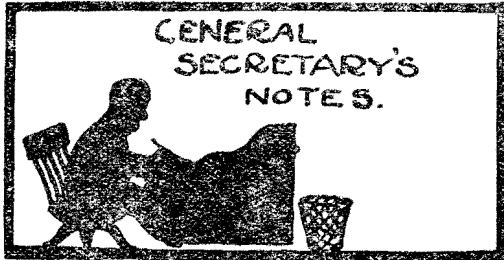


# The Customs Journal.

No. 581.

January 29th, 1927.

Fortnightly.



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

There is evidence of a very keen interest on the part of Waterguard Officers in the progress of the U.P.W. case now before the Arbitration Court. It is well that this should be so, because nothing could be more instructive to our members than the arguments that have been used against the claims put up by the Union.

In many cases working conditions in the Post Office are somewhat analogous to our own, and there is also a similarity in the salary scales. The arguments made use of by Mr. W. J. Bowen could in many instances be applied quite appropriately on behalf of the Waterguard Staff.

The Official criticism of the family budgets submitted to the Court by the Staff Side needs no comment. It was stated that "Family budgets must be obtained by scientific people on a scientific basis." One can well imagine the effect of this on the housewife struggling to make ends meet on a small weekly allowance. There could be no more competent scientist than she is, regarding this special subject.

One point which is sure to interest Waterguard Officers is the Official view that a "Noon to 8 p.m. Watch" is not regarded as unpleasant by the Post Office staff. It would be interesting to meet the man who could get wildly enthusiastic about having to perform such a spell of duty. I hardly think he is likely to be met with in the Waterguard Department.

During the hearing of the claim the Chairman made the surprising admission regarding cost-of-living bonus: "I thought the 70 per cent. was simply 70 per cent. on the basic salary."

One would have thought that, after so many cases have been dealt with by the Court, the fact of full bonus being payable only on the first £91 5s. would have been common knowledge.

Apparently the boast of the State to be a model employer has now been abandoned finally. The policy of basing salaries on outside conditions appears to have taken its place. It is difficult to forecast as to whether this policy would be changed if the prophecies of an industrial boom during the next twelve months are fulfilled. Logically, of course, a sudden rise in the wage-earning power of workers outside the Service should be followed by a corresponding increase for Civil Servants.

The hearing of the Postal claim will probably take much longer than was at first anticipated, and therefore some time must elapse before a full review of the situation can be made. Whatever the result, it cannot fail to have a widespread effect on the Service.

The P.S.A. Executive are fully alive to the lessons that are to be learned from the Post Office case, and at the meeting next month opportunity will be taken to discuss interesting points.

Executive members will miss the breezy personality of Mr. J. A. O'Connor when they next meet. He was one of the candidates for re-election to the Council, but has been unfortunate in the recent elections. In this case it is now necessary for the Council to elect his successor on the Executive Committee.

Mr. O'Connor is one of those individuals who can take a defeat in a sporting spirit. Those who know him well will realise that we have not heard the last of him by any means. So vigorous a character could not possibly remain in obscurity while there is work to be done.

By the time these Notes appear the Departmental Council decisions on two very important Waterguard subjects will probably be known.

One is the Staff Side claim for the merging of the two sections of the C.P.O. Grade. It will be remembered that this was the subject of disagreement on the Waterguard Sectional Committee.

The other is the proposed regulations for recruitment to the A.P.O. Grade. The Staff Side were unable to secure agreement on the Sectional Committee regarding their proposal to include a modern language and science in the educational test.

Another Staff Side claim on the Council Agenda is that from the C.P.M. Grade Committee. The request is for payment for Sunday attendance.

It is anticipated in many quarters that the forthcoming Budget will result in increased work for the Customs and Excise Department. It is almost certain there will be fresh taxation, and we can live in hopes that it will be such as will enable the Waterguard Staff to display the value of their training and aptitude.

