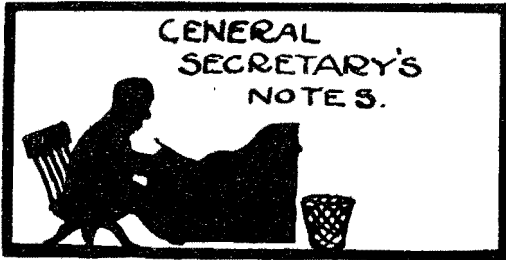


The Customs Journal.

No. 603.

December 3rd, 1927.

Fortnightly.



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

Preventive Staff Association—
Thames Chambers,
13, Beer Lane,
London, E.C.3.

The relation between Waterguard duties and landing and shipping work was a subject upon which the delegates at the recent Executive meeting spent a considerable time in discussion. This is, of course, the natural outcome of developments during the past few months which have resulted in much discontent amongst Waterguard Officers. The fact that men trained as clerical officers can have facilitated access to the Officer Grade, whilst Waterguard Officers, trained in the only school there is for gaining an all-round knowledge of Customs work, are debarred from similar means of entry, is bound to cause dissatisfaction—and it certainly has done. The whole thing seems illogical, and evidently some action is necessary to make it abundantly clear that members of the Waterguard Department are extraordinarily well equipped for the performance of all outdoor Customs work.

Anyone who imagines that duties of the Preventive Officer require less initiative than those of the Officer Grade (on the Customs side, at least) is sadly behind the times. He has not kept pace with modern progress. If there is any difference at all, it is in the fact that the P.O. is called upon to exercise his initiative more frequently and under circumstances more varied. It is also true that the Preventive Officer is expected to keep himself as well informed on Customs regulations normally applied by the Officer Grade as is the Officer himself. It would be unavailing for a Preventive Officer to plead ignorance if charged with neglect to apply such regulations in urgent circumstances—liable to occur at any time—where he is the only Customs Officer on the spot. Furthermore, Waterguard

work frequently overlaps the work of the Landing Department, and often enough there are cases where a training in preventive work is of utmost importance. The successful operation of the system of "allowanced" small ports is another indication of Waterguard capabilities. Preventive Officers or Assistant Preventive Officers stationed at these places are not special selections. They are able to carry on because experience has given them a general knowledge of all Customs regulations, together with a trained ability to interpret these regulations correctly. They are used to dealing with the public and are self-reliant.

There is every reason to believe that any efficient Waterguard Officer would be an ideal recruit for the Officer Grade, and he would undoubtedly take to landing and shipping work as a duck takes to water.

* * * *

The Waterguard complaint is not against our clerical friends. Their right to enter the Officer Grade is not questioned, especially since trained instincts for Revenue protection appear not to be so urgently needed as formerly. What we do complain about is that the proved qualifications of Waterguard Officers to perform Customs duties throughout have been entirely disregarded.

It has been said that promotion in the Waterguard is so good that there is no ground for claiming an outlet. There is, however, more than one opinion about this. In any case, few people value promotion merely for the honour it brings, and the value of promotion to the Chief Preventive Officer Grade is so small that many Preventive Officers aspire to it only to get rid of night work. The bulk of Chief Preventive Officers are worse off, financially, than men of similar service in the Officer Grade, and there is a substantial difference in the leave scales. Promotion of this kind, coming, as it does, late in life, brings more responsibility than recompense.

Naturally, in these circumstances, Waterguard Officers are always looking for some alternative. They are only too well aware of their very low maximum as compared with that of the Officer Grade, and, fully confident of their capabilities, they feel particularly bitter at being deprived of the chance to enter a Department where a better valuation of their special qualifications would be obtainable.

The Association is responding to the urgent request from the membership that something should be done—hence, the Executive discussion. The problem is not an easy one, but a solution must be found.

It will hardly be possible to get ready a report of the Executive meeting for this issue, but it is hoped to do this for publication in the next issue. Most of the business dealt with in connection with matters arising from the last Conference.

An important item under this heading was in connection with the Council's instructions as to the method of promotion to the C.P.O. Grade. After a great deal of discussion an outline of a scheme for submission to the Districts was adopted. A feature of this will be a recommendation from the Executive that two chances be allowed to each candidate for the C.P.O.-ship. Provision for a competitive written test will also be included.

