown in the army and of its individual parts, so is the efficiency of that army.

* * * *

It is in this way that the Waterguard views with satisfaction the increased interest that is being shown in the individual parts of its machinery, especially during the time in which it is put away for the time being. Recent events prove that the Chief Preventive Officers in many places realise, more than ever before, that social contact with members of the staff must eventually give greater impetus to that efficiency which is the aim of all who are worth their salt. In London this has been especially marked. Last year the C.P.O.'s at this port provided a challenge cup to be competed for annually in the tug-of-war at the C. and E. Sports. The tug-of-war is always a spectacular event, and will, no doubt, be keenly contested by teams from

various sections of the Customs and Excise. Since then the C.P.O.'s have followed very keenly the rise of the sports spirit in London and elsewhere. They were present in force at the C. and E. Sports this year at Chiswick, and one, as last year, was actively engaged in judging the events. A C.P.O. is President of the South Side Cricket and Social Club, another is President of the North Side Club, and all have contributed to their well-being. Two Superintendents and several C.P.O.'s are actively sympathetic with the newly-formed Chess Club, the success of which is assured.

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At a farewell presentation to a retiring Preventive Officer recently no fewer than five C.P.O.'s were present.

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It is hardly necessary to state that these evidences of personal interest are being received with immense appreciation by the staff, and it can have no more important result than in the quality of the work performed when the machine is running.

A staff that is studied when off duty works best when on duty.

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Hearty congratulations to Mr. T. B. Elliott, P.O., on the recent success of his son, Mr. Elliott junior has successfully passed the Cambridge Local Examination—Senior Certificate.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, September 12th, 1927, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. W. H. James presided over an attendance of twenty-nine.

It was reported that a number of applications for the General Secretaryship of the Confederation had been received. It was agreed that September 30th, 1927, should be fixed as the latest date for the receipt of applications, and that a notification be issued to this effect.

Invitations to attend the Half-yearly Council meeting of the Confederation, to be held at Caxton Hall, on Saturday afternoon, November 26th, 1927, had been sent to and accepted by Mr. George Lathan and Mr. W. C. Keay, the President and General Secretary respectively of the National Federation of Professional Workers.

The hearing by the Industrial Court of the case of the Attendants' and Repairers' Association, Public Record Office, in which assistance was being rendered by the Confederation, had been fixed for September 21st.

Consideration was given to the position of the Confederation in relation to the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927, and the Regulations issued by the Treasury in pursuance of this Act. A Special Committee was appointed to go more fully into this matter, with power to take any action found to be necessary in order to enable the Confederation and its affiliated associations to secure certificates as approved associations. The Special Committee for this purpose was appointed to consist of Mr. W. H. James (President), Mr. G. Chase (Vice-President), Mr. Ross Wyld (Vice-President), Mr. C. A. W. Sanders (Honorary Treasurer), Mr. W. G. Boys, Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, Mr. S. Slocombe and Mr. G. R. Speed. A Memorandum on the Act and the Regulations, prepared by the Publicity Officer, Mr. Charles Watney, was referred to the Special Committee.

A communication was received from the Customs and Excise Federation, calling attention to the fact that in some cases officers travelling on official business had to use public conveyances, the owners of which were not insured and were persons of no substance, and would therefore escape from any claim under third party risks. It was desired that action should be taken to ascertain that the Department would accept liability as in the case of officers using cheap tickets on trains. It was decided that this matter be referred to the National Staff Side with the request that appropriate action should be taken.

A letter was received from the Inland Revenue Group, notifying the appointment of Mr. D. N. Kneath, of the Association of Officers of Taxes, as a group representative upon the Executive Committee of the Confederation in place of Mr. S. C. Tolhurst, resigned.

Reports were given of recent proceedings of the National Staff Side, and it was stated that the Staff Side, having received a report from the General Purposes Committee of the Staff Side on the question of the date and periodicity of revision of the cost-of-living bonus, had decided that no good purpose would be served by pursuing the matter, but that this decision did not preclude consideration of any detailed proposals the Official Side might submit.

With reference to a claim for increases on promotion, proposed to be taken to Arbitration by the National Staff Side, it was reported that the Staff Side had adopted a formula submitted by the Executive Officers' Association in the following terms:—

“ Writing Assistants, Typists and Shorthand Typists promoted to the Clerical Grades—£30 per annum increase (basic).

Clerical Officer promoted to Executive Officer—£40 per annum increase (basic).

Executive Officer promoted to Administrative Class—£50 per annum increase (basic).”

To this formula the Civil Service Clerical Association desired to add a further category, as follows:—

“ Promotees to the Clerical Class through Post Office Limited Competitions—£30 per annum increase (basic).

It was agreed that the Confederation should support the inclusion of the additional category desired by the Civil Service Clerical Association.

