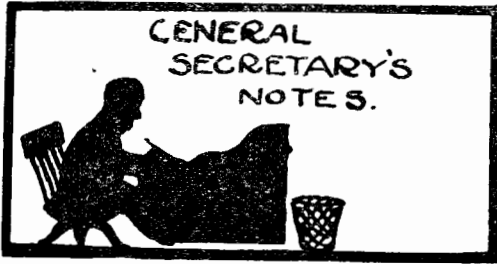


The Customs Journal.

No. 596.

August 27th, 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.

My Notes in the previous issue of "The Journal" were necessarily brief owing to extreme pressure of work preparatory to casting off the shackles of office for a short spell of freedom by the sea. Having got back into harness again, another reason for brevity presents itself. Contrary to normal expectations of comparative slackness at this time of the year, it so happens that an unusual number of important matters have occurred requiring prompt and detailed attention.

During my stay at Whitstable a fair amount of correspondence managed to find me. To some of the letters I was able to reply, and I hope that those correspondents who have not had immediate attention will appreciate the difficulties.

As a Small Port, Whitstable seems to be a very busy little place. Apart from the purely Customs side of the work—which is by no means negligible—there is a constant demand at all hours by all manner of persons for the attention of the P.O. in connection with other duties which fall to the lot of a Preventive Officer-in-Charge. It is a place where the Customs Officer must be available for a full seven days every week.

There are, of course, many Small Ports of this description, and it is a mistake to assume that they are havens of rest. They are nothing of the sort. The officers in these places have a great deal of responsible work to perform.

A thorough knowledge of the Regulations, coupled with a keen, intelligent view of life generally, is necessary in order to effectively carry out the duties of Preventive Officer-in-Charge. It is time we heard more of this section of Waterguard work, and it is a pity "The Journal" columns are not utilised to a greater extent for this purpose.

Recent Press stories of smuggling at Sheppey induced me to make a trip to the island, which is close to Whitstable. The difficulties of landing on the beach even under favourable circumstances seem to make it very improbable that large-scale smuggling could take place. Even if the goods could be landed, the chances of a successful "get away" are certainly not good. I had the opinion of a yachtsman, who was also a journalist, and his remarks were scarcely complimentary to the authors of the smuggling yarns which have appeared in print.

It would be idle to say that smuggling and attempted smuggling has not, or could not, take place on the south and east coasts. So long as high duties exist there will be adventurers ready to take advantage of the smallest loophole, no matter what precautions are taken. Constant vigilance by the Preventive forces is essential, and it would be unwise to push Civil Service economy too far where this kind of protection is necessary. The newspapers have, however, howled for reductions of staffs for wrong reasons, and now, for equally wrong reasons, they urge increases of staff.

I notice a letter in the last issue of "The Journal" by "Interested," and he desires to know why G.O. 25/1927 was not made to apply to the Waterguard as well as to the Officer Grade. The explanation is quite simple. The extension of the retiring age of sixty-five was asked for by the Officer Grade only, and was the subject of an agreement affecting that grade only. The Waterguard did not make any request for such extension, and had any suggestion been made to include the Waterguard in the agreement it would have been strongly opposed by the Waterguard representatives on the Departmental Council. P.S.A. policy on this point has been definitely decided. It seems to have been overlooked by "Interested" that the agreement also provides for retirement at sixty instead of sixty-one for all Officers who have concluded forty years' service.

It is extremely unlikely that the Official Side would agree to an extension of service to sixty.

five in the case of Waterguard Officers. The physical strain caused by the performance of Waterguard duties has always been emphasised by the Association, and is now fully recognised.

* * * *

The result of the Post Office arbitration case is decidedly unsatisfactory from a staff point of view. In the few instances where increases have been granted, they are not by any means substantial. Generally speaking, the gigantic efforts of the U.P.W. in putting forward the claims are regarded as having failed. In view of the skill with which the case was presented, and the power of the organisation behind it, the result gives much food for thought.

Elsewhere in this issue appears an extract from the general conclusions of the Court, and also some figures relating to increases of wages for certain grades. A study of these might enable members to gain some idea of the things which guide the Court as to whether they should or should not be made. In some cases it will be noted there is a decrease of pay.

The main point for P.S.A. members to bear in mind is that apparently no consideration is given to the question of whether the day pay of an individual enables him to live in reasonable comfort. The whole thing seems to be decided upon comparison with the pay of workers outside the Service. This is a feature of all awards of the Industrial Court, and it has been pointed out in these columns on previous occasions.

The Post Office case is further evidence in this direction. It does not seem to matter whether pay for analogous work outside the Service is adequate or not. In these circumstances, it is very obvious that to obtain wage increases it is imperative to prove the highest possible standard for the work in respect of any pay claim.

* * * *

I have received from the Gregg Publishing Co., Ltd., a copy of a new book, entitled "Careers in the Civil Service," which is on sale at 2/6. It is one of the most useful books published on this subject, and contains much reliable information concerning the Civil Service generally, the different types of examination, together with specimen examination papers. It is a complete guide for anyone who desires to enter any branch of the Service. No doubt many Waterguard Officers will find such a book very helpful in choosing careers for their sons and daughters.

The author, who is a Civil Servant, is also connected with the Meiklejohn Institute, a Civil Service coaching establishment which is by now well known to our members.

* * * *

The decrease in the cost-of-living figure to 64 for this month will not affect the anticipations of a two twenty-sixths drop in the bonus. On the whole, the Service can be regarded as fortunate not to have suffered a greater reduction.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

Statement of Accounts for the Year ended March 31st, 1927.

SUMMARY OF AUDITED DISTRICT ACCOUNTS.

(To be read in conjunction with the balance sheet published in our last issue.)

