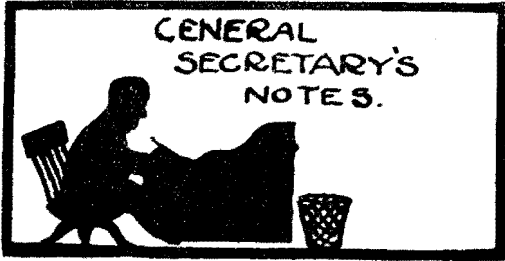


The Customs Journal.

No. 583.

February 26th, 1927.

Fortnightly.



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

No one having had experience of P.S.A. Executive meetings would venture to assert that they are by any means tame affairs. As a matter of fact, there is a decided tendency for these meetings to become more and more strenuous as time goes on. Indeed, the last meeting, held during the current month, might be regarded as something of a record. After three days of animated discussion there were still a few items of minor importance which had to be held over for a future occasion. A study of the Executive report, appearing in this issue, ought to convince any member that careful and ample discussion is most essential when dealing with such subjects as the Committee had before them on this occasion. There is not much chance these days of any decision being arrived at on the Executive Committee before all the pros and cons have been thoroughly thrashed out. Every facility is now available, under the improved conditions at Headquarters, to enable a supply of accurate information on all Service matters to be always on hand for the use of the Executive, and there can be no doubt that the increasing value of the debates which take place are due to this fact.

The report of the Central Committee on the Educational Scheme very properly came in for a great deal of attention. The progress of the scheme itself was agreed to be very satisfactory, and it was realised that the Central Committee were very well able to conduct the business for which they were elected. The question of finance is, however, one which vitally affects the P.S.A. in its role as sponsor for the new venture. Therefore, this aspect of the scheme was the subject of careful examination by the Executive. A long debate brought forth decisions which are calculated, not only to give every possible assistance in furthering the aims of the

Central Committee, but also to safeguard the interests of Association members in general.

The tutors are co-operating admirably in the work of making the scheme a success, and there is every evidence of the existence of the true pioneer spirit which is so very necessary in all projects of this nature. It is anticipated that a full twelve months' experience will be necessary before a sufficiently clear view of the situation can be obtained in order to frame hard and fast rules and regulations.

* * * *

The question of salary claims was, as usual, very much in evidence. Developments bearing on this subject having been reported to the Committee, a line of action was decided upon which will, no doubt, be interesting to everyone. Details will be communicated to the Districts in due course.

* * * *

The Executive had before them information concerning recruitment to the Officer Grade. It was reported that an examination was to be held in May, and that a number of posts were to be reserved for suitable candidates from the Departmental Clerks. Instructions were given to the Waterguard representatives on the Departmental Council to claim a similar concession for Waterguard Officers.

It is understood that the Treasury Clerical Class, and the Women Pension Officers are also claiming facilities to enter the Officer Grade.

* * * *

The gentleman who, under the title of "Cave Canem," has contributed to the correspondence columns of the "Journal," appears as reckless in his choice of sources of information as he is in the selection of a nom-de-plume.

More than once there has been occasion to think that "Daily Mail" information regarding Civil Service affairs is not so well informed as it might be. Many members will call to mind that some reference to this was made at the great Albert Hall meeting some time ago. Anyway, it is a fact that most Civil Servants who have a thirst for authentic information concerning their own affairs prefer to rely upon official records than upon what is published in the columns of the "Daily Mail," or any other newspaper for that matter.

I can assure "Cave Canem" that the impression he has gleaned from newspapers regarding the Arbitration Court comment on the Grade of Dockyard Workers to which he refers is deplorably mistaken.

What the Court did say was that the people who brought this claim to arbitration had had a departmental agreement on their salary scales

in 1920, and that the Court strongly disapproved of being asked to revise an agreement of so recent a date. The particular Grade referred to, owing to peculiar circumstances attaching to its inauguration, managed to secure exceptional treatment from the Court.

"Cave Canem" tells us that, after granting the Dockyard Workers a favourable award, the Court proceeded to say "that they saw no reason for the Grade." A truly remarkable statement and one which will, no doubt, provide some food for thought. If this condition is to be laid down as a qualification for an increase of pay, then I am afraid the Waterguard would never qualify. Our *raison d'être* could not be concealed from any Court of Arbitration.

This correspondent is also somewhat adrift in his remarks about establishment figures. He has overlooked a rather important event in the recent history of the British Isles, and its effect on all Civil Service Departments. He apparently is not aware that the Estimates for 1926-27 are exactly in accordance with our Whitley agreement in this matter in 1923.

* * *

The Association is keeping a close watch on developments in air travel, and it is pleasing to note that Waterguard Officers are to deal with the baggage of passengers arriving from France by the new experimental air service and landing on the Thames near Hammersmith. The 'planes, after landing passengers, proceed to Croydon to unload cargo. On the outward journey passengers are picked up at Hammersmith. It will be necessary for Waterguard Officers to be present for both inward and outward 'planes.

I understand that the Royal Dutch Air Service Company is planning a new service between Amsterdam and Southampton. The object is to connect up with trans-Atlantic steamship services. It is to be hoped that the Southampton officers are watching points.

It is reported that ten millions sterling, in gold bullion, was carried across the Channel by British airships last year. Another piece of news indicating the rapid advance in aviation is that a new company has been formed, under the title "Air-Taxis, Limited," with headquarters at Edgware. The rates per mile are 2s. and 1s. 8d.