In connection with the proposed claim for the Industrial Court on Night Subsistence Rates, it was reported that the Staff Side of the Subsistence Committee had referred back to the Confederation for further consideration the request made for the inclusion of the “ P ” Class in the schedule to be attached to the proposed terms of remit. It was agreed that this matter be referred for conversations between the Associations mainly concerned, i.e., the Association of Officers of Taxes, the Civil Service Clerical Association, and the Ministry of Labour Staff Association.

THE CUSTOMS FUND.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR.

To the Subscribers of the Customs Fund.

Gentlemen,—Through the resignation of Mr. N. R. White, a vacancy for an Auditor has arisen, and I again beg to offer myself as a candidate, and ask for your support.

I have studied the principles of auditing, and during my service I have had a useful and varied experience as an official and commercial accountant, and for some time served as one of the Auditors to the Customs Officers' Federation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. SELLERS,

Officer, London Port.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION SECRETARYSHIP.

The Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation has fixed September 30th, 1927, as the latest date for the receipt of applications for the General Secretaryship of the Civil Service Confederation.

Applications are invited from serving Civil Servants, and such applications should specify the name of the organisation of which the applicant is a member and should state whether,

and if so what, previous experience has been obtained in a secretarial capacity.

Applications should be addressed to the President, Civil Service Confederation, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

PRESENTATION.

Mr. DONALDSON, I.S.O., W.S.

A thoroughly representative gathering of Customs Waterguard officials met at Cannon Street Hotel on the evening of Saturday, September 10th, to formally bid farewell to William Donaldson, Esq., I.S.O., late Waterguard Superintendent of Customs, London. Letters of regret at inability to attend the function, and wishing Mr. Donaldson "God-speed," were read from Messrs. N. Thompson, I.S.O., Inspector-General of Waterguard; C. M. Woodford, Secretaries' Office; C. F. Stuart, Assistant Inspector; J. Hausey, Waterguard Superintendent, Southampton; J. Moss, Waterguard Superintendent, Liverpool; T. Houghton, Waterguard Superintendent, Glasgow; J. Potter, Assistant Inspector; A. Travis, I.S.O. (Department's Advising Officer); J. Bigedan, Chief Preventive Officer, Yarmouth; R. O'Malley, C.P.O., Harwich; J. Clark, C.P.O. (retired); and W. E. Kay, P.O., London.

The chair was occupied by Mr. Sidney Romans, Chief Preventive Officer, and the presentation, which took the form of a gold watch and chain (Mappin and Webb), and a silver cigarette case, was made by Mr. J. W. Connaway, M.B.E., the newly-appointed London Waterguard Superintendent. Among the speakers were Messrs. A. E. Howell (Secretaries' Office); F. C. Warno, Waterguard Superintendent, Dover; M. Hurley, C.P.O., Gravesend; J. Merron, General Secretary, Preventive Staff Association; W. Evans, W. Powell, J. W. Beacher, C. R. Purser, J. T. Sutton, B. Burge (Swansea), M. P. O'Flynn, A. N. Lake, J. Knight (Southampton), and R. J. Jones (Launch Service), who paid high tribute to Mr. Donaldson's gentlemanly qualities.

In making the presentation, Mr. Connaway referred to the fact that he had been closely associated with Mr. Donaldson in an official capacity for a number of years. He would always have pleasant recollections of their association, and hoped Mr. Donaldson would spare a kind thought to those who were left behind to carry on.

Mr. Donaldson, in reply, spoke of the improvements effected in the Service during the past 42 years, all of which time he had been a purely Waterguard Officer. In his early days he had undergone treatment, the memory of which had helped to make him patient and sympathetic when it came his turn to control. He

expressed deep gratitude to those who contributed to the handsome presents in front of him, and assured the company that he was really sorry to break with the Service.

During the course of a very enjoyable evening an excellent meal was served, and a first-class concert was rendered by Messrs. Fisk, Feltham, Standing, Steel, Burge and Lake.

* * * *

POINTS FROM THE SPEECHES.

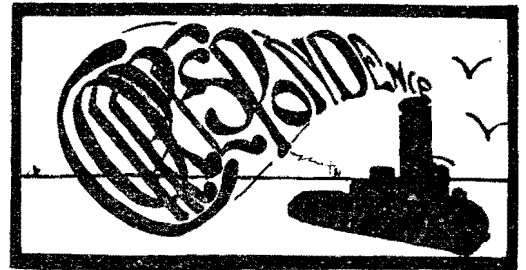
"Many Collectors fail to lose sight of personalities in Whitley. Mr. Donaldson never recognised personalities."

"Last of the great Moguls in Waterguard Superintendents, being probably the last to use the official residence in the very gateway of the greatest port in the world."

"Patient, gentlemanly and very human; Mr. Donaldson would remember with pleasure the evening when members from all ranks met together to wish him good-bye."

"A man that can smile at all times has learnt the secret of living."

Mr. Donaldson: "Thanks to the London Staff for its co-operation. The Waterguard is a good Department."



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.

G.O. 25/1927.