\* \* \* \*

The application of G.O. 32 of 1919 has caused a good deal of trouble in the Waterguard, and now I hear that the principle it contains is being applied to the Officer Grade, where it is about as welcome I understand, as it is in our own Department.

It will be interesting to see what develops if the C. and E. Federation supports the view that this G.O. cannot be applied to Officers.

\* \* \* \*

A particularly irritating case under the "Work and Wait" rule has recently been reported to the P.S.A., and this, together with two others, will be discussed by the Executive very shortly.

\* \* \* \*

In case there should be any mistake regarding the P.S.A. claim for a "Waterguard Code," it should be clearly understood that the decision to put forward this request was arrived at unanimously on the Council. The discussion took place in the light of opinions expressed at the Branch meetings after full opportunity had been given for all members to examine the proposal. There was an overwhelming majority in favour in the Districts.

Possibly the members of the Bristol Branch are not aware that the proposed Waterguard Code would be in addition to the Codes as they are now issued. The action of passing a resolution directly contrary to the settled policy of the Association is somewhat embarrassing for those who negotiate on behalf of the staffs, especially when the matter has actually reached the stage of discussions with the Official Side. I have no doubt there is a misapprehension somewhere.

\* \* \* \*

I hear that many A.P.O.'s, compulsorily insured, are doubtful as to what will be their position when increase of salary removes them from the category for compulsory insurance. I understand that in such circumstances it is possible to continue in insurance on a voluntary basis provided certain conditions are complied with. One of these conditions is that application to become voluntarily insured must be made within twelve months of ceasing to be insured on a compulsory basis.

All A.P.O.'s who are anxious to remain insured in all circumstances would do well to apply for particulars to an approved society. The Civil Service Approved Society, whose address is Labour Exchange (Third Floor), 16, Tavistock Street, London, W.C.2, is recommended.

It is hoped that shortly it will be possible to publish in the "Journal" particulars relating to the Civil Service Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which provides pensions for widows and children. The contributions are reasonable and the benefits useful.

No doubt many officers not eligible for benefit under the State insurance scheme would be glad to take advantage of a scheme, which, though not so favourable as the Government insurance, is the most profitable that can be obtained otherwise.

\* \* \* \*

The rather sudden fall in the cost-of-living figure from 79 to 75 will probably come as a surprise to many. The reduction by four points is attributable to a drop in the cost of fuel and light. Eggs and bacon also showed a decline in price.

The announcement of the next figure will be looked for with some anxiety. It will, of course, require a further slump of four points in order to avoid the index figure being fixed at 80 for the ensuing six months, with a consequent increase of bonus by two twenty-sixths. The figures for the current six months are 72, 74, 79, 79, 75, 75.

\* \* \* \*

Elsewhere in this issue appears a notice in connection with the renewing of subscriptions to Boots' Library for the coming year. The information came too late for publication in the last issue of the "Journal," and therefore it is hoped that members desiring to renew their subscriptions will act promptly in order that too much inconvenience will not be caused through delay in renewal.

Members who have not so far taken advantage of the special terms offered to Association members under this scheme are invited to make application to P.S.A. Headquarters for full particulars and the necessary forms.

\* \* \* \*

I have had complaints from one or two ports that uniform now being supplied is badly fitting. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that unless these complaints are reported officially, very little can be done in the way of adjustment.

I would urge all officers who have complaints, to act upon this advice, in order to assist both the Official and Staff Sides in fully investigating this kind of trouble.

J. MERRON.

**INSTITUTION OF PROFESSIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS.**

The address of the Institution has now been changed, and correspondence should in future be addressed as follows:—

69, Victoria Street,  
London, S.W.1.

The Telephone Number is Victoria 7676.

**PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.****NOTICE TO MEMBERS.****ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS.**

All Association officials and members in the areas concerned are requested to note that as a result of the recent elections, the following members have been elected to represent the Grade mentioned on the Council of the Association:—

Mr. M. J. Griffiths, P.O., London.  
 Mr. S. Dines, A.P.O., Gravesend.  
 Mr. A. Milne, A.P.O., Scotland.  
 Mr. S. E. D. Ball, A.P.O., South Coast.  
 Mr. T. R. Keightley, A.P.O., Tyne.