District.	INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.			
	Bal. bt. ford.	Subs.	Total.	Dist. Exs.	Gen. Fund.	Bal. cr. frd.	Total.
London	0 12 0	242 2 0	242 14 0	14 3 2	223 0 0	5 10 10	242 14 0
Liverpool	5 1 1	122 18 6	127 19 7	6 14 5½	118 16 0	2 9 1½	127 19 7
Manchester	0 2 10½	38 5 6	38 8 4½	2 16 5	26 19 0	8 12 11½	38 8 4½
Cardiff	0 6 0½	156 16 1½	157 2 2	9 12 2	146 0 0	1 10 0	157 2 2
Bristol	0 17 0½	55 2 8½	55 19 9	2 6 11	53 2 0	0 10 10	55 19 9
Plymouth	0 8 6	48 15 0	49 3 6	0 15 6	48 8 0		49 3 6
Southampton	0 4 10½	97 1 6	97 6 4½	3 18 1	89 0 0	4 8 3½	97 6 4½
Dover	0 0 4	57 11 6	57 11 10	1 13 6	55 18 0	0 0 4	57 11 10
Gravesend	0 5 7	89 12 3	89 17 10	8 16 1	75 0 0	6 1 9	89 17 10
Grimsby	0 16 0½	74 1 4	74 17 4½	6 5 6½	68 4 0	0 7 10	74 17 4½
Hull	0 1 5½	73 4 6	73 5 11½	1 19 4½	71 0 0	0 6 7	73 5 11½
Portlepool	0 18 6½	60 17 6	61 16 0½	2 13 7½	58 5 0	0 17 5	61 16 0½
Tyne	1 14 7½	76 12 0	78 6 7½	3 9 2	74 15 0	0 2 5½	78 6 7½
Leith	3 0 8	89 15 6	92 16 2	3 16 3	88 0 0	0 19 11	92 16 2
Aberdeen	0 15 10½	48 2 6	48 18 4½	1 7 4½	47 0 0	0 11 0	48 18 4½
Glasgow	1 7 7	75 10 5	76 18 0	7 7 11	68 0 0	1 10 1	76 18 0
Totals	16 13 11	1406 8 10	1423 1 11½	77 15 6½	1311 7 0	33 19 5	1423 1 11½

SWANSEA.

A well-attended meeting was held at the Market Cafe, Oxford Street, on August 12th, with Mr. F. Chaplin in the chair.

One or two local matters came up for discussion, and after these had been disposed of Mr. G. E. N. Griffiths (Councillor, Newport) addressed the meeting on the subject of the recent Association Conference in London. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and Mr. Griffiths at 9.45 p.m.

BETWEEN TIDES.

PARAGRAPHS FROM THE DISTRICTS.**GRAVESEND.**

At the Gravesend Police Court, on July 27th, a Chinese fireman, of the Dutch steamer "Roepat," from Marcassar, was charged with unlawfully being in possession of 4 lb. unprepared opium, contrary to the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1920.

Mr. J. Potter, C.P.O., conducted the case for the Crown.

The offender pleaded guilty, through an interpreter, and was fined £20 or two months', and ordered to pay £2/7/0 costs. He was recommended for deportation. The fine was not paid.

The opium was discovered sewn in a life-belt, behind the fo'c'stle door, by Mr. W. Varney, A.P.O., of Mr. Wright's rummage crew.

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL.

On August 15th, at the Custom House, Aberystwyth, Mr. T. J. Francis, formerly Principal Officer of C. and E. at Aberystwyth, was presented with the Imperial Service Medal for meritorious services.

The presentation was made in the presence of his former colleagues by Mr. F. E. Gordon, W.S., who said that Mr. Francis had given long and faithful service to the State, and that his service was appreciated in the highest quarters was evidenced by the award of the I.S.M. He congratulated Mr. Francis, and hoped he would be spared many years.

Eulogistic references were made by the Surveyor (Mr. A. G. Grindley) and Mr. J. Akister (Principal Officer, Aberystwyth), and Mr. J. Murphy (Aberdovey) on behalf of the Coast Preventive Men, Mr. Francis responding.

A letter of congratulation was received from the Collector, Chester, who regretted his absence.

* * * *

On the same day, a pleasant little function was held at the Waterguard Office, Bristol, the occasion being the presentation to Mr. G. R. Miller, late Assistant Preventive Officer, Bristol, of the Imperial Service Medal, in recognition of over fifty years' service under the Crown, which includes a term of service with the Royal Navy.

The presentation was made in the presence of a good gathering of his former colleagues, by the Assistant Collector, who congratulated Mr. Miller on having been granted this distinction.

Mr. E. J. Rich, C.P.O., spoke of his happy official association with Mr. Miller, and wished him long life and happiness in his retirement. These remarks were fully endorsed by Messrs. Henning, C.P.O., Power and Heywood, P.O.'s, and Longbottom, A.P.O.

There are none who could say otherwise than that he was "one of the best."

PRESENTATION TO Mr. CHAPLIN.

A pleasing incident took place at the Swansea Custom House on the morning of August 19th, when his colleagues met to bid godspeed to Mr. E. P. Chaplin on his promotion to the rank of Preventive Officer at Leith, and also to present him with a handsome hide suit case, subscribed for by his many friends.

Mr. W. J. Bottel, P.O., was called upon to undertake the office of chairman, and, in opening the proceedings, said many pleasing things of Mr. Chaplin, both as an officer and as a friend. Before calling upon Mr. Blewitt, C.P.O., to make the presentation, speeches were given by Messrs. Burge, Ould and Martin, and by Mr. W. J. Williams, of the Landing Staff, eulogising Mr. Chaplin's many good qualities. In thanking all present for their good wishes and gift, Mr. Chaplin said that he could not wish for a better reception at Leith than he had had as a send-off from Swansea.

HAVE YOU SOUGHT ASSISTANCE?

(SEE NEXT ISSUE).

THE POST OFFICE AWARD.

A SUMMARY OF THE COURT'S FINDINGS.

Sorters.—Reduction at 18 and 19. No change after.

C.C. and T.'s.—Men: Increase, 1/- on minimum, 5/- on maximum. Women: Increase, 1/- on minimum, 2/- on maximum.

Telegraphists, including Cable Room.—Men: Increase, 1/- on minimum, 2/6 on maximum. Women: Increase, 1/- on minimum, 1/- on maximum.

S.C. and T.'s.—

London Outer.—Men: Increase, 2/6 on maximum. Women: Increase, 2/- on maximum.

Class I.—Men: Increase, 1/- on minimum, 1/- on maximum. Women: Increase 1/- on minimum, 2/- on maximum.