There is every prospect that before many years have passed we may be able to discard the ancient name of Waterguard and commence a new era with something more elevated. I hear that in Rome there are now Airship Police, and it strikes one that an Airship Coast Preventive Force would not be a bad idea. Visiting C.P.O.'s would have no dearth of exciting experiences.

* * *

District Secretaries are reminded that any resolutions for amending the Rules and Constitution must reach me no later than the first week in April. Other resolutions for the agenda of the Annual Council Meeting should be in as early as possible, and not later than the first

week in May. District Officers desiring any special information to enable them to deal with questions destined for the Council Agenda are invited to get into communication with Headquarters without delay. It is hoped that no matters will be referred to the Annual Meeting until they have been subjects of well-informed discussion in the Districts.

* * *

The cost-of-living figure for the current month is 72. This means that the index figure of 80 will govern the bonus for the ensuing six months, and the increase will be two twenty-sixths. Had this month's figure dropped below 72, the governing figure would have been 75, and there would have been an increase in bonus of only one twenty-sixth.

A tabulated statement of cost-of-living figures appears elsewhere in this issue.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Thirteenth Meeting of the above Committee was held on February 8th and the two following days at the Association Offices, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. P. Madden. Messrs. J. Merron, A. W. Purdye, W. G. Thomson, A. Milne, S. E. D. Ball, R. W. Booth, J. T. Sutton (co-opted), and W. H. Powell were present.

The feelings of the Chairman were somewhat mixed as he surveyed those present: whilst expressing sincere regret at the loss of so live a member as Mr. O'Connor, he welcomed with equal sincerity the return of an old E.C. member, Mr. Booth.

It was reported that the Agreement on the accommodation at CROYDON AERODROME had been ratified on the Departmental Council.

The question of the application of the Prison Officers' SUPERANNUATION conditions to the Waterguard has been so long on the table that the E.C. has now decided to refer that matter back to the Council for a confirmation or alteration of the policy. The Districts will have a further opportunity of discussing this.

In accordance with instructions from the previous meeting, the Secretaries have been progressing enquiries re the purchase of extra copies of minutes and the expense of contracting outside for the other typing and duplicating. They proposed arrangements under which the whole of this work would be performed in the Association Office (with assistance). Very considerable saving would be effected. The proposal was adopted.

The result of the plebiscite of the A.P.O. Grade on MONTHLY PAY is as follows — :

For, 356 Against, 170.

From this it will be seen that a clear majority is in favour, provided the application of Treasury Circular O.5160 (fortnightly payments

over the first six months) is granted. A question in this connection has already been put to the Official Side of the Sectional Committee, and as it will be impossible to take any action until this essential point is cleared up, the E.C. has decided to report back to the Council in the interim.

The new points on WATERGUARD CLAIMS referred to in the last report of this Committee have reached the "concrete scheme" stage. Having considered, discussed and amended the scheme, the matter was adjourned to allow of the circulation to the E.C. of the amended document.

The draft MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL were considered and adopted. Instructions were given as to circulation.

The General Secretary reported proceedings of an informal meeting with the Official Side on SEIZURE REWARDS. After due consideration the Committee approved the line taken by the representatives, and gave definite instructions as to the policy to be adopted in the event of the matter being reopened.

The Organising Secretary reported favourably on the FINANCIAL POSITION, and stated that, as far as could be traced, all new entrants had enrolled; the MEMBERSHIP figure is 1,320.

A resolution from a District seeking a FREE ISSUE of the "Customs Journal" to retired P.S.A. members was referred to the Council.

Many local staffing questions were considered and instructions and advice given where necessary.

Three cases of alleged misapplication of the WORK AND WAIT RULE were discussed, and instructions given to Secretaries in each individual case.

As regards the various matters dealt with on the WATERGUARD SECTIONAL COMMITTEE, the following shows the relative position up to date:—

EMPLOYMENT OF C.P.M. GRADE.—Adjourned at the request of the Official Side.

SENIORITY OF P.W. ENTRANTS.—Adjourned at the request of the Official Side.

ELECTRIC HAND LAMPS.—Adjourned to allow the Staff Side statement to be presented. Now supplied.

UNIFORM.—Informal agreement on major portion, but final ratification deferred to allow full discussion on the outstanding points.

RECRUITMENT.—The Official Side was unable to agree to the additions to the syllabus. Agreement was reached on the remainder. The agreement and the part disagreement have been ratified on the Departmental Council. The Official Side agreed to the Staff Side request that all future entrants to the A.P.O. Grade should pass at a competitive examination.

LAUNCHES AND BOATS.—Owing to the absence of the Advising Officer, the Official Side asked for an adjournment.

LEAVE.—This matter stands adjourned at the request of the Official Side.

The Association has now succeeded in getting the request for WATERGUARD CODES linked

up with the original suggestion before the Suggestions Committee re Instructions and Regulations in general.

The scheme for the TRAINING OF A.P.O.'s will go back to the Council owing to certain amendments recommended.

A very long discussion took place on the Report of the Central Committee for VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. The Report was adopted and the Executive Committee expressed approval of the quality and quantity of work performed in floating the scheme. Temporary allocation of the finances was agreed to, pending the exploration of a full quarter's accounts.

W. H. POWELL.

GRAVESEND.

A meeting was held at the Ministry of Labour Offices on February 7th. Mr. Richardson presided over a good attendance.

Appreciation was expressed of Mr. O'Connor's past excellent work as A.P.O. Councillor for the Area, and Mr. Dines was congratulated upon his recent election to that post.