J. T. SUTTON,  
 Organising Secretary.

**DOVER.**

A special meeting was held at the Queen's Head Hotel, Dover, on December 21st, 1926. Mr. Whettingstall occupied the chair.

The Whitley representatives elected were: For the P.O. Grade, Mr. Wilson; For the A.P.O. Grade, Messrs. Ball and Hartshorn.

On the subject of the Dover Waterguard Scheme a general discussion was taken part in, and a definite decision with regard to action was deferred until a subsequent meeting, which was held at Folkestone on January 3rd, under the same Chairmanship. The question was further discussed, and ultimately the meeting agreed to the number of staff mentioned in the Board's scheme. It was also agreed that the details of the scheme should be discussed locally and any alterations made if necessary.

In considering the Folkestone Waterguard Scheme, the meeting agreed that the scheme be adjourned owing to the present indefinite situation.

**CIVIL SERVICE JOINT COMMITTEE.**

Negotiations on the subject of the outstanding War Bonus Claims, arising from the Sutton and subsequent judgments, have now reached the stage when the Treasury has agreed to the appointment of an independent adjudicator.

Discussions are proceeding on the question of the terms of reference and the procedure to be followed in the presentation of the cases.

The Joint Committee hope that the outstanding cases will be settled during the course of the current year. Over 40,000 claims arising from the legal judgments have now been paid, and it is thought that the number still outstanding number about 2,500.

In order that the matter may be disposed of as early as possible, all Civil Servants who have claims outstanding should, if they have not already done so, table them through their

affiliated organisation at the earliest possible moment, if they desire consideration by the independent arbitrator.

A. C. WINYARD,  
 Secretary.

**C. & E. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.**

The eightieth meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on December 15th, 1926, the chair being taken by Sir H. P. Hamilton, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

**UNIT ALLOWANCES.**

The Council considered a Committee disagreement on a Staff Side proposal to allow a unit for time spent on members of the public in stations where no public office is provided. The question was adjourned after a full discussion, in which it transpired that the cases in which a room in the Officer's house was used partially as an office had diminished from over 600 in 1919 to less than 250 in 1926, and that no request by an Officer for a public office was refused although immediate provision was not always possible. The Staff Side expressed appreciation of the Board's policy in this connection.

**SUPPLY AND DESIGN OF FORMS.**

Referring to the discussion at the previous meeting, the Staff Side stated their hopes of immediate supplies of certain specified forms, etc., had not materialised, and that considerable inconvenience to the Staff had resulted both from the delay and from what was considered to be unsatisfactory design in the case of one form. Another recent instance of belated instructions was also cited.

The Official Side replied that all possible steps had been taken to expedite the supplies in question, but other Departments were involved. The revision of the form referred to would be considered, and the additional instance of alleged delay investigated.

**RETIRING AGE.**

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

**HOURS OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS.**

Replying to a Staff Side enquiry respecting the Deputation of Dock Authorities, etc., to the Financial Secretary of H.M. Treasury on August 3rd, 1926, the Official Side stated that the semi-official written communication to the leader of the Deputation was to the effect that the Financial Secretary could not agree to the proposals made by the Deputation.

**OTHER MATTERS.**

The Council dealt with an unusually large number of new and adjourned decisions reported by Local and Office Committees on various sub-

jects, which included schemes, staffing, attendance, duties, rotation of duties, filling of stations, accommodation, Fixed Officer groups, overtime and leave-minutes. Agreement on certain principles governing the survey of match factories enabled various local disagreements to be referred back for adjustment. It was also agreed as a temporary measure that a certain number of Fixed Officers be appointed to London Port in anticipation of re-scheming. Particulars of all decisions have been advised to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, January 26th, 1927.