Class II.—Men and Women: Increase, 1/- on minimum, 2/- on maximum.

Class III.—Men: Increase, 5/- on maximum. Women: Increase, 2/- on maximum.

Telephonists.—Increase of 4/- on maximum, to be reached in annual increments of 1/-.

Night Telephonists and Call Office Attendants.—London Inner: Increase, 2/- on maximum. London Outer: Increase, 3/- on maximum. Provinces: Increase, 2/- on maximum.

Telephone Learners.—No change. Adult: No change.

Girl Probationers.—No change.

Postmen.—London Inner: No change. London Outer: Increase, 1/6 on maximum. Provinces: Class I, Increase, 1/- on maximum; Class II, Increase, 2/- on maximum; Class III, Increase, 3/- on maximum.

Porters.—No change.

Bagmen.—No change.

Adult Indoor Messengers.—No change.

Tube Attendants.—Increase, 2/6 on maximum.

Cleaners.—No change.

Part-time Cleaners.—No change.

Boy Messengers.—London Inner: Decrease of 3/- on maximum for new entrants. London Outer: Decrease of 2/- on maximum. Class 1, 2, and 3: Decrease of 2/- on maximum.

Charwomen.—Increase of 4/-. Part-time: Increase of 1d. per hour on all rates.

Doorkeepers.—No change.

Liftmen.—No change.

Adult Night Messengers.—No change. Part-time: No change.

Part-time Night Telephonists.—London Inner: No change. London Outer and Provinces: Additional rate of 11d. an hour.

Part-time Telephonists.—Increase in maximum rate by 1d. per hour.

Paperkeepers.—Savings Bank: No change. Money Order: Increase of 2/- on maximum.

Part-time Assistants (Postal and Telegraph).—Increase in maximum rate by 1d. per hour.

Auxiliary Postmen.—Increase in all rates by 1d. per hour.

Here are some of the scales obtaining at present, together with the new scales as provided by the award. The scales are, of course, subject to the application of the cost-of-living bonus.

SORTERS.

PRESENT SCALES.			AWARD.		
	Age.			Age.	
Under 18	...	20/0	At 18	...	22/0
At 18	...	24/0	19	...	24/0
	19	...	20	...	28/0
	20	...	21	...	30/0
	21	...	22	...	32/0
Annual		32/0	23	...	34/6
Increments		34/6	Then by annual increments to:—		
		37/0			37/0
		41/0			41/0
		45/0			45/0
		47/6			47/6
		50/0			50/0
		52/6			52/6
		55/0			55/0
		57/6			57/6
		60/0			60/0
		62/6			62/6
		65/0			65/0
		67/6			67/6

COUNTER CLERKS AND TELEGRAPHISTS (LONDON).

MEN.

PRESENT SCALES.			AWARD.		
	Age.				
Under 18	...	20/0	On entry	...	10/0
At 18	...	24/0	After 3 months	...	12/0
	19	...	When fully qualified provided that six months' service has been given):—		
	20	...	Under 16 years		
	21	...	of age	...	16/0
Annual		32/0	At 16 years	...	18/0
Increments		34/6	17 years	...	20/0
		37/0	18 years	...	22/0
		41/0	19 years	...	24/0
		45/0	20 years	...	28/0
		47/6	21 years	...	30/0
		50/0	22 years	...	32/0
		52/6	23 years	...	34/6
		55/0	Then by annual increments to:—		
		57/6			37/0
		60/0			41/0
		62/6			45/0
		65/0			47/6
		67/6			50/0
					52/6
					55/0
					57/6
					60/0
					62/6
					65/0
					67/6
					70/0
					72/6

TELEGRAPHISTS (LONDON).

MEN.

PRESENT SCALES.		AWARD.	
Age.		On entry ...	10/0
Under 18 ...	20/0	After 3 months	12/0
At 18 ...	24/0	When fully qualified	
19 ...	26/0	(provided that six	
20 ...	28/0	months' service has	
21 ...	30/0	been given):—	
Annual	32/0	Under 16 years	
Increments	34/6	of age ...	16/0
	37/0	At 16 years ...	18/0
	41/0	17 years ...	20/0
	45/0	18 years ...	22/0
	47/6	19 years ...	24/0
	50/0	20 years ...	28/0
	52/6	21 years ...	30/0
	55/0	22 years ...	32/0
	57/6	23 years ...	34/6
	60/0	Then by annual incre-	
	62/6	ments to:—	37/0
	65/0		41/0
	67/6		45/0
			47/6
			50/0
			52/6
			55/0
			57/6
			60/0
			62/6
			65/0
			67/6
			70/0

When fully qualified (provided that six months' service has been given):

Under 16 years ...	14/0	14/0	13/0	12/0
At 16 years ...	16/0	16/0	15/0	14/0
17 years ...	18/0	18/0	17/0	16/0
18 years ...	20/0	20/0	19/0	18/0
19 years ...	22/0	22/0	21/0	20/0
20 years ...	26/0	26/0	25/0	24/0
21 years ...	28/0	28/0	27/0	26/0
22 years ...	30/0	30/0	29/0	28/0
23 years ...	32/6	32/6	31/0	30/0

Then by annual increments to:—

	35/0	35/0	33/0	32/0
	38/6	38/6	36/0	34/0
	42/0	42/0	39/0	36/0
	44/6	44/0	41/0	38/0
	47/0	46/0	43/0	40/0
	49/6	48/0	45/0	42/0
	52/0	50/0	47/0	44/0
	54/6	52/0	49/0	46/0
	57/0	54/6	51/0	48/0
	59/6	57/0	53/0	50/0
	62/0	59/6	55/0	52/0
	64/6	62/0	57/0	54/0

* * * *

The following is extracted from the document containing the terms of the award:—

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

In their consideration of the claims and counter-claims the Court have taken the view that the broad principle which should be followed in determining the rates of wages of Post Office servants is that of the maintenance of a fair relativity as between their wages and those in outside industries as a whole, and as between the various classes within the Postal Service, with due regard to the adequacy of the payment for the work done and the responsibilities undertaken.