A vote of thanks was passed to the late District Secretary, Mr. Wood, for the great assistance he had given to the District during his term of office.

Some discussion arose over the advisability of the names of local correspondents to the "C.J." being published. In consequence of the resignation of the Gravesend correspondent, a successor was appointed.

Mr. O'Connor was elected to the position of District Secretary, Mr. Wood having transferred to Dover.

Local business having been disposed of, two schemes, Waterguard Re-organisation and Waterguard Claims, Regrading, were fully discussed, and instructions were issued to the Councillors for the Area.

WEYMOUTH.

At a recent meeting an interesting discussion took place concerning the uniform cap as issued at present. The cap came in for severe criticism, and the bad fit of the white cover for summer wear was strongly commented upon.

Mr. R. A. Probyn was elected local Secretary, following the resignation of Mr. H. E. Gilbert.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Gilbert for the efficient manner in which he had carried out the duties of his office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

To members generally, especially South Coast Area.—Please note that Mr. S. A. W. Beer, District Organiser, Southampton, has changed his address to:—

"Llanberis,"

64, Highfield Lane,

Southampton.

BETWEEN TIDES.

PARAGRAPHS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

LONDON.

C. & E. SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB (N. SIDE).

Football.

Illness in the ranks of the Royal Victoria Dock Police team caused them to cancel our fixture on February 3rd. A week later we received a challenge from the Royal Albert Dock Police to play them at Ilford. With honours even in our previous encounter, we accepted the challenge, and anticipated a stern struggle. We set out in perfect weather, joined by a number of our colleagues and their ladies. The pace set in the first half was a "cracker," and our opponents swung the ball about freely. Thrill followed thrill. The ball travelled from end to end, until "the Force" opened their account. Within a few minutes we had equalised, through our Secretary. Before the interval arrived, our boys were the recipients of hard knocks and numerous injuries, and we crossed over one goal in arrears, the score being 2-1.

The opening exchanges in the second half were evenly contested. Each goal had narrow escapes. "Robert" was again the first to open the scoring. We were now two goals behind. Our supporters were making vigorous vocal efforts to spur us on. Encouraged by our colleagues we infused more method into our attack, and after a long period of sustained pressure on the Police defence, our second goal arrived through Charlie Howard. This success brought out the best in our boys. Herculean efforts were made to get on level terms. George Dover particularly distinguished himself, and he was decidedly unlucky not to score with a rasping shot which struck the crossbar, leaving the custodian powerless. The Police were having a warm time of it, and many good shots were saved and others just missed the mark. The defence of our opponents was very solid and sound. The speed, weight, and superior stamina of "the Force" beat us. Within the last ten minutes they rallied and succeeded in scoring twice, despite the creditable display of our goalie, "Joe Lynch." "Robert" ran out a worthy winner to the tune of 5 goals to 2. We lost, but died fighting. That is the true sporting spirit.

A word or two to our players: Stick together, boys. Understanding will come with practice. Defeat is a tonic. It will help to strengthen our weaknesses. Let us continue to fight hard, keep the game clean, give our Club a good name, and we must succeed. We feel sure there are many footballers in our ranks, and we shall be pleased to see more of them in action.

G.H.C.

London being London, changes in the staff are constantly taking place, and we have to record the retirement of a familiar and much-respected colleague in Mr. Humphrey Hicks, P.O., a man esteemed by everyone, a capable

officer and servant of the Crown, always willing to help and impart well-founded advice to the younger element, a keen Association member and a methodical work. I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of the "Journal" Committee in wishing him and Mrs. Hicks the best of health and joy for many a year to come.

Again we refer to our sport. The Secretary of the South Side Cricket Club asks us to call the attention in this column of all Southsiders to the Carnival Dance they are running on Mar. 2nd at the Palais de Dance, New Cross. We hear there are only a few tickets left to dispose of.

The fixture card of this Club, we are informed, is now practically complete, and apparently some good games and pleasant half-days (duty permitting) are in store. We also learn that there is still room for more members. Don't forget—"The more we are together," etc.

It is, as "Scrutator" says, interesting to see the A.P.O.'s busy amending their codes. It has also been interesting to see some of the P.O.'s amending theirs during last week, and we are wondering if it is one of the results of our new motto or due to the fact that a Superintendent's memo was issued this week on the subject.

But, talking of Codes reminds us of the bad practice which still exists of not issuing a complete set of R.I.'s to each new entrant to the A.P.O. Grade. While this may not have been absolutely necessary years ago, it must be admitted that it is imperative that the A.P.O. of to-day should be supplied immediately he enters the Service. Then, again, what has happened to Part IX., Vol. I., Customs Relations with the Navy? There is hardly an A.P.O. who is in possession of this important Order. I believe I am right in saying that the reprint of this Instruction was commenced some two years ago, during which time no Instructions on the subject have been issued.

By the way, before we go, if you have not yet paid those subs.—

I MON LI OD

SWANSEA.

For having in his possession a loaded automatic pistol, a sailor on the Norwegian steamer "Ellavore," from Bordeaux, was charged at Swansea Police Court. Mr. Blewitt, C.P.O., conducted the case.

At the time that the vessel was boarded, and also when she was rummaged, the offender denied possession. On searching him, however, Mr. A. G. Colburn, A.P.O., a member of the rummage crew under Mr. J. R. Conibear, P.O.,

discovered the weapon and seven rounds of ammunition. The accused also carried another interesting toy in the shape of a knuckle-duster. He told the Court that he did not intend to take the pistol ashore, and had not understood the questions of the Customs Officers.