Certain matters concerning Southampton District claimed a good deal of attention, and some lengthy communications from the staff at that port were dealt with. Instructions were given to the Secretaries accordingly.

As usual, the question of a general wage claim was much to the fore. The debate upon this was rather prolonged, and finally it was decided to abandon hope of changed economic conditions. In the circumstances it was agreed that the strongest possible case would have to be made out as to increased value of Waterguard work since the last wage agreement. Action to provide additional arguments of this nature was decided upon, and a report will be made to the next Executive meeting. It is obvious that increased concentration will be necessary on this aspect of the claim if action is to be taken under the existing conditions.

A resolution from one of the Districts, asking that a claim be made on behalf of the 1923 entrants for remuneration on the "pay for age" basis, was examined. The Executive had before them the minutes of Waterguard Sectional Committee meetings recording that this claim had already been made by the Association and an agreement reached in 1924. In this agreement the Staff Side had obtained an improvement upon the original Official Side offer, and the 1923 entrants in the Service at that time had been balloted, and had expressed approval of the terms by an overwhelming majority. There were no new grounds forthcoming upon which the case could be reopened.

Another resolution for the special calling up of all officers referred to in G.O. 27/1923, part 2, para. 3, for examination for promotion to the P.O. Grade, was discussed. The idea of this resolution is to settle the seniority dispute by this means. After amendment, the resolution was adopted for reference to the Council.

It was estimated in the columns that no more than 400 candidates had taken the exam. for entrance to the A.P.O. Grade. It now transpires that there were only 286, and, of this number, 151 have been declared successful at the written

test. Accepting the usual Treasury attitude when defending salary scales, that an abundance of recruits was an indication of the adequacy of those scales, it naturally follows that the advertised scales of pay for the A.P.O. Grade are not adequate. Judging from the present state of the labour market, one might be excused for anticipating thousands of candidates for a post where the exam. is comparatively simple.

The Waterguard Sectional Committee (Staff Side) met on November 22nd. It was agreed to seek reference on the question of training of A.P.O.'s, and on the payment of monthly salaries to A.P.O.'s. Many other matters of Staff interest were discussed.

At the full meeting on the following day the question of annual leave was again adjourned. Mackintoshes and electric torches were discussed, and the Staff Side expressed satisfaction with the type of article submitted in each case.

Regarding the other matters discussed, it is hoped to present a full report in the next issue of the "Journal."

The Civil Service Confederation Half-yearly Meeting, which was to have been held on November 26th, has had to be postponed until December 10th. When this meeting takes place one of the matters to be dealt with will be the recommendation of the Confederation Executive for the appointment of Mr. P. H. M. Hoey as General Secretary. Mr. Hoey has held the post of Staff Side Secretary of the Inland Revenue Departmental Council, and is apparently well experienced in Civil Service affairs. His selection is a popular one in most quarters. The appointment will, of course, be a part-time engagement.

The cost of living has again risen, according to the Labour Gazette, to the figure 69 for the month of November. Many people are of opinion that these figures fail to reflect the true increase in the cost of living, and recently a correspondent has sent me a newspaper cutting supporting this view. This deals with expenditure in connection with a really normal household budget, and gives conclusive proof that we are not getting full value under the present system of assessing the cost of living.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

Gentlemen,—

ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS.

I beg to inform you that the following nominations have been received in connection with the annual election of Councillors:—

London.—A.P.O.: H. Arnott (1), F. R. Fisk, C. Hunt, W. J. Pike.

Liverpool.—A.P.O.: A. E. Farmer, S. McNutt, J. C. O'Shea.

South Wales.—A.P.O.: A. G. Colburn, A. W. P. Densley, E. T. Sandford, D. E. A. Tucker.

Hull.—A.P.O.: J. Caley, J. Shooter. Gravesend.—P.O.: G. W. Grace.

Tyne.—P.O.: W. A. Colwill.

Scotland.—P.O.: W. G. Manson.

Messrs. Grace, Colwill and Manson have therefore been declared elected.

Ballot papers are being circulated in the other Areas, and members are requested to note that the closing date for the receipt of votes is December 31st.

The election for the P.O. Grade Councillor for the South Coast Area will take place later.

For the Executive Committee.

J. T. SUTTON,

Organising Secretary.

GLASGOW.