Any direct comparison with outside industries presents some difficulty owing to the fact that in the Postal Service the duties and conditions of employment are in general dissimilar from those obtaining in outside industries.

In any such comparison it has to be remembered that the appointment of Post Office employees as established officers to one or other of the different classes, whose claims are under review, brings with it all the advantages of a Civil Service career. Such an employee has security of tenure of employment, annual leave with pay, free medical attendance and sick pay, is relieved of Health and Unemployment Insurance contributions, has some prospect of promotion, and is qualified for a pension on retirement.

These factors are not, in general, characteristic of outside employment: for example, in some outside employments wages are subject to fluctuation according to the state of industry, and the employee is liable to be put on short

SORTING CLERKS AND TELEGRAPHISTS.

MEN.

PRESENT SCALES.

	London	Class	Class	Class
	Outer.	I.	II.	III.
Under 18 ...	18/0	18/0	17/0	16/0
At 18 ...	22/0	22/0	21/0	20/0
19 ...	24/0	24/0	23/0	22/0
20 ...	26/0	26/0	25/0	24/0
21 ...	28/0	28/0	27/0	26/0
Annual Increments:	30/0	30/0	29/0	28/0
	32/6	32/6	31/0	30/0
	35/0	35/0	33/0	32/0
	38/6	38/6	36/0	34/0
	42/0	42/0	39/0	36/0
	44/6	44/0	41/0	38/0
	47/0	46/0	43/0	40/0
	49/6	48/0	45/0	42/0
	52/0	50/0	47/0	44/0
	54/6	52/0	49/0	46/0
	57/0	54/0	51/0	48/0
	59/6	56/0	53/0	49/0
	62/0	58/0	55/0	—
	—	61/0	—	—

AWARD.

Age & Increments.				
On entry ...	8/0	8/0	8/0	8/0
After 3 months ...	10/0	10/0	10/0	10/0

time or to be discharged in times of trade depression.

On the other hand, it is to be borne in mind that in the Postal Service the hours of attendance are in general irregular. The incidence of the work entails a good deal of night duty, and also split attendances. Night duty is confined to men, but the proportion varies as between different grades. Thus, the percentage of night duty (i.e., between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.) to total hours of duty in the case of certain of the principal classes is as follows:—Sorters, 27.2; Telegraphists (male), 13.9; Counter Clerks and Telegraphists (male), 3.0; Postmen, 18.1; and Porters, 31.3. The foregoing are London figures. In the provinces the corresponding percentages are: Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists (male), 20.0; Postmen, 11.0. Split attendances are necessitated by the unequal flow in the volume of work throughout the 24 hours and to the pressure on the postal side in the early morning and in the evening. Accordingly, staff attendances have to be adjusted to meet the requirements of the traffic so as to avoid the wastage which would be involved if all duties were continuous. Practically all London Indoor Classes and 88 per cent. of the London postmen have now continuous attendances. In the provincial offices the percentages of single attendances are as follows:—Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists (male) 71.9, (female) 53.1; Telephonists (female), 49.6; Postmen, 35.7. For those having two attendances, the corresponding percentages are 27.8, 46.3, 50.3, and 56.7. For 7.6.

The hours of duty of full-time grades are 48 a week inclusive of meal intervals. The net hours of work are, therefore, if allowance be made for meals, about 45 per week or less. In outside industries, the normal working week consists of 47 or 48 hours net.

While, therefore, as regards the nature of their work, no exact comparisons can be drawn between that of postal servants and those in outside industries, the foregoing considerations in regard to the relative advantages and disadvantages of the conditions of employment within and without the Postal Service are of importance.

As to the wages paid in outside industries, the attention of the Court was directed by both parties to the rates paid in various occupations. Such comparisons cannot in themselves be conclusive owing to the qualifications to which they must necessarily be subject. The evidence submitted in this respect has been examined in detail by the Court, as well as that submitted in regard to the general movements in wages which have taken place prior to and since 1920, when the present wages scales were agreed upon.

The relativity, therefore, which in the view of the Court should obtain as between the wages of Post Office employees and those in outside industries involves the consideration of many factors. The importance to be attached to the different factors may vary from time to time;

some may increase, others may diminish. Accordingly, no hard and fast rule can be laid down which would be capable of automatic application. Changes in either an upward or downward direction may be necessary in order to maintain a due consonance with general national or industrial considerations, but any such changes fall to be made only after a careful review of the various issues involved in a many-sided problem.

As to the relativity which should obtain as between the various classes within the Postal Service, some guidance is to be found in the proposals of the parties themselves which afford a definite measure of the difference in wage rates, which, in the view of the parties, should obtain as between the different grades, as well as in the evidence submitted in regard to the nature of the duties themselves and the conditions attaching to their performance.

The decisions of the Court in regard to the claims of the Union and the counter-claims of the Postmaster-General as to scales of pay have accordingly been arrived at in the light of the foregoing considerations.

In general, the Court have arrived at the conclusion that the evidence submitted by the parties in regard to the proposed changes in scales of pay is not of such a nature as to warrant any substantial change of the settlement arrived at in 1920.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, August 8th, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. W. H. James presided over an attendance of twenty-two.

It was reported that the General Secretary, Mr. Philip Millwood, had left the service of the Confederation as from August 4th, and that a communication had been addressed to constituent organisations, and to certain Civil Service journals, inviting applications from serving Civil Servants for the post of General Secretary, in accordance with the terms of the report on secretarial reorganisation, adopted by the last Annual Council meeting.

Mr. R. D. Crook and Mr. G. R. Speed were appointed as representatives of the Confederation to the Civil Service Equal Pay Committee and the Civil Service Civil Rights Defence Committee, respectively, in room of Mr. Millwood.

The Royal Ordnance Factories Worktakers' Association, Woolwich, 88 members, was admitted to membership of the Confederation and allocated to Group 3, "Organisations of Professional and Technical Grades."

Cost of Living.

A report was given by Mr. G. Chase of recent proceedings of the National Staff Side, dealing especially with the subjects of Cost of Living, Higher Grades Committee, and Subsistence.