The magistrates ordered him to pay £4 6s., or, in default, one month's imprisonment.

C. & E. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.

The eighty-first meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on January 26th, 1927, the chair being taken by A. J. Dyke, Esq., C.B., C.B.E., Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

DRAFT INSTRUCTIONS.

Agreement was registered on the procedure to be followed in advising the Staff Side of the Council and the Staff Side of the Suggestions Committee, where practicable and desirable, of the drafts of General Orders dealing with new work, and in connection with subsequent joint discussions thereon.

RECRUITMENT OF OFFICER GRADE.

The occasion of the Council meeting was taken to announce that the Board had decided to proceed with recruitment, and that an open competition would be held in May for not less than fifty vacancies, if so many candidates were found qualified. (An advance Press statement of this announcement was authorised.)

In addition, the Board proposed to promote a small number of Departmental Clerks, if suitable candidates could be found. The Staff Side asked for an opportunity to consider this proposal, and the question was adjourned.

RECRUITMENT OF WATERGUARD.

Agreement was registered on the draft regulations for recruitment of the Assistant Preventive Officer Grade, with the exception that the Staff Side considered that a modern language and science should be added to the subjects for examination, on which point a disagreement was recorded.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER GRADE.

Following Committee discussions, the Staff Side pressed that the existing two sections of the Chief Preventive Officer Grade be merged into one Grade with a scale of £350-£15-£450, but the proposal was disagreed.

UNATTACHED OFFICER REMOVALS.

It was agreed that when a Collector is instructed to nominate an Unattached Officer for removal from his Collection, the Collector be advised by the Board at the same time, or as soon thereafter as possible, of the destination, and time be allowed for obtaining a volunteer except in cases of emergency.

VACANT STATIONS.

It was agreed that the special advertisement of vacant stations and the issue of monthly lists

of such vacancies, under General Order 63/1923, should cease, and that the "chain" rule, as laid down in General Order 81/1922, should be applied in filling vacancies.

SUNDAY DUTY.

The Council confirmed a Committee disagreement on a Staff Side proposal that Coast and Land Preventive Men should be paid extra for Sunday duty.

CYCLE ALLOWANCES.

It was agreed that where journeys on which a cycle is used by a Coast Preventive Man exceed ten miles in one day, cycling allowance will be paid for the excess over ten miles, subject to an over-riding maximum of £10 per annum.

UNIFORM.

Agreement was registered on certain changes of material for use for Coast and Land Preventive Men's uniforms.

SENIORITY.

The Staff Side withdrew a Committee reference on the proposed preparation of a seniority list for the whole of the Officer Grade.

UNIT ALLOWANCES.

The Staff Side proposal to allow a unit for time spent on members of the public in stations where no public office is provided was again discussed and adjourned.

GUARD BOOKS.

Staff Side representations were made on the inconvenience resulting from the shortage of Guard Books for General Orders, and immediate attention was promised to the matter.

RETIRING AGE.

At the request of the Staff Side the question of the retiring age of the Office-Keeper, Assistant Office-Keeper, Medical Officer's Attendant, and the Lithographer, was re-adjourned until the end of April, 1927.

SUGGESTIONS.

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

COLLECTORS' OFFICE STAFFS.

The Council adopted a Report from the appropriate Special Committee advising agreement on the staffing of the Newhaven Sub-Office and disagreement on that of the Liverpool Office.

OTHER MATTERS.

The Council dealt with a number of decisions advised by Local, Office and Grade Committees, with results that have been advised to the Committees concerned. The Local agreements included the establishment of Fixed Officer centres at London Port, Dover, Rochester, Ramsgate and Nuneaton.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, February 23rd, 1927.

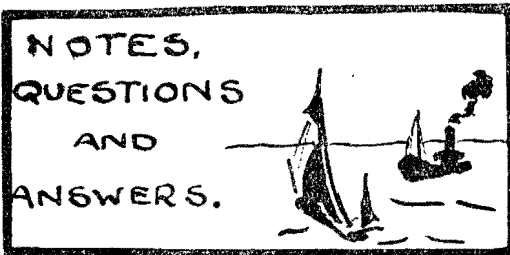
COST OF LIVING—INDEX FIGURE.

The following table, taken from the Ministry of Labour Gazette, shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1918:—

(Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.).

Month	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
January	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80	75	75
February	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79	73	72
March	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79	72	—
April	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	75	68	—
May	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73	67	—
June	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72	68	—
July	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	73	70	—
August	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	70	—
September	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74	72	—
October	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76	74	—
November	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	76	79	—
December	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	77	79	—

Figures for dates prior to 1918, together with the average increases for each of the five main groups of items (i.e., food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other items) month by month from January, 1915, to December, 1925, are published in the "Eighteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics" (Cmd. 2740).



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

As promised in the last issue, I am again publishing a summary of Part 9 of Volume 1 for the benefit of those interested, particularly students of the V.E. Scheme.

I shall endeavour to complete this summary in this and the next issue.

This week's portion is similar to that published in "Journal" No. 516, except for a slight but important addition to paragraph 6.

CUSTOMS RELATIONS WITH THE NAVY.

(4) Searching the Person. — Although the right of search is reserved, the Board have undertaken that no Navy men shall be searched in a street or public place. This applies to mac-

kintoshes, oilskins, or great-coats carried by Navy men unless such articles are voluntarily tendered for search in public. This undertaking must be strictly observed. As a rule, if a Navy man has passed the landing-place he should not be stopped unless there is strong suspicion. If a search of the person or parcels is considered necessary, such search is to be made in the nearest non-public place. In all cases the regulations regarding the power to search must be observed. (See Volume 1, Part 4, par. 8.)