The quarterly District Meeting was held at Mavisbank on Thursday, November 3rd. Mr. E. Robbins (Irvine) presided over a fair attendance of the members, both local and district.

The vexed question of the failed A.P.O.'s again caused a great deal of discussion, but no satisfactory solution was forthcoming. Various proposals submitted failed to find seconders. A proposal that they be called up for a third time, in one class, successful candidates being given charge of small ports, was carried by a narrow majority.

A letter from the Secretary of the West of Scotland Defence Committee requesting attendance of two members of the Preventive Staff at their meeting was read. Messrs. W. Manson and R. Murray undertook to attend on behalf of the Staff.

Various items affecting local matters were brought up, and the District Secretary was instructed to take necessary action.

GRANGEMOUTH.

At the meeting held on November 4th the chair was taken by Mr. Bell, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. McDougall.

The proposal to reduce the issues of the "Customs Journal" was discussed, and it was agreed unanimously that it would be inadvisable to depart from the present policy of a fortnightly issue.

Local business followed and several important matters were dealt with.

Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Johnstone were re-elected as representatives on the Local Whitley Committee.

HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT.

A well-attended meeting on November 15th included members from Sunderland and Seaham. Mr. Staniland occupied the chair.

Mr. T. R. Keightly, Tyne Area Councillor, was also present, and gave a very detailed report of the Annual Conference. Keen interest was

taken in this report, and many questions were asked on matters arising therefrom.

Items of local interest were discussed, suitable action being decided upon. Votes of thanks were passed to the Councillor and to the Chairman.

LEITH.

At a meeting held on Wednesday, November 16th, Mr. Cheyne presided over a good attendance. Three members from outports were present.

Mr. Milne, Councillor for the Area, gave an interesting outline of the various subjects to be discussed at the forthcoming Executive meeting, a keen debate taking place in respect of the resolutions being put forward from the ports concerned. The members present were unanimously of opinion that their interests would be strongly represented at the meeting of the E.C.

The following officers were chosen as Grade representatives to serve on the Committees mentioned:—

Local Whitley Council.—Mr. Ross, P.O., Messrs. Milne and Wooster, A.P.O.'s.

Local Joint Council.—The above-mentioned officers were elected en bloc, and in addition, Mr. Crowe, P.O., and Mr. Gunn, A.P.O.

Waterguard Sub-Committee. — Messrs. McKay, Leatherbarrow and Kerr, P.O.'s, and Messrs. Cheyne, Gair and Wooster, A.P.O.'s.

Several items of local interest were discussed, the District Secretary being empowered to interview the Waterguard Superintendent and Chief Preventive Officer on the matters in question.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the visiting members, bringing a lively meeting to a conclusion at 10 p.m.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

To November 21st, 1927.

TRANSFERS.

Chief Preventive Officers, Lower Section.—Cairns, W. K., Falmouth, Plymouth, to Blyth, Newcastle; O'Malley, Office of Inspector-General of Waterguard, to Falmouth, Plymouth.

Preventive Officer.—Brown, C. R., Glasgow, to Liverpool.

Assistant Preventive Officers.—Exchange: Pritchard, G., Leith, with Strathdee, A., Grangemouth, Edinburgh.

PROMOTIONS.

Preventive Officer to Chief Preventive Officer, Lower Section (Unattached).—Hargreaves, T. E., Liverpool, to Office of Inspector-General of Waterguard.

Assistant Preventive Officer to Preventive Officer.—Cridland, F. A., Southampton, to Glasgow.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

Retirement.—Chief Preventive Officer, Lower Section: Campbell, J. F., Blyth, Newcastle.

SMALL PORT WORK.

By "VAGRHETH."

MERCANTILE MARINE.

In outlining the work of a Preventive Officer in charge as Superintendent of Mercantile Marine, I have chiefly confined myself to the engagement and discharge of seamen, but, as there are quite a number of miscellaneous duties which are performed in most small ports, I now propose to outline the more important of these.

It is interesting to follow up the extreme care which the Merchant Shipping Acts have bestowed on seamen and to see how the many facilities afforded are appreciated. There is little doubt that, with the advent of legislation which made the Board of Trade a ministry which almost entirely devotes its attention to the interests of shipping and seamen, there sprang up a wonderful combination of the State, the shipowner, and the seaman, which has culminated in the finest and most powerful Mercantile Marine in the world. It is a source of pride for an officer who is Superintendent of Mercantile Marine to note the implicit confidence shown in him by owner, master and seaman alike. All their differences are submitted to him, and his solution to them is seldom questioned and generally forms a basis of mutual settlement. It is to be noted that a Superintendent is given very wide and discretionary powers under the various instructions and Acts, and the great success of the Board of Trade is largely due to this.