On the subject of Cost of Living, it was reported that the Official Side of the National Whitley Council had made a proposal, to which the Staff Side had agreed, that a Joint Committee should examine the point:—

“Whether it was desirable to make any change in the existing bonus arrangements so far as concerned the date and period of revision.”

This examination is to be undertaken by the Joint General Purposes Committee of the National Whitley Council, and the Executive Committee decided:—

“That the Confederation representatives on the National Staff Side, and on the General Purposes Committee of the National Staff Side, be instructed to arrive at no agreement on this matter without consultation with the Executive Committee of the Confederation.”

Night Rates.

Some discussion took place on the subject of the classes to be included in the terms of remit to the Arbitration Court in connection with the claim being put forward by the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council Subsistence Committee, on night rates, and it was decided:—

“That it be an instruction to the Confederation representatives to endeavour to secure the inclusion of the ‘P’ class in the schedule to be attached to the present claim.”

Press Attacks.

Consideration was given to a proposal put forward by the Parliamentary and Publicity Committee on the subject of the continual Press attacks made on the Civil Service, and it was decided to recommend to the National Staff Side:—

(i.) That the Staff Side should invite the Official Side of the National Whitley Council to define its attitude in regard to Press attacks on the Civil Service, and (ii.) that the Official Side be asked to consider the desirability of endeavouring to get a statement made in the House of Commons by a responsible Minister in reply to the misrepresentations to which the Service has been subjected during recent years.”

Clause (5) and Effect.

Reference was made to the approaching probable termination of the connection of the Confederation with the National Federation of Professional Workers, in view of the passage into law of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, and it was agreed that the president and general secretary of the National Federation be invited to attend the half-yearly council meeting of the Confederation in November, 1927.

Reference was also made to the forthcoming Congress of the International Federation of Civil Servants and Teachers, to be held at Nuremberg on September 17th and 20th, 1927. Mr. W. H. James (President) and Mr. Ross Wyld (Vice-President) were appointed to represent the Confederation at this Congress, in addition to Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, who is the standing representative of the Confederation to the International.

Consideration was given to the question of the forthcoming examination for the Clerical Class, at which, under the terms of the National Whitley Council Report on the Promotion of Minor and Manipulative Grades, members of these grades, up to the age of forty years, will be eligible to compete, and it was resolved:—

“That, provided the governing date for the upward age limit is determined as the date of the ratification of the Report on the Promotion of Minor and Manipulative Grades, the Staff Side should press for four months’ notice of the first examination to be given.”

Constitution of Arbitration Court.

On the motion of the Association of Officers of the Ministry of Labour, a resolution on the subject of the constitution of the Civil Service Arbitration Court was adopted, and agreed to be forwarded to the National Staff Side in the following terms:—

“That the constitution of the Arbitration Court should be widened so as to permit questions involving grading or working conditions, in addition to salary questions, being referred to the Court, and so that applications may be made in respect of any easily recognisable class, grade, or group.”

Mr. C. W. Gibson was appointed as a member of the Finance and Organisation Committee in room of Mr. H. S. Judge, resigned.

The Chairman reported that he had attended the annual general meeting of the Inland Revenue Stamping Department Women’s Association, held on August 4th. The question of amalgamation with the Inland Revenue Stamping Department Association was being considered by the Women’s Association.

The Chairman also reported on certain cases for arbitration being handled by the Confederation on behalf of constituent organisations. With regard to the Office Keepers’ case, in which the Government Minor Grades Association and the Workers’ Union were concerned, the Chairman had the statement of case in hand and anticipated being available for the hearing of the case shortly after the resumption of the sittings of the Arbitration Court after the vacation. With regard to the Attendants’ and Repairers’ Association, Public Record Office, the Confederation officers were in consultation with the Association concerned in connection with the preparation of the case.

PARLIAMENT.

By "CARACTACUS."

VII.—THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

The Reform Bill of 1832 practically abolished the traffic in the "freeman's" vote, disfranchised many rotten boroughs and others which existed only in name, and re-distributed the seats thus made available among the growing townships and the poorly represented counties. It is a notable milestone in the political history of this country. In that sense, it was then that English government left its nonage, and the Reform Act was the *noverint universi* of our political emancipation. It was sauce to the political appetite. The effect was to give a fillip to the demand for reform generally and to the sense of power which the people, through their trade organisations, began to feel surging within them, and their organisations began to merit the name of Trades Unions. In the direction of social reform there came the Factory Acts, reform of the Poor Law, and funds for education were extracted from the Governments of the time, parsimonious and reluctant though they were.

But the immediate result was that the government of the country ceased to be the virtual monopoly of a few lordly Whigs, and was rendered into the hands of the middle classes. I say the middle classes advisedly, for the workers were certainly left out in the cold by the Act, and their chagrin brought into being that body of trade unionists who believed that they must fight for themselves industrially, and another body who, perhaps more far-seeing, sought to capture the political machine as a means of emancipation. Chartism was the deliberate expression of this demand, and while it failed directly, its indirect success is perfectly obvious in the political position of to-day, for, while the workers do not control the governmental machinery of the country, they may do so just so soon as they are ripe for it and assert themselves, provided always that they remain, in the meantime, sufficiently wide awake to break the power of reactionaries such as Palmerston. Chartism was an ideal—is an ideal, for it lives to-day—which bespoke a pathetic yearning for something other than the sordidness of life, a little something other than the continual grind of poverty and labour without interest.

Palmerston did his best to set back the clock, and towards the last was quite bitter in his enmity for the cause of extended suffrage. Had he lived a little longer there might easily have been violence beside which the Chartists' Riots would have been mere school-boy affairs. It was left to Disraeli to take the next great step, with the Act of 1867, by which the workers gained some measure of that governmental con-

trol which the Chartists demanded. The Bill of 1832 increased the number of electors by more than 350 per cent., while the second Bill raised that number again, by well over 200 per cent., to about three millions, and rendered representation more equal by another re-distribution of seats. By this Act the vote became almost a matter of household suffrage in the towns and cities, and the centre of power was transferred to some extent to the artisan. Unfortunately the standard was one of rateable value, and this was set so high as to debar the agricultural labourer, because the rates on his cottage were so much lower. The condition of affairs so remained until Gladstone's Act of 1884 gave the vote to lodgers and the low-rated agricultural labourer, adding some two millions to the register. This extension gave power to the Conservative Party for sixteen years out of the next twenty.