(5) Officers are invariably to be in uniform, and must use the utmost tact and courtesy when dealing with Naval officers and men.

(6) Breaches of the Customs Regulations are regarded as offences against the Naval Discipline Act, therefore legal proceedings or deposits in lieu of such proceedings are not to be taken without the Board's permission. These directions do not apply to R.N., R.N.R., and R.N.V.R. ratings on discharge. These ratings are to be dealt with under the "General Rules of Smuggling," i.e., proceedings or deposits.

(7) and (8) Seizures are to be detained, and the full facts reported to the Board on Form 458. All cases of seizures (duty exceeding 2/6) are reported to the proper Naval authority by the Collector on Form 453.

(9) Seizures from canteen men and other civilians are to be dealt with under the General Rules of Smuggling (see Volume 1, Part 1, par. 20).

(10) The right of search of H.M. ships will only be exercised with due discretion.

(11) and (13) Mess and canteen stores, e.g., tobacco, spirits, wine, tea, and low-duty goods, may be shipped from bonded warehouses or on drawback on H.M. seagoing ships in commission.

(12) Victualling yard stores, e.g., rum, groceries, and tobacco (leaf and cut) are allowed from Naval victualling yards to H.M. ships afloat and certain shore establishments (e.g., Naval barracks, but not Marine barracks) which are entered on an approved privilege list.

(18) Verification of Shipment.—All dutiable

mess and canteen stores (par. 11) must be entered in the gangway wine book, and a receipt given on Navy Form S.25. Occasionally officers will be directed to check the entry in the gangway wine book with the receipted shipping bill, any irregularity being reported to the Board. Otherwise, no action is required by Waterguard Officers regarding such shipments.

(20) and (21) Arrivals from Foreign.—A summary of the regulations and Navy forms required is given below.

DECLARATION OF STORES, ETC., ON ARRIVAL FROM A FOREIGN PORT (including the Channel Islands). (See paragraph 20.)

Mess and Canteen Stores. (1)	Private Stores.			Other Parcels and Packages brought home in the ship. (5)
	Officers. (2)	Men. (3)	Passengers. (4)	
For Wardroom or Gunroom Mess the President, or the respective caterers,* & for Canteens the Manager, must declare on Form S.569 against their signatures all dutiable goods in their respective stores.	Every Commissioned, Subordinate or Warrant Officer must declare on Form S.569 against his signature the dutiable goods (including service tobacco) in his possession. If he has none, the word 'Nil' must be inserted.	Every Petty Officer, seaman, etc., having dutiable goods (including service tobacco) in his possession must have them declared on Form S.569.	Every passenger must declare on Form S.569a against his signature the dutiable goods (including service tobacco) in his possession. If he has none, the word 'Nil' must be inserted.	Full particulars of the contents (or, if unknown the words 'Contents unknown') of all parcels, etc., must be entered in the Parcels Book, Form S.568, and also on Form S.216.

Form S.216, S.569, and S.569a must be countersigned by the Commanding Officer and given to the Customs Officer who boards the ship, or (if he fails to do so within 24 hours of the ship's arrival) sent direct to the Principal Officer of Customs at the port. The Parcels Book is to be produced to the Customs Officer on request.

Parcels and packages entered on Form S.216 may be cleared either by the same officer, or by the officer at the baggage warehouse; in either case the result of the examination is to be noted on the Customs copy of the Form.

* For messes other than the Wardroom and Gunroom messes the declaration must be made by the respective owners of the goods as provided in Cols. 2 and 3.

(22) Excessive Amounts.—Any person having more than 3 lb. of tobacco or an excessive quantity of other dutiable goods must pay duty on the surplus forthwith or have it removed to the King's Warehouse for security.

* * * *

In the next issue I will continue this summary, dealing with the unshipment and landing of dutiable and other packages.

* * * *

I am indebted to a colleague for the following detailed answer to a question published in "Journal" No. 580.

It will be noted that Travelling Copies of Report are not required in such a case.

Perhaps this answer will interest the original enquirer.

"SCRUTATOR."

In answer to question re "Penmount" from Ghent, in "Journal" No. 580, I think the following is the correct procedure:—

The P.O. at Yarmouth would board, rummage and clear the vessel inwards on arrival, endorsing the Blue Book and Clearing Bills, "General Cargo of dutiable and free goods (as the case might be) remaining on board for Leith; vessel called for bunkers only. No cargo landed at this port.—Satisfied." On the arrival sheet the tonnage to be recorded in column 11, and in column 12, record "called for bunkers only."

If the vessel remains in port over 24 hours the master must report his vessel inwards, but no serial number would be given to the report as the vessel would not be shown in the imports of trade at Yarmouth, but in the annual statement of trade, number of vessels and tonnage.

Form G.A. 387 would not be sent to the Registrar-General in this case. Bunker coal certificate would be required for coal shipped at Yarmouth.

On arrival at Leith the vessel would be boarded in the ordinary way. The P.O. would withdraw the ship's copy of Clearing Bill and attach it to the Blue Book. The master's copy of Clearing Bill would be endorsed, "Pratique granted at Yarmouth." The master would then report his vessel inwards from Ghent via Yarmouth, and the Report Clerk would prepare Form 387 and forward same to the Registrar-General.