One of the greatest blessings to seamen is the system of remittance of seamen's wages by money order. By this system a seaman can, without charge, arrange to have forwarded at regular intervals during his absence to any relative or friend such portion of his earnings as he may decide upon. The system is analogous to that of money orders in the Post Office. This is arranged by the seaman completing an application on Form M.O. 1 and paying in the money. The Superintendent then issues the money order and forwards the advice to the Mercantile Marine Office of payment. When a seaman is away, money orders may be granted to owners or agents for the purpose of remitting "allotment money." A seaman may desire to have a certain amount forwarded to his wife each week, and arranges with the shipowner to do this by "allotting" so much per month to his wife. These allotment notes are retained by the shipowner and he is able to deduct the amount from the seaman's wages at the end of the voyage, but in the meantime he meets the seaman's desire by making application on M.O. 1 each week, paying in the amount, and forwarding the money order to the seaman's wife. The seaman's wife then takes the money order to the M.M. Office, where the Superintendent compares it with the advice, asks who it is from (this is shown on advice), obtains a receipt on the money order and, if satisfied, pays the amount. Care must be taken to ensure that the

signature of receipt on the money order contains one complete Christian name, such as "Ann J. Jones," and not "A. J. Jones." The money order is then married to the advice and brought to account in Schedule 22. In the case of foreign money orders the amount is brought to account in Schedule 22A. At the end of each week the original Schedules 22 and 22A are detached from the book and the money orders and advices pinned to them and forwarded to the Finance Department, Board of Trade. At the end of each month a summary of these schedule payments is made on Form Schedule 22 and 22A and sent to the District Collector.

In many places along the coast the foreshore is leased by the Board of Trade to people who use it for industrial purposes, such as quays and piers, or for mooring boats, or removing sand and gravel, etc. These leases are usually granted for a number of years, seldom exceeding thirty-one, and it is the duty of the Preventive Officer in charge to keep a record of when the yearly payment of them falls due. He then makes formal application to the holder of the lease for payment, and upon receipt of the amount he issues a receipt on F.21 and brings the amount to account on Schedule 35. In cases where sand and gravel are removed from the foreshore, the holder of the lease is to be forwarded Form H.70, and it is upon this he makes declaration of the number of tons removed during the year and remits the amount due at the agreed price of so much per ton. The Superintendent countersigns the declaration on Form H.70 and remits it with Schedule 35 to the District Collector at the end of the month.

The surveying of ships is performed by a special branch of the Board of Trade, but it is usual for the local Superintendent to receive applications for such work, to take the fees to cover the performance of the survey, and to remit the application to the nearest Board of Trade Survey Branch. Applications for survey are generally made on Surveys 6, and, after the Superintendent has made the charge according to class and scale (as given in book on Board of Trade fees), he notes the amount received at the base of the form and forwards it. Passenger vessel certificates are delivered through the Superintendent, and the charge, according to tonnage, is brought to account in Schedule 5. All fees received on account of surveys are brought to account in Schedule 5.

There are a number of other duties which are continually cropping up, and each subject is treated and brought to account in a definite schedule, but, as it would be beyond the scope of this series to enter into matter which is peculiar to some ports only, I intend to keep to the broad feature of "Small Port Work" by treating "Wreck" next.

SOCIALISM.

By J. C. O'SHEA.

The great inequalities of human life and opportunity produced by the excessive concentration of wealth in the hands of a comparatively small section of the community gave rise, and still gives stimulus, to the Socialist movement. Whether one agrees or disagrees with Socialism, it must be admitted that this body makes a deliberate attempt to relieve, on explicit principles, the existing social conditions which are regarded by so many as well nigh intolerable. Socialism demands a system of social and economic organisation that would substitute State ownership for private ownership of the sources of production and means of distribution and exchange, and would concentrate under the control of the State many of the chief activities of human life. It is often defined in a more vague sense to indicate any measure of collective control over individual action, or even any revolt of the dispossessed against the rule of the possessing classes, but this only helps to confuse the issue. State control and even State ownership are not necessarily Socialism. They become so only when they result, or tend to result, in the prohibition of private ownership.