But it was not sufficient that the people should have direct Parliamentary representation; they also wanted to know what their members did in the House. From the time of the Long Parliament debates had been reported in print, but these accounts were often garbled, grossly exaggerated and misrepresented. Before the period of the distinterested Hanoverians very great care was exercised to ensure that no word of the proceedings of the House reached the ears of the King, and when members wished to discuss anything unsuitable for the ears of the King, they would dismiss the Speaker, who was often a spy, or suspected to be such, and go into Committee under their own chairman. In this way only an authorised statement of the final result of such deliberations would reach the King, and in addition the House would offer an apparently united front, internal dissention being hidden. Alleged accounts of the debates were published which were so false as to be grotesque, and remonstrance was useless. Dr. Johnson is worth reading in this respect.

This prejudice of the House against publication of its work certainly began with good reason, but it continued long after the necessity had disappeared, and it sometimes assumed farcical proportions. One of its most ridiculous appearances was in the story of Miller, whose case brought such brilliant limelight to bear on the matter that the prejudice was killed by its own absurdity. Miller printed a paper which included an account of some of the debates, and a messenger of the House was despatched to arrest him for it. The messenger himself was arrested for violating the privileges of the City. Finally the Lord Mayor and one of his

Aldermen were incarcerated by the House, while the messenger was imprisoned by the City.

When the new Houses of Parliament were built after the Fire, proper provision was made for reporters, and the liberty of the Press was made more secure. There was, too, an authoritative report of its work issued by order of the House, under the title "DIURNAL OCCURRENCES IN PARLIAMENT," a complete reversal of the old attitude of suspicion.

We pass to another interesting point. After the Revolution of 1688, Commons sat for three-years periods under the Triennial Act, but in 1716, Parliament asserted its sovereignty by prolonging its own life by four years under the Septennial Act, and this remained until the Parliament Act of 1911, when the period was reduced to five years. The Chartists demanded annual Parliaments, but it is obvious that such a system would quickly bring chaos. It would be simply impossible to get any work done, and stability would soon be entirely destroyed.

Even yet representation was imperfect, for elections were conducted publicly, usually to the accompaniment of drunken disorder and free fights as portrayed by Hogarth, and accompanied by intimidation from the squire or other local magnate, and often followed by victimisation of the workmen if the casting of their votes did not meet with the employers' approval. The Ballot Act of 1872 changed all this. Under this Act a Returning Officer was appointed, who, on receipt of a writ, gave a date for nomination of candidates and a date for a poll by secret BALLOT. The nomination date in a General Election is the eighth day after the Proclamation calling a new Parliament, and polling day is the ninth day after nomination, while by the Reform Act of 1918 polling throughout the country is conducted on the same day. In bye-elections notice of nomination is posted, in a borough on the day when the writ is received or the following day, and in the case of counties within two days.

Until 1829, the electorate were limited in their choice of candidates by a religious bar, which was designed to exclude Roman Catholics, but when, by the Act of Union, Ireland caused this realm to become the United Kingdom it was manifestly unfair to compel that largely Romish country to return Protestants, and under the influence of Daniel O'Connell this qualification was swept away. In 1858 the words, "on the true faith of a Christian," which appeared at the end of the oath which all members are required to take, were made optional, and Jews were admitted as members. Later still, the Quakers were permitted to affirm, and after the great fight put up by that fearless atheist, Charles Bradlaugh, affirmation was made generally optional. So ended all religious qualifications.

In 1858, too, the Act of 1710, which required county members to have a land holding of £600 per annum, and borough members an income of

£300, was repealed, working-class people were enabled to send members of their own class and habit of thought, and another Chartist principle was incorporated in the law of the land.

This brings us to what is the position of today, and one cannot help but feel that there is still a great deal to be desired. For instance, there is the question of the referendum, which works so well in several countries at the present time. It is not sufficient to be able to send members to Parliament, to be able to bombard them with questions at election time as to what they will or will not support, but we need some means of stating our views on questions of the day in such manner that legislation shall be more nearly what the great body of the electorate desire. Only the referendum can do this. Then, again, who has not been exasperated time and time again by the chicanery of politicians who have been returned on specious promises which they had no intention whatsoever of honouring? We have Governments introducing, in a scarcely veiled manner, tariffs of a very substantial nature in the face of a constantly reiterated desire on the part of the electors that this shall be a Free-Trade country, and I suggest that such a thing ought not to be possible, nor should it be possible for a Party to gain an election on a palpable forgery. Another reform which is badly needed is that even the poorest of men shall be enabled to serve the country if the people require him to do so, and, of course, he has the necessary ability, although that is quite safely left in the hands of the electors. Distinctions such as operate against the Civil Servant, for instance, should also be swept away, so that every man, whatever his occupation may be, can use his intelligence as he thinks fit, and be a citizen in the true sense of the word, fearlessly. I cannot see that the Civil Servant will do his work one whit worse for that, nor do I understand why he cannot be trusted to see to it that no political Party shall be in a position to use his industrial organisations for political purposes. The mere suggestion is an insult to his intelligence, to his loyalty, and entirely disregards that esprit de corps which would prevent the official from allowing his political convictions from colouring his work as a public servant.

So far as the political Parties are concerned I should be pleased to see the last of them, for their usefulness is a thing of the past: they have had their day, and it is high time that the referendum swept them out of existence.

I have been asked, verbally, to give a few references to books which would make useful reading on the subject of these articles. A list is appended.

"The Electorate and the Legislature," by Spencer Walpole (Macmillan, 2/6).

"The Growth of the English Constitution," by E. A. Freeman (Macmillan, 5/-).

Twelve English Statesmen Series: "Biography of Edward I.," by Prof. Tout (Macmillan, 2/6).

Milton's prose pamphlets, especially those written just before the Restoration.
 "The Government of England," by Lowell (Macmillan, 17/-).