Travelling Copies of Report are only required when vessels arrive from foreign having foreign cargo, passengers or live stock on board for discharge at the first port of call, or at each successive port in the United Kingdom.

The same procedure applies to vessels arriving in ballast, vessels wind-bound and vessels with cargo calling for bunkers only and landing no cargo, passengers or live stock.

"SOLWAY."

TO BOOK LOVERS.

HAVE YOU TRIED THESE?

- "A Schoolboy's Troubles," by Ben Dover.
- "A Stirring Affair," by A. T. Spoon.
- "The Teacher," by I. Canem.
- "The Runaway Horse," by G. G. Bolton.
- "Preventive Officers," by Juno A. Lott.
- "Shorn Tresses," by Bob Dare.
- "Sacked," by Hugo Home.
- "The Untruthful Man," by Eliza Lot.
- "The Explosion," by Dina Mite.
- "The Front Seat," by I. Seymour.
- "Asst. Preventive Offrs.," by M. T. Pockets.
- "In Debt," by Owen Rent.
- "A Near Thing," by Justin Thyme.
- "The Sages," by Noah Lott.
- "The Eavesdropper," by Dora Jarr.
- "The Old Ruins," by I. V. Covers.
- "The Soldier," by Gloria Waite Sim.
- "Sunburn," by Dun Browne.
- "The Auctioneer," by N. E. Offars.
- "Wars After Effects," by Francis Dette.
- "The Stony Way," by Roxanne Bolders.
- "The Aeroplane Accident," by Howie Fell.
- "The Rowing Boat," by R. D. Pullin.
- "The New Dance Tune," by N. E. Row.

If your taste lies not in this direction, you would do well to join Messrs. Boots' Booklovers' Library, through the medium of the Preventive Staff Association.

Send a postcard to the Secretary at Headquarters.

R. U. A. READER.

DEATH OF Mr. R. WEAVER.

A FORMER CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER.

Amid manifestations of widespread sympathy and regret, the funeral of a former Chief Preventive Officer of the Gravesend Customs Station, Mr. R. Weaver, took place at Gravesend on Wednesday, January 26th.

The deceased gentleman was twice on the Gravesend Station. The first occasion was in the 'seventies of the last century. After serving here for a period he was appointed to a position in London, and returned to Gravesend some eight years before the war, to take up the duties of Chief Preventive Officer. During the war period he performed work of considerable national importance, for he took charge of all "prize ships," or ships captured on the high seas, which were brought into the Port of London. Mr. Weaver was due to retire in 1914, but owing to the war he carried on for some years longer, retiring in 1916.

During the time he was in Gravesend he made many friends. He was also a prominent member of the Parish Church of St. George's. It was with genuine regret that his many friends in Gravesend bid him good-bye when he removed to Ilford, to spend the years of his well-earned retirement. Later, he moved again, this time taking up residence at Wimbledon.

It was here he passed away with tragic suddenness, at the age of 73. Up till Wednesday of last week he was apparently in good health, but passed away on the following day at his residence, 120a, Durham Road, Wimbledon. At the inquest, medical evidence showed that he died of heart failure.

Many of his former colleagues on the Gravesend Station attended the interment on Wednesday at the Gravesend Cemetery, and also at the service held prior to it at the Parish Church. The Curate (the Rev. McCahearty) officiated. The deceased was interred in the grave where his wife was laid to rest during the war period.

Among the mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. Arnold (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs. Carter (daughter), Mr. Hunter (son-in-law), Mr. Geoffrey Hunter (grandson), Mr. Jennings (brother-in-law); the Customs was represented by Messrs. A. W. Purdye and R. Westcott (Preventive Officers), Messrs. Cook, Cubitt and Carnie (Immigration Office). Also present were Messrs. H. Gardner (late of the P.L.A. Sanitary Authority), Salter and Ash, Mr. Starbuck (ship chandler, West Street), Mr. W. J. Blake (former Chief Preventive Officer, Gravesend), and Mr. F. A. Mansfield.

The large number of floral tributes included one from his former colleagues at the Gravesend Customs Station.

("Gravesend Reporter.")

RECRUITMENT IN THE WATERGUARD.

THE PROPOSED SCHEME.

1.—Candidates must have attained the age of 19 and must not have attained the age of 21 on the first day of the written examination. In reckoning age for competition the following allowances will be made:—

(i.) Persons who have served or are serving in the Army, Navy or Air Force may deduct from their actual age any time during which they have served.

(ii.) Persons who have served in any civil situation other than that of Registered Boy Clerk to which they were admitted with the certificate of the Civil Service Commissioners may deduct from their actual age any time not exceeding two years which they may have spent in such service.

2.—Candidates must be natural-born British subjects and the sons of fathers also natural-born British subjects; provided that exception may be made in the case of candidates serving in a civil situation to which they were admitted with the certificate of the Civil Service Commissioners and provided that exception to the latter condition of the rule may be made in the case of candidates who have served in H.M. Armed Forces during the Great War between August 4th, 1914, and Nov. 11th, 1918.

3.—No person actually serving in the Army, Navy or Air Force will be eligible for admission to the examination unless he produces to the Civil Service Commissioners, when called upon to do so, the permission of his Commanding Officer to attend the examination, dated before the commencement of the examination and given in accordance with such orders as may from time to time be issued. Persons holding situations in the Civil Service must obtain the permission of the authorities of their Department to attend the examination before the commencement of the examination. Persons upon whose training for the occupation of teacher public money has been spent cannot be appointed until the consent of the appropriate education authority has been notified to the Civil Service Commissioners.