The economic basis of Socialism only really emerged in France in 1794 with Babeuf and his paper, "The Tribune of the People." In the manifesto issued by him and his followers, "Les Egaux," is to be found a clear vision of the collective organisation of society, such as would be accepted, very largely at any rate, by a Socialist of to-day. Of English writers, Dr. Charles Hall was the first, in the early part of the last century, to put forward the idea of a dominant and industrial social system and to work out the various basic principles of Socialism. The movement, however, was still at a very low ebb in England, France and Germany when there arrived on the scene a violent intellect in the person of Karl Marx. The latter's service to the cause, which he supported to the time of his death, should not be underrated.

In 1848 Marx, and his friend Friedrich Engels, published the "Communist Manifesto," and this document may be said to be the beginning of what is, rightly or wrongly, termed "Scientific Socialism." Later, in his exile in London, Marx studied, wrote and organised. The immediate result was the foundation of the "International Working-men's Association" in 1864, and the publication of the first volume of "Das Kapital" in 1867, which has been described as the "Bible of Socialism." The influence of this book has, without doubt, been immense. On its publication it became the basis of the Socialist creed. However, it was by no means an original work, as Marx, really, only gathered together and developed ideas and evidence that had originated with others. He himself only published the first volume, two more being published after his death. The result of

the work, however, was that the international organisation had ready to hand a body of doctrine to promulgate, and the various national Socialistic societies a common theory and programme for which to work. Although to-day many of its leading doctrines have been abandoned by many prominent Socialist leaders, in England and elsewhere, yet it has still a living influence, although it may be waning.

In England the Socialist movement has had a far less stormy career than it has experienced elsewhere, especially in Germany and France. It was not until 1884, with the foundation by H. M. Hyndman of the Marxian Social Democratic Federation, that Socialist propaganda took active form in England, but this body itself never achieved any marked success. However, it was a beginning, and it was soon followed by other more inclusive organisations. In 1883 the Independent Labour Party was founded at Bradford, with Keir Hardie as its leader, with the direct object of carrying the banner of Socialism into the political arena. About the year 1883 the Fabian Society came into existence. This body of middle class Socialists rejected the theories of Marx in favour of those of Jevons, an economist of no mean repute. It devoted itself to the social education of the public by means of lectures, pamphlets and books, and to the spread of its ideas by the permeation of public bodies and political parties. In 1899 the united efforts of the various Socialist bodies and trade unions resulted in the formation of the Labour Representation Committee, which some years later developed into the Labour Party, with about thirty representatives in the House of Commons.

What the future of Socialism in England shall be it is very difficult to judge, especially having regard to the varied schools of thought which have arisen in its ranks and which have resulted in ideas becoming more mixed and complicated by fine shades. That it is an active body, having within its fold influential members of all classes and leaders of thought of practically all professions, is something over which to ponder. Socialism, then, in England is moving. Whither is it bound?

Generally, we seem to be somewhat in the dark about the future. Perhaps the reason for this is because we are very much in the dark about the past. We know something about how the present industrial system was built up during the past few centuries, but we know little about the mediæval system which was wrecked as it was approaching completion. If we did, we should hardly be content to move only with the dead momentum of social discipline, but we would do what the mediævals did. That is, beginning by guilds and small independent groups, gradually restore the property of the poor and the personal freedom of the family.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, Nov. 14th, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. W. H. James presided over an attendance of twenty-five.

A report was received from the Confederation officers submitting the names of two candidates for the vacant post of General Secretary to the Confederation, and the Committee, after interviewing both candidates, decided to recommend to the half-yearly meeting of the Council that Mr. P. H. M. Hoey should be appointed to the vacancy. Mr. Hoey is at present Staff Side Secretary of the Inland Revenue Departmental Council, and is a member of the Executive Officers' Association.

In connection with the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927, and the Civil Service (Approved Associations) Regulations, further decisions given by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and the Treasury were communicated. It was further reported that copies of the acknowledgments of withdrawal of the Confederation from the National Federation of Professional Workers and the International Federation of Civil Servants had been forwarded to the Chief Registrar with a request that he should now indicate that affiliation to the Civil Service Confederation would not constitute a bar to the granting of a certificate of approval to any of its affiliated organisations. Further points of interpretation arising out of the regulations are being discussed between the Chief Registrar and the Confederation.