The weather is a topic that is generally discussed when there is nothing else to talk about, but our August experiences this year are so much worse than usual that a little comment may be pardoned. To quote a wag in one of the newspapers, the downpour, like the poor, is always with us. Incessant rain has soured a number of tempers, although the absence of excessive heat has so far resulted in a much smaller crop of sour milk.

Much of our summer sport has been seriously affected, and the number of unfinished and abandoned cricket matches has been larger than usual.

* * * *

The London South Side Cricket Club has been singularly unfortunate. Their ground has been of no use to them for the past six weeks or so. We went down to the ground one fine day (it had rained heavily in the early morning) and found it hidden under a lake. While we were discussing the situation, three small boys, with the calm assurance peculiar to the modern youth of nine or ten winters, quietly strolled up, divested themselves of their garments, and plunged into the latest thing in swimming baths. The water was quite deep enough for a very comfortable swim, and they got nearer to the pitch than we could conveniently manage. The groundsman had, at 4 o'clock that morning, carefully prepared the pitch for the day's play.

If there is anything that can dishearten a cricket club in its first year more than anything else, surely it is a season such as this. Still, there seems to be no sign of the club cracking up, and the members are enthusiastically planning a winter social programme, and have fully made up their minds to do great things next year.

* * * *

Since writing the foregoing, the Editor has received a sting on the eye from a gnat or mosquito. Editorial work has become a matter of difficulty at a moment when there is little or no time to arrange for assistance. He therefore regrets that several matters must necessarily remain over until the next issue.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

SOUTHAMPTON REPLIES.

A Comparison by "X."

Southampton Officers were surprised to read Scottie's query, for Sunday, August 8th, was no exception from our point of view regarding passenger traffic for one day. It was only unusual from the point of fact that three of the liners known as the "big six" arrived and were berthed within three hours. The first arrived at noon, followed by the other two, the three disgorging passengers, baggage and crews within the three hours.

The crews of these vessels, by the way, numbered 2,783 persons, most of whom leave the ships on arrival. Two of these crews paid off at the port.

Four P.O.'s and fifteen A.P.O.'s were delegated to deal with the passengers and crews, but I am afraid that it is apparent from the staff available, split up between three vessels, that little attention could be given to them.

The examination was in progress from 12.30 to 6 p.m., when all baggage officers, with the exception of one P.O. and three A.P.O.'s, forming the rummage crew (?), were instructed to leave and sign off at 6 p.m.

The rummage crew completed their normal spell at 8 p.m., so that no serious attempt at rummage of any of these vessels could be made.

The boarding of the vessels was performed by three P.O.'s and three A.P.O.'s respectively. The P.O. is held responsible for receiving duties and completing Forms 142, securing stores under seal in the various bars, shops and store-rooms. The impracticability of attempting successfully to check the stores carried by these vessels is apparent to every practical officer, so that the chief barkeeper's account is accepted.

The P.O. is occupied at least five hours in dealing with one of these liners, so that the remainder of his station is left unguarded; but the responsibility is still his.

It will, perhaps, come as a surprise to officers at other ports to know that no O.T. is allowed in which to prepare duty monies, primes, Forms 100, etc., before leaving the station. The officer has the option of either depositing his amount of duty in the official safe and making up his primes at home, or of taking a chance as to whether the work of the following day will allow him to complete this important duty. At Southampton the latter chance is rather remote.

Compare Wednesday, August 17th, with Sunday, August 8th. One only of the big six arrived, but it was considered necessary to employ three P.O.'s and thirteen A.P.O.'s to deal with this vessel, and, in addition, all the heads were present.

We wonder what would have happened on Sunday, the 8th, had no deterrent in the shape of O.T. existed.

The work of the port has undoubtedly increased, as is evidenced by the doubling of the Waterguard staff employed on indoor work, thereby decreasing the actual strength. It is only by the combined and loyal efforts of the staff that the extra work which such a day as Sunday demanded is performed without any hitch despite the shortage of staff. But little or no credit is accorded to them; rather are they of opinion that the work and difficulties of a port like Southampton are belittled to the powers that be.

No one is better able to understand the difficulties of administration in coping with the ebb and flow of passenger traffic at places like Southampton than the staff actually employed upon the work. They are ever willing to cooperate in meeting emergencies. They willingly forego rights and privileges in meeting such emergencies; and all they ask for in return is sympathetic consideration and understanding on the part of the administration. As to whether the consideration is actually given, one has only to refer to the staff in general for a unanimous reply.

* * *

HANK'S VIEW.

Oh! boy, you are sure some seeker for information. Say, Scottie! you have sure said a mouthful, and if you have not brought down a heap of scribbling matter and a bunch of trouble for the Ed-it-or, my name's not Hank.

The boys at Soton will be real pleased to acquaint you of the facts relating to those lil old Atlantic canoes you mentioned.

Oh, son, you ask "How was it done?" Sure, it was dead easy. You see, it being a Sabbath Day, an' our boys not having any inclination to improve their already swollen exchequers, they gotta lunch that they would just eat up those lil ole piles of baggage and grips which poured forth from across the lil ole Herrin' Pond. It was the cutest thing you ever saw. Lil ole Aquitania, Olympic, and the rest of the world as contained in the U.S.A. Leviathan, came alongside just like the kids' toy ships in the bath. Yep, boy; believe me. You sure missed your step, Scottie boy, when you omitted to mention that these lil ole ferry boats required the human enemy to ferry them over. Yes, sir, you can tell the world that 2,783 guys were required.

You can bet your life, sir, that these boys would not smuggle Hooch or baccy on the Sabbath. Being considerate beings they only become bad men on ordinary days. So you see, Scottie, like you, they were just forgotten, and you can bet these guys just beat it with their grips for all they were worth. They got the biggest surprise in all their lives, Scottie, when on reaching the exit to Swampton Docks they did not perceive an inquisitive Customs gink who is generally in attendance. In fact, the boys were quite hurt at the lack of attendance shown to them.

Did you say passengers?

Wal, I guess that these an' the humans who sleep, eat an' pay dollars for others to do the graft sure have plenty of the necessary, so naturally should receive plenty of attention. Nineteen Customs fellows are sure far too many as they only put the poor guys to great inconvenience in making them undo their grips for inspection, and the mess they make with their rotten cheap ole chalk is the limit.