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### TO ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS, SOUTH COAST AREA.

Gentlemen,—Having been notified by the Organising Secretary that I have again been elected to serve as Councilor for the A.P.O. Grade in this Area, I take this opportunity of thanking all those who supported my candidature.

I am naturally gratified that, in the face of additional opposition, the number of votes in my favour shows a material increase, and I will make every endeavour to justify the confidence that you have reposed in me.

With your support, and with the continued co-operation of the District and Local Secretaries, I am confident that I can carry out the duties of Councilor to our mutual satisfaction and benefit.

In conclusion, may I ask that any member who has information of general interest to the Association, or who needs assistance or advice on such matters, will communicate with me, and thus help me, as an official, to pursue the main object of the Association: "To protect and promote the interests of its members."

Wishing you all the Compliments of the Season.—I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,  
SIDNEY E. D. BALL.

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### OBITUARY.

#### LAUNCH SERVICE.

The many friends of Mr. H. Reed, late mate in charge at Portsmouth, will regret to hear of his recent bereavement in the death of his wife, which occurred on the 8th instant.

Mr. Reed, who is at present not in very good health, retired last year from the Launch Service following an accident on duty. A wreath and letter of sympathy were sent by his former colleagues of the Launch and Waterguard Services.

### THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE INTERVIEWED.

By O'HAGEN.

I never disobey a command from the Editor, so that an order to interview the V.E.C. was, despite a certain shaking at the knees, as good as carried out when uttered. "They are quite human, these chaps," he said, and so I found them; although, judging from what I saw, there seems some excuse for substituting the word superhuman. There is no doubt that those officers who have the initiative to avail themselves of the scheme will be astonished at what they receive. The task that the Committee has undertaken has been accepted with such an amount of seriousness, that the regulations are being presented in a different light than ever before.

The Preliminary Course, which is at present offered at the ridiculously low figure of 5s., embodies a series of lesson papers which explain certain regulations, giving the Code references and also the General Orders relating to them. The search for all relative G.O.'s is no light task if accompanied by an intention to miss nothing. At the end of two preliminary courses, I am assured that the young A.P.O. will be a real useful officer, and he will have acquired a taste that can only be satisfied by continuing with the Intermediate Course, wherein study becomes more intensive and interesting. Hitherto the student will have been only dealing with the surface of things—getting ready the ground—prospecting. Now the more serious work begins, for he commences to dig. The intermediate will cover the whole of the regulations from A to Z. The student will get a thorough grounding in the regulations, and the preparations now being made by the Committee will leave nothing to be desired on the part of the student. It seems that this course is of utmost importance, and a conscientious student must become an officer of first-rate efficiency.

The Advanced Course of a dozen papers per term gives the student an EXAMINATION SET OF QUESTIONS PER WEEK. The utility of this method cannot be disputed, for while it puts a prospective candidate on his mettle, it also gets him thoroughly used to the atmosphere of examination.

A very important feature is that from the first, stress is laid upon the importance of reports, and both the preliminary and intermediate students have plenty of opportunity of exercise in this direction.

I understand that upwards of a hundred applications are already in, and that the whole of the available tutors are being utilised. Many questions have been received from prospective students, and it has been found impossible to reply to all individually at once, and it is hoped that much will be found in this contribution to answer most of the queries.

The Committee speaks very highly of the loyalty of the tutors, who are throwing themselves wholeheartedly into the scheme. The success of the venture depends very largely upon them as well as upon the interest of the students themselves.

I carried away with me an impression of keen industry—three men working hard after a day on duty, the other one with a night of duty in front of him. They commenced at 6 p.m., and it was turned ten before they rose, undoubtedly weary. But who will say that it is unprofitable weariness? Although at the moment they are working practically gratis (the preliminary course consumes nearly the whole of the 5s. in stationery and postage), the benefit to be derived by the student is beyond measure.

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### PRESENTATION TO Mr. A. A. DAVIE (Retired P.O.)