4.—Candidates will be required to undergo a written examination in the following subjects:

- (i.) English (including writing and spelling)
- (ii.) Reading manuscript
- (iii.) Arithmetic
- (iv.) Geography
- (v.) General knowledge

and candidates who obtain such an aggregate of marks in this written examination as to satisfy the Civil Service Commissioners will be regarded as qualified to appear before a Selection Board. Success in the written examination will not in itself confer any claim to appointment.

5.—Candidates who pass the written examination will be summoned for competitive interview by a Selection Board and on the result of that interview, the Selection Board will prepare a list of successful candidates, in order of merit, sufficient in number to fill such vacancies as have been reported to be filled on the result of the competition. Candidates interviewed by the Selection Board whose names are not included in that list will have no claim to an appointment.

6.—Successful candidates will be required to satisfy the Civil Service Commissioners as to their health and character. They will be subjected to a rigid medical examination; they must possess full normal eyesight (without the aid of glasses) and good hearing; and they must be physically capable of performing the active duties of the Waterguard Service.

7.—Any attempt on the part of a candidate to enlist support for his application through Members of Parliament or other influential persons, will disqualify him for appointment. The Selection Board will disregard spontaneous recommendations from persons who are not personally acquainted with the candidate's previous work.

8.—Application to attend an examination must be made at such times and in such manner as may be fixed by the Civil Service Commissioners.

9.—Every candidate sending in an application form must at the same time pay the prescribed fee of five shillings.

OBITUARY.

Mr. WILLIAM GARTHWAITE.

We regret to announce the death on the 2nd inst., following a brief illness, of Mr. William Garthwaite, A.P.O., of Newcastle. He was formerly, we understand, stationed at Middlesbrough and Stockton. His genial and kind disposition won him many friends among his colleagues, from whom floral tributes were sent, and who were represented at the funeral, which took place at Middlesbrough on Saturday, February 5th.

A message of condolence has been sent to Mr. J. G. Garthwaite, the late Mr. Garthwaite's brother.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to the "Customs Journal" are reminded that subscriptions for 1927 are due, and they are requested to make their settlements as early as possible to ensure continued and punctual delivery.

SOUTHAMPTON'S FIFTH ANNUAL DINNER.

It is acknowledged on all sides in Southampton that the Waterguard Dinner, held at the Dolphin Hotel, and presided over by Mr. J. W. Connaway, Waterguard Superintendent, was an unqualified success; and, indeed, it would come as a surprise were it otherwise, for Southampton has a way of arranging these functions which can have no other result than enthusiastic appreciation. Considerable space is afforded in the local Press to the report, and it seems evident that this dinner is looked upon as a matter of some importance.

The Chairman was supported by the Collector, Mr. E. W. Thew, and a number of high officials of Southampton shipping.

Modesty forbids much mention of the speeches, but it is evident from these that the Waterguard still has some very firm friends and admirers, and there certainly seems to be at least one port where the work of the Waterguard is appreciated.

Captain Braithwaite, of the R.M.S.P. Co., in congratulating the staff upon the gathering, ventured the opinion that it would not be long before such functions were honoured by the Mayor and a member of the Government.

Among those present was Mr. Frank Hayman, who, after spending four-fifths of his career with H.M. Customs, had finished off with service with the Home Office, and was about to retire. Mr. Hayman recalled the fact that many of the officers in the room had been his friends at Gravesend thirty-seven years ago. He did not like to bid them good-bye, but as that was necessary, he wished to state that during his twenty-one years with the Waterguard at Southampton he had had none but the most excellent colleagues.

During the evening the Chairman of Management of the Civil Servants' Sports Club at Southampton, Mr. A. J. Langridge, referred to the amenities offered by the Club, and made the interesting announcement that they were about to purchase the lease and goodwill of the ground.

The musical programme was contributed to by several numbers by the Merry Imps; the talented Customs Jazz Band (Messrs. R. H. Goff, E. J. Gordge, F. A. Cridland, C. E. Goff, and S. A. W. Beer), and the Arco String Quartet (Messrs. A. W. M. White, E. G. Hooper, R. H. Goff, C. E. Goff, and F. T. Welch). Songs of wide variety and appeal were rendered by Messrs. C. E. Bryan, F. A. Cridland, J. T. Probert, J. J. Knight, F. E. Emery, H. C. Parsons, H. S. Platten, F. T. Welch, and B. A. Bacon. Community singing was another popular feature of the evening's enjoyment.

The toast of the Chairman was submitted by Mr. H. S. Platten, and suitably acknowledged.

BRISTOL PRESENTATIONS.

A large number of officers assembled at the "Crown and Dove" Hotel, Bridwell Street, on Saturday, February 12th, on the occasion of a combined Customs and Excise social evening, to mark the retirements of Messrs. W. Twomey, Officer, C. F. Lindell and O'Dwyer, Preventive Officers, and G. R. Miller, A.P.O.

The Collector, Mr. F. H. Putnam, was in the chair, ably supported by Messrs. S. Curtis (Sur.) and E. J. Rich, C.P.O. Others present included representatives of the Immigration and Local Sanitary Authorities, as well as from the Ministry of Health Department and the Office of Works. In his message to the Chairman, Mr. Reid (Asst. Collector) said that it was with a feeling of disappointment he had to forego the pleasure of being present; his wishes, nevertheless, lost nothing in sincerity by his enforced absence.