These Customs fellows are really wonderful. Are you aware that they can go without grub for eight hours on a stretch? Yep, spearmint is their only support, and some can ruminate as well as any coming under the cattle regulations.

You wanna know all about Boarding? Col-lasol Stores? and remainder of station?

Scottie, boy, you will sure get my goat, as this lil ole journal is not half large enough to tell you all the sad story. There is only one poor guy they call a P.O., and an Assistant, to do all the graft you mention, and by the time they have wallowed thru documents called 142, which are sure some lists, and walked miles an' miles thru lil ole corridors, up companions, down companions, round and in and out these ole ferry boats, they are just about dead beat, believe me. An' just in confidence I'll tell you, if you promise not to let it go any further—ssh! the station you mention ceases to exist when they descend into the depths of one of these ferry boats.

You still persist in wanting to know how it's done? Scottie, boy, you can go to —, but you can bet your bottom dollar that it is only by the diligent and zealous way in which these big-hearted fellows at Swampton pull together that it's done at all. An' if any of you guys at other ports can beat it, sure you can tell the world we don't care a god darn; but if anything's wrong with lil ole Southampton, believe me, boys, it ain't the staff, an' we can put the stuff across to prove it.

PRESENTATION TO Mr. MEDERSON, P.O.

Under the sympathetic chairmanship of Mr. Egan, C.P.O., at the St. Katharine Dock Hotel, London, on August 18th, a considerable number of members of the Preventive Staff met to show their appreciation of an old and esteemed colleague who, having completed his term of service, had recently gone into honourable retirement. As Mr. Mederson remarked, it was not a case of good-bye, for old friends were always friends, and he certainly had no intention of losing touch with those he had made during his career in the Service. As in the case of the presentation to Mr. Hicks recently, the speeches were remarkable for their sincere appreciation, and regret at the loss of close acquaintance with Mr. Mederson was genuinely expressed.

The gift took the shape of a handsome time-piece, and was presented at the close of the speeches with words that echoed all that had been said before, and much more.

Mr. Mederson, in replying, said that he did not feel equal at the moment, after the overwhelmingly kind things that had been said, to address the meeting. We have received a letter from him in which he requests us to convey to his old colleagues his thanks for the present, and for the numerous expressions of goodwill that were offered at the same time. The letter reminds us that breaking with a forty-year-old chain of associations is not the simple thing that it looks when retirement is as yet only on the horizon.

A musical programme on the evening of the presentation was contributed to by members of the London staff, assisted at the piano by Mr. Bert Rogers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir.—It was with regret that I read of a possible lengthening of the period between the issues of the "Customs Journal," as, however small the publication, it is looked forward to by small port officers. The "Journal" is one of the main links holding us together, and the lengthening of the period at which issued would be felt mostly by small port officers, and in view of the fact that subscriptions to the Association were a short time ago merged with the twopence paid then for the "Journal," I feel that the fortnightly issue should be continued, and, if not, then Association subscriptions should be reduced. The "Journal" could be used more than it is, and more detailed reports of meetings given therein, also names of members who are half a year or more behind in subscriptions. In any case, it is unfair to bring the question forward during the summer months, when most publications of this kind are usually small.

I would point out that the Officer Grade have a weekly journal.

Where are our Journal correspondents? They should be keen enough to flood the book with interesting matter of a local nature, either socially or Associationally. "Seagull" went out of existence owing to lack of support, not for lone efforts.—Yours, etc.,

DETAIL.

PROMOTION BY MERIT.

Sir,—Whenever this "hackneyed phrase" appears on an agenda, we find everyone interested, as it affects us all.

In my opinion, the fly in the ointment every time is that there is no suggestion of a pass mark. No one knows what chances he will be required to take. Say, for example, the next twelve P.O.'s on the list were called up for C.P.O.'s and there were six vacancies. And again those twelve P.O.'s were all really tip-top, first-class

he-men from every point of view. Six of those men, however good, must fail.

If a hundred A.P.O.'s were called up and there were seventy-five vacancies, twenty-five, however good, must fail.

If the question of a pass mark in all schemes on promotion by merit were more clearly defined, I think they would meet with less opposition and indecision than at present.

Failing this, why not decide in all schemes the proportion in which candidates should be called up in respect of vacancies, i.e., two candidates for one vacancy, or any other suitable proportion.—Yours, etc.,

FAIRPLAY.

CUSTOMS WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB CUP CONTEST.

Round 2.

Mr. A. Hardie, Ayr. Mr. W. G. Thomson, Liverpool.

White.		Black.	
1. P-K4		1. P-K4	
2. Kt-KB3		2. Kt-QB3	
3. B-Kt5		3. B-QB4	
4. BxKt		4. QPxB	
5. P-Q3		5. Q-Q3	
6. P-KR2		6. P-KR3	
7. Castles		7. Q-KKt3	
8. KtXP		8. Q-KB3	
9. Q-KR5		9. B-Q5	
10. Kt-QB4		10. B-K3	
11. P-QB3		11. P-KKt3	
12. Q-K2		12. B-QB4	
13. Kt-QR5		13. R-Kt1	
14. P-K5		14. Q-R5	
15. Kt-Q2		15. P-KB3	
16. Kt-KB3		16. Q-R4	
17. PXP		17. Q-KB4	
18. P-QKt4		18. B-Q3	
19. R-K1		19. K-KB2	
20. Kt-Q4		20. Q-K4	
21. QxQ		21. BxQ	
22. RxB		22. B-B4	
23. KtxB		23. KXP	
24. B-KB4		24. P-KKt4	
25. B-Kt3		25. P-R4	
26. QR-K1		26. R-R2	
27. R-K6+		27. K-B2	
28. BxP on QB7		28. R-KB1	
29. KtxQKtP		29. Kt-B3	
30. R-K7+		30. K-Kt3 & resigns.	

SECTION II.

Round 1.

Mr. J. Hoare (Weymouth) beat Mr. L. E. Knight (Sharpness).

Mr. G. Douglas (Liverpool) beat Mr. J. Terry (Liverpool).

Round 2.

Mr. J. Smallwood (London) beat Mr. J. Hoare (Weymouth).