Under the chairmanship of Mr. C. E. Egan (C.P.O.), a very representative gathering of officers congregated at St. Katharine Dock Hotel on January 20th to tender to an old and respected colleague, Mr. A. A. Davie, the good wishes of his London friends.

The sudden fog deprived the meeting of the company of W. Donaldson, Esq., I.S.O. (Water-guard Superintendent), who, but for this unwelcome intervention, would have made the presentation. In his message to Mr. Davie, Mr. Donaldson stated that it was with a feeling of great disappointment that he had had to forego the pleasure of being present. His wishes, nevertheless, lost nothing in sincerity by his enforced absence. He wished Mr. Davie long life and happiness in which to spend his well-earned rest.

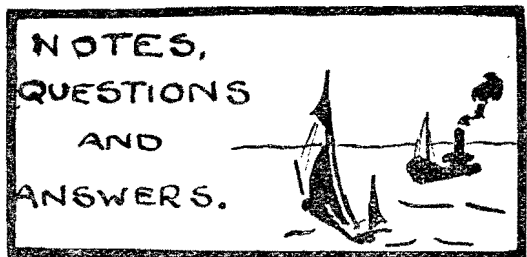
At the end of a very complimentary speech by the Chairman, Mr. M. P. O'Flynn (P.O.) was called upon to make the presentation. Mr. O'Flynn spoke of the sound qualities of Mr. Davie, both as a colleague and friend. In asking Mr. Davie to accept an "easy" chair (leather covered), he wished him on behalf of all concerned many years of continued good health in which to enjoy the pleasure of that happy family circle of which he (the speaker) knew he was the proud head.

Whether any "evidence in support" was required or not, evidence there certainly was, and in abundance. From the excellent and eulogistic speeches (I wish I had space to quote every word), made by the Chairman and by Messrs. J. Clark (retired C.P.O.), M. Hurley, A. Briden (C.P.O.'s), W. Evans, J. Merron, H. Leonard (P.O.'s), J. W. Beacher, J. W. Booker, M. Sullivan and W. H. Powell (A.P.O.'s), it was clearly evident that London's loss (and incidentally the Crown's) was undoubtedly South-end's gain.

During the proceedings Mr. Egan read telegrams from Mr. T. Pounder (retired W.S.) and Mr. J. Brames (W.S., Glasgow), and letters from Messrs. Fleet and Fooks (C.P.O.'s). Mr. A. E. Howell also regretted his inability to attend.

Mr. Davie, in a brief but very typical speech, inferred that it would be futile for him to attempt to make adequate response to the many nice things that had been said about him. Warranted or not, it made him happy to carry away the many sincere wishes and to leave behind the good impressions as pictured by the previous speakers. He advised all officers to stand by their Association and to read and read again the history of the struggles of the past.

Musical interludes during the evening were very ably rendered by the Chairman and Messrs. Fisk, Beacher, Booker and Sullivan, accompanied by Mr. Bert Rogers on the piano. Among the choruses, in which everyone joined, the rollicking anthem of the A.O.F.B. vied with "He's a jolly good fellow" and "Auld lang syne" in raising the roof. W.H.P.




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

#### Notes.

Many discussions take place from time to time regarding the regulations governing the importation of Explosives, particularly in baggage.

Such discussions very often do not proceed very far when the position seems hopelessly muddled.

Perhaps the following hints will help to solve many problems.

The importation, etc., of explosives is dealt with under two separate regulations. G.O. 30/1922, para. 3.

These two regulations may be suitably referred to as "Home Office" and "Board of Trade" requirements.

Both regulations are in force, and what may be exempt from one restriction may not be so exempt under the other.

For instance, a Home Office licence is not required for "safety cartridges" (see Vol. IV., Part 2, para. 9), but a specific Board of Trade licence is required for their importation (if for lethal weapons) except as shown in G.O. 30/1922 (see paras. 2 (b), 5 (a), 6, etc., of this G.O.).