Sir,—With reference to "Active Member's" letter of last issue, there are very few "active" Waterguard Officers at 61 years of age who would wish to remain in the Service. Generally speaking, the majority, including those who cannot complete 40 years' service, would prefer to retire at that age, which gives little enough time to enjoy a pension. Thirty-five years' service in the Waterguard, with its arduous duties, including night attendance, should be sufficient to count for a full pension.

I agree with "Maximum 35," that some consideration should be also shown to Waterguard Officers for Sunday duty and Public

Holidays; the majority of Civil Servants are free on these days. I am one who is hoping the day is not far distant when the Waterguard will have the option of retiring at 55 years of age, with a full pension, similar to prison warders. Association officials would do well to press for earlier retirement under the above conditions, which would benefit the Service in more ways than one.—Yours, etc.,

HOPEFUL.

◆ ◆ ◆
PROSECUTIONS.

CARDIFF.

At the Cardiff Police Court on August 19th, 1927, a fireman on the Norwegian whaler, "Lancing," was charged with unlawfully concealing 20 lb. of O.S. tobacco.

Mr. H. Howell, C.P.O., conducted the case for the Crown.

The prisoner was found guilty and was fined £10, or two months. The fine was paid.

The tobacco was discovered amongst the gear in the steering house of the after part of the vessel, by Mr. H. Taylor, A.P.O., of Mr. S. Munro's rummage crew.

* * * *

At the Cardiff Police Court on September 7th, 1927, the second officer of the s.s. "Divatte" was charged with concealing ½ gall. rum and ½ gall. of perfumed spirits.

Mr. H. Howell, C.P.O., conducted the case for the Crown, the prisoner being fined double value, £11 7s. 8d., which was paid.

The goods were concealed underneath the bottom drawer in the officer's cabin, and were found by Mr. H. Taylor, A.P.O., of Mr. S. Munro's rummage crew.

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BELFAST.

At the Belfast Custody Court on Wednesday, Sept. 7th, 1927, the master of the s.s. "Invergordon," from Tampico via Southampton, was charged with knowingly concealing 5 lb. Cavendish tobacco and ¼ lb. cigars O.S.

Mr. H. Creighton, C.P.O., conducted the case for the Crown.

The offender pleaded guilty and was fined £12 7s., treble value and duty.

The goods were found concealed in various parts of the master's state-room and lounge by Mr. M. McDonald, A.P.O., and Mr. A. Dearden, A.P.O., under the supervision of Mr. W. P. Manley, P.O.

CUSTOMS WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB CUP CONTEST.

SECTION 1—ROUND 3.

Mr. J. M. Mitchell, Leith. White.
Mr. W. G. Thomson, Bangor. Black.

Queens Pawn opening.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. P—Q4 | P—Q4 |
| 2. P—QB4 | P—K3 |
| 3. Kt—QB3 | Kt—KB3 |
| 4. B—Kt5 | B—K2 |
| 5. P—K3 | O.O. Castles |
| 6. Kt—KB3 | QKt—Q2 |
| 7. R—B1 | P—KR3 |
| 8. P—KR4 | Kt—Kt3 |
| 9. B x Kt | B x B |
| 10. Q—B2 | P x P |
| 11. Kt—K4 | B—K2 |
| 12. QKt—Q2 | B—Q2 |
| 13. Kt x P | R—K1 |
| 14. QKt—K5 | B—QR5 |
| 15. P—QKt3 | B—Kt5 + |
| 16. Kt—Q2 | B—Q2 |
| 17. B—Q3 | P—KB4 |
| 18. P—R5 | Kt—Q4 |
| 19. O.O. Castles | B—R6 |
| 20. QR—Q1 | Kt—Kt5 |
| 21. Q—Kt1 | Kt x B |
| 22. Q x Kt | QB—B1 |
| 23. Kt on Q2—B3 | P—QB3 |
| 24. K—R1 | Q—Q4 |
| 25. KR—K1 | B—Kt5 |
| 26. P—K4 | Q—R4 |
| 27. R—K2 | R—KB1 |
| 28. R—KKt1 | B—Q3 |
| 29. P—KKt4 | P—QB4 |
| 30. P—Q5 | P x P at Kt5 |
| 31. R x P | P—OKt3 |
| 32. Kt—B4 | Q—R3 |
| 33. P—K5 | B—B2 |

White now announces mate in six moves, or if not, mate next move.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 34. R x P + | K x R |
| 35. Q—Kt6 + | K—R1 |
| 36. Q x RP + | K—Kt1 |
| 37. Q—Kt6 + | K—R1 |
| 38. Kt—Kt5 | Any move and |
| 39. mates accordingly. | |

* * * *

Mr. Hargrove, Eastham, beat Mr. Standring, London.

* * * *

The M.C. wishes all members to note that games must commence in Round 4 on September 26th, and unfinished games in this round must be forwarded for adjudication by December 26th, 1927. Games not commenced will forfeit point at issue. The contest is due to end on March 31st, 1928. All games not commenced, or not having gone twelve moves, become void, as Club year ends on that date.

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

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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