Messrs. Lundberg, Bussell and Power spoke of the sound qualities possessed by the four retiring officers, not only as colleagues, but as friends; their reliableness and efficiency was unquestioned, and there was no doubt the Department was losing "four of the best." It was sincerely hoped they would be spared for many years to enjoy their well-earned rest.

Letters of esteem and appreciation were read, followed by a few letters of apology.

The Chairman, replying, said how great an amount of pleasure it gave him to preside at such a unique function, and felt sure that from the very striking tributes paid that evening, fully testified to the esteem which our retiring friends had gained from their colleagues during long and faithful service with the Department.

The duties of presentation were shared, Mr. Twomey receiving a set of golf clubs, together with a gold wristlet watch for Mrs. Twomey, at the hands of Mr. Curtis. Mr. Rich, after making reference to his past association with the officers, presented to Mr. Lindell a silver tea and coffee service, to Mr. O'Dwyer a cabinet gramophone, and to Mr. Miller a gold Albert chain and disc.

Following showers of good wishes from their colleagues, the guests of the evening made their acknowledgments, and the whole company settled down to the enjoyment of a very fine musical programme, contributed to by Mr. and Mrs. Stacey (violin solo and song), Messrs. Fuller, Tucker, Mahony, Rich, Endacott and Watson (songs), Mr. O'Dwyer (humorous), with Mr. Jenkins at the piano. Choruses included the A.O.F.B. Anthem and "He's a jolly good fellow."

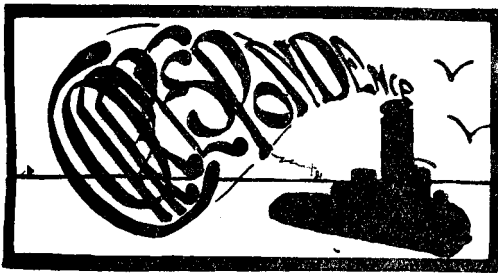
An enjoyable evening terminated at about eleven with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

PRESENTATION TO Mr. A. J. MATTOCK, P.O., LONDON.

To mark his retirement from the Service, and to wish him well in the future, a presentation was made to Mr. A. J. Mattock at his private residence on February 5th. It was a matter of general regret that he could not attend a public function owing to his indifferent state of health.

Messrs. Miller, Metcalfe, O'Driscoll and Leonard (Preventive Officers), and Beacher and Booker (Asst. Preventive Officers), were the members of a party which conveyed the good wishes of the Preventive Staff, and many expressions of congratulation were extended to Mr. Mattock. The Chairman, Mr. H. Leonard, after his opening remarks, read congratulatory telegrams from each station in the port. The members present each in turn wished Mr. Mattock long life and happiness in which to enjoy his well-earned rest, and Mr. Metcalfe, wishing him and Mrs. Mattock long life, health and contentment in retirement, on behalf of the staff presented him with a handsome eight-day clock, bearing a suitable inscription, together with a silver snuff-box. Mr. Mattock, responding, said that such a splendid gift would help to remind him of many pleasant days spent with his late colleagues.

Formalities dispensed with, the company settled down to a very homely evening, and musical items were rendered by each and every member present. The singing of "He's a jolly good fellow" brought the proceedings to a close later on in the evening.



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.

ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir,—With reference to a letter over the nom de plume of "Cave Canem" in the last issue, I would be glad if you will allow me the opportunity of replying to the specific query your correspondent makes to G.E.N.

"Cave Canem" is wrong in his facts. Instead of the establishment figures as given in the Estimates for the financial year 1926-7 being contrary to the Reconstruction agreement of 1923, I would inform him that they are the actual figures agreed upon. A comparison of the agreement embodied in G.O. 27/23, and the figures in the Estimates for 1926-7, as given on page 256 of Ham's Year Book for 1927, will prove the above contention. The variation from previous years was, of course, due to the setting up of the Irish Free State.

I can personally assure your correspondent, and any other member interested, that this matter of staff strength is before the Executive at every meeting of that Committee. The Executive is fully aware of the importance to the A.P.O. Grade of preventing any reduction in the number of Preventive Officers, and will take every possible step towards this end.—Yours, etc.,

J. T. SUTTON.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

For two weeks ending February 12th, 1927.

TRANSFERS.

Preventive Officers: Kirby, W. S., Middlesbrough, to Stockton, Sunderland; Miller, G. R., Fishguard, Swansea, to Swansea; Stonestreet, A. H., Swansea, to Bristol.

Assistant Preventive Officers: Knight, L. E. V., Penarth, Cardiff, to Sharpness, Worcester; Morgan, C. H. F., Sharpness, Worcester, to London.

PROMOTIONS.

Assistant Preventive Officer to Preventive Officer: Payne, E., Eastham, Manchester, to Barry Dock, Cardiff.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

Retirements.—Preventive Officers: Collins, T., Liverpool; Kelly, J. F., Rye, Dover; Wilson, J., Stockton, Sunderland.

Assistant Preventive Officer: Miller, G. R., Bristol.

Death.—Assistant Preventive Officer: Garthwaite, W., Land Duty, Newcastle.

VACANCIES.

Preventive Officer, Aberystwith, Chester, 5.3.27 (an allowance of £40 per annum for performing Long Room work, etc., is assigned).

Assistant Preventive Officer, Bristol, 10.2.27.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Swan, A. W., Preventive Man; Weaver, R., Chief Preventive Officer, Upper Section; Wright, C., Preventive Officer, Upper Section.

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

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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