Give this subject plenty of thought. Learn Vol. IV., Part 2, first, then apply G.O. 30/1922 to your problems.

In conclusion, if you are an A.P.O. interested in the regulations, join the Vocational Education Classes that are commencing operations forthwith.

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### BOOTS' BOOKLOVERS' LIBRARY SERVICE.

It is evident from the increasing membership of the library service arranged with Messrs. Boots' Booklovers' Library that it is giving entire satisfaction.

The present subscription will expire on February 1st, and we are anxious that the renewal of these subscriptions should be effected with the least possible inconvenience to members and to Messrs. Boots.

All members desirous of renewing their subscriptions for the ensuing year should obtain the special renewal application form from the undersigned, 13, Beer Lane, London, E.C. This form is only issued to bona-fide members and is endorsed accordingly. The forms should be filled in, and accompanied by remittance, forwarded direct to the Head Librarian, Stamford Street, S.E.1, at the latest by the morning of January 24th. The membership token at present in the member's possession should not be returned with the renewal application form.

The renewal subscription will be acknowledged by the Head Librarian, and the new membership token will be available on February 1st at the branch quoted on the application form. This new membership token, however, will be issued only on the surrender of the membership token at present held for the subscription expiring.

In order to promote the smooth working of this renewal, it is essential that this exchange of tokens should take place on February 1st, 1927, or within six days thereof.

Failing the renewal of this subscription, any subscriber detaining the property of the Library beyond the period subscribed for will be charged pro rata for such detention. Whether subscribers renew or not, present tokens must be surrendered on expiry.

To members of the staff who have not yet availed themselves of the special terms with Messrs. Boots, we quote the same as follows:—

Class "A.T."—Entitling the holder to all works in circulation, including the newly-published works, for a period of twelve months: 15s. per volume.

Class "H.T."—Entitling the holder to all works in circulation, excluding the newly-pub-

lished works (usually volumes are placed in this class about four to eight months after publication), for twelve months: 5s. per volume.

Subscriptions are limited to two volumes per member.

Any new member desirous of taking advantage of this scheme should apply for an application form to the undersigned.

Upon receipt, this form with remittance should be forwarded direct to the Head Librarian as stated above. The application form will be acknowledged and an authority slip will be despatched to the member entitling him or her to apply to the branch at which he or she requires service to commence. The authority slip must be surrendered in exchange for a membership token, and the first volume will then be issued.

In order to meet the convenience of those members who do not desire immediately to take up this scheme, application forms will be supplied from the Secretary at any date, but remittance should accompany the form when forwarding the same to the Head Librarian as directed above, assessed at:—

In the case of Class "A.T.," 1s. 3d. per month or part thereof; and in the case of Class "H.T.," 5d. per month or part thereof; to expire on February 1st, 1928.

Trusting that the matter of renewal and further new subscriptions has been fully explained, but any further information required may be addressed to the Head Librarian, Messrs. Boots' Booklovers' Library, who will be pleased to furnish further particulars where necessary.

(Signed) W. H. POWELL.

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### GLASGOW WATERGUARD SOCIAL CLUB.

#### WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE.

The annual Whist Drive and Dance (Glasgow District) was held in the Central Halls, Bath Street, Glasgow, on Thursday, January 13th, 1927, at 7.15 p.m., and was largely attended by staff and friends, close upon two hundred being present, among those being Mr. G. Fairs and Mr. E. J. Holdesworth, Assistant Collectors.

The whist proved a great attraction, at the completion of which Miss Fairs kindly presented the prizes, the staff being represented by "Claud," who proved a popular prizewinner. Various novelty items were introduced during the dancing, which greatly helped towards the success of the evening, and there was a general feeling of regret when the function broke up at 1.30 a.m.

Our thanks are due to Mr. C. Harrison, Secretary, who was ably supported by a Committee, comprising Messrs. W. Manson, S. Steele and R. and G. Murray, for the admirable arrangements.

## A DOUBTFUL BLESSING.

By S.E.D.B.

To those interested in the struggles that take place from time to time, when the various Grades in the Civil Service endeavour to obtain an increase in their meagre salaries, the stock argument of the Government, "that the Civil Servant receives a pension to which he has not contributed," must appear like a paradox.

In stating a case against the Post Office employees' claim before the C.S. Industrial Court, Mr. Raven, the Government spokesman, used this worn-out argument and said that the pension scheme represented an additional one-eighth to the cash value of the wages. If the Government underpay us by one-eighth of our present wages to provide us with pensions, how is the scheme non-contributory? If it is contributory, how can the scheme be used as an argument against an increase?

However, apart from its value as an argument against an increase in pay, I would like you to consider Mr. Raven's statement from a different angle.

Let us take for example a man entering the Waterguard at age 20, being promoted to P.O. at age 32, and retiring from that rank at age 60. His average salary for the first twelve years, exclusive of bonus and emoluments, is £110 per annum. During his service as P.O. his average basic salary is £215 per annum, making an average of £183 10s. for the whole of his service. One-eighth of this amount is, approximately, £23 per annum, which, according to Mr. Raven, would be the amount retained by the Crown for the payment of pension. A very doubtful blessing!!

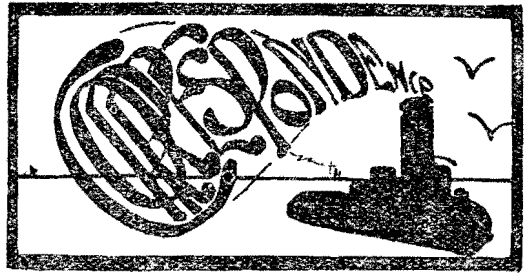
According to the premium tables of one of the leading insurance companies, which does a large business with Civil Servants, £23 per annum would pay the premiums on a "With Profits" policy for £1,100, payable at age 60 or earlier death, if it were taken out at age 20. This company has for some time been paying profits at 2 per cent. compound interest on the sum assured, so that, on that basis, a policy for £1,100 would yield £2,400 when it matured.

Now, under the existing Superannuation Act a man retiring from the Service after 40 years, and on a salary of £250 per annum, would receive a year and a half's salary down—£375—and £125 per annum until death. The same officer with £2,400 from an endowment insurance policy could deduct his £375 and re-invest the remaining £2,025 in an annuity. According to current tables this would yield £178 per annum, or £53 per annum more than he would receive under the Crown scheme. It is also worthy of note that, with an endowment policy for £1,100 (with profits), an officer would be covered for that amount, plus any profits that had accrued, during the whole of his service, so

that, in the event of his death, his wife or other dependants would be much better provided for than at present. Furthermore, during his service the officer would be entitled to a substantial rebate of Income Tax on account of his policy.

If the Crown continues to assert that we, its servants, are in receipt of salaries worth 12½ per cent. more than their face value, I think it would be in the interest of all future entrants for the so-called "Non-Contributory Scheme" to be discontinued and for the salaries to be paid in full. The Civil Service Insurance Society could offer us better value for our 12½ per cent. than does the Crown, and we should then have "pension rights."

It is stated on good authority that only 47 per cent. of the population live to the age of sixty. Even, if by virtue of their "sheltered" occupation, 70 per cent. of Civil Servants live to draw their "non-contributory" pensions, those pensions, forming as they do, the Government's main defence of the paltry salaries they pay, are a very doubtful blessing.



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.

### CODES.

Sir,—Why "Reasonable" should read with consternation the opinion of the Bristol Staff against the issue of a separate Code, one is at a loss to understand.

This question was fully discussed at a local Branch meeting of the Bristol P.S.A., and it was considered quite unnecessary to separate the regulations as applying to the Customs Department, in view of the fact that the duties performed by the Waterguard are so various, which call for a general knowledge of the Customs regulations.

Knowledge leads to efficiency. Whether a Waterguard Code would prove to be the means to efficiency or economy, one feels rather pessimistic on the matter.

No doubt a lot could be said, as suggested by "Reasonable," on this subject, and it would

be very interesting to know the general opinion of the members of the Association.

Bristol has no regrets to offer for the resolution, and does not intend to sit on a stile exhibiting a white feather. Their motto is that of the Scouts: "Be prepared."—Yours, etc.,

KAPAC.

[This subject is dealt with in this issue by the G.S., who shows exactly how the matter stands.—Ed.]



### UNIFORM.

Sir,—I notice once again that the Whitley Council has had the supply, etc., of uniform for the Waterguard staff under discussion. It has, I believe, come to agreement once again as to fit, style, material, etc. It would be interesting to have a record of the number of hours, days—yes, years—that this question has come up for discussion. And we rank and file are always palmed off with the assurance that the uniform is going to be quite satisfactory with the next issue. What do we find? Nothing of the kind that we are promised. The clothes never fit, and never will fit while they are chopped off by the dozen or score or gross, perhaps. One would think that the honourable Board was tired of having this question so frequently before them.

Surely the time has come when we as officers of such an important Department of the State should have an allowance made to us to provide our uniforms. This is done in the Navy and Army. The Hon. Board could fix the standard, quality, etc., the width of the gold braid, style of badge, and other details. Why treat us as school boys and rig us up as guys often? Owing to the badly fitting and often shoddy made garments that are served to us, I am, Sir,

"DISGUSTED WITH MINE AT ANY RATE."



### UP-RIVER LONDON.

Sir,—For a considerable time there has been a growing feeling of unrest in London Port regarding the conditions prevailing on the "Upper Coast" Station. Agitation in favour of more business-like methods was temporarily lulled by the Association promise that action would be taken in the matter, but now it is beginning to break out again. The obvious reason for this is that whatever action was taken by the Association there has not been the slightest alteration whatever, and the same old conditions prevail.

Surely the sense of responsibility of those in charge of staffing arrangements must be somewhat blunted if they are satisfied with the farcical nature of the Customs supervision of the

"Upper Coast." The indifference of the Administration to the dangers that are so apparent to any practical Waterguard man cannot be attended with an uplifting effect on the staff.

Is it not important that a staff engaged on preventive work should be helped by example to preserve a keen interest and a high morale?

Evidently the local administration are not greatly concerned regarding the answer to that question, because, if they were, they would at least have spared the "Upper Coast" staff the indignity of having to plead each week for an advance of the necessary cash to pay the very heavy travelling expense incurred on this station. Where weekly expenses fluctuate between 15s. and 35s. it cannot be called unreasonable for an officer to request an advance of £1 to see him through the week. But there is enough hucksterage about the granting of the pound as to make the whole business disagreeable and disgusting to the last degree!

When will the Association deliver us from this abominable form of petty pin-pricking?—Yours, etc.,

"SASSENACH."



### CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

For two weeks ending January 15th, 1927.

#### APPOINTMENT.

Assistant Preventive Officer: Bailey, W. J.

#### TRANSFERS.

Chief Preventive Officer, Upper Section: Potter, J., Liverpool, to Gravesend, London.

Chief Preventive Officers, Lower Section: Gillan, P., Unattached, Office of the Inspector General of Waterguard, to Inverness; White, B. T., Inverness, to Plymouth.

#### PROMOTIONS.

Chief Preventive Officer, Lower Section, to Upper Section: Melville, A. H., Plymouth, to Liverpool.

Preventive Officer to Chief Preventive Officer, Lower Section (Unattached): Riordan, T., Blyth, Newcastle, to Office of Inspector General of Waterguard.

Assistant Preventive Officer to Preventive Officer: Watson, F., Holyhead, Chester, to Cardiff.

#### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

Retirements.—Preventive Officers: Lannin, G., Plymouth; Lindell, C. F., Bristol.

#### VACANCY.

Preventive Officer, Aberystwyth, Chester, 5.3.1927.