Owing to the absence on sick leave of Mr. Herbert Bryan, the Assistant Secretary, and the consequent delay in the preparation of the half-yearly report, it was decided to postpone the half-yearly Council Meeting, which should have been held on November 26th, until December 10th, 1927.

A report was presented by the delegates who attended the Second Congress of the Civil Service International, held at Nuremburg on Sept. 17th to 20th, 1927.

The report stated that, in addition to representatives from the Confederation, the following countries were represented, viz., France, Holland, Germany, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Sweden, Finland, and Switzerland.

Further extracts from the report were:—

"The Congress authorised the new Executive to enter into closer relationship with the Postal, Professional, and Public Services Internationals.

"Delegates from all countries expressed the deepest sympathy with the position which had developed in England, owing to Clause 5 of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927. It was made clear that affiliation would terminate on December 31st, 1927, but hopes were

expressed that it might still be possible to collaborate and correspond with other Civil Services afterwards.

"It was unanimously resolved as follows: 'The Second Congress of the International Federation of Civil Servants assembled in Nuremburg on September 20th, 1927, has received reports upon the recent British legislation and the Government proposals in Austria affecting the rights and freedom of certain members in the organisations affiliated to the I.F.C.S., and observes that similar proposals are indicated in other countries.

"The Congress views with indignation the inclusion in the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act (Great Britain) of a clause seeking to limit the legitimate efforts of Government employees towards co-operation with their colleagues in other countries in the exchange of data and opinions on their conditions of employment. It protests that such legislation is undemocratic and unjust, and resolves to make every effort, both nationally and internationally, especially by influencing public opinion, to obtain the repeal of this reactionary law. Further, it decides for the closer collaboration and solidarity of Civil Servants of all countries, and thus hasten the day when all Civil Servants may combine together for common objects.

"The Congress further protests against the expressed intention of the Austrian Government to degrade the Civil Servants' Whitley Councils in such manner that they can be used for Government purposes."

International Labour Office, Geneva.

M. Boisnier, a representative, attended the Congress and reported favourably on the attitude of the I.L.O. to the Civil Service International. The Executive had been pressing the I.L.O. to set up a commission (or section) to deal with the Civil Service matters, but up to the present the governing body had only been able to provide for general professional questions which would not include questions peculiarly affecting the Civil Service. In these circumstances it was resolved as follows:—

"In consideration of the fact that the commission of the International Labour Office regarding professional workers will not be concerned with Civil Servants, this Congress resolves to request the I.L.O. to set up a special commission for the study of problems which are of particular interest to Civil Servants and employees in the public service. The Congress also requests that the department set up in the International Labour Office shall be supported and developed in such a manner that it will be in a position to assist the International Secretary and affiliated organisations of the Civil Service International in obtaining any desired information regarding the standard of living and conditions of service of Civil Servants, employees and personnel of public service of all countries."

It was reported that Sweden and Switzerland had decided to affiliate, and it was hoped that in this way the financial resources of the International would be adjusted to the loss of the English contribution. It was unanimously decided that in any case the loss would be shouldered by the other affiliated nations in the ratio of their previous contributions. Authority was given for effort to be made in assisting Poland to affiliate.

The British proposal that more attention should be concentrated on economic interests was unanimously approved and the new Executive was instructed to arrange accordingly.

The Report was accepted.

Many items of National Council business were reported upon, including the "New Civilian," Night Rates of Subsistence (Arbitration Case), Conditions of Employment of Writing Assistants and Typing Grades, Overtime for Non-Overtime Classes, Substitution Pay, Abolition of Over-riding Maximum on Bonus Pension, and Increases on Promotion.

With regard to the "New Civilian" it was reported that there had been a majority vote on the National Staff Side in favour of the recommendation that under certain conditions the Staff Side should acquire and run the "New Civilian," but as the majority was not sufficient to comply with the Standing Orders, the motion had been declared "not carried." It was further stated that since that meeting other arrangements had been made, and that on and from November 16th the "New Civilian" would appear under new proprietorship.

With reference to the subsistence claim, it was reported that a Staff Side meeting had been convened for November 17th in order to go over the schedule of grades proposed to be included within the scope of the claim for the Industrial Court, and a joint meeting of the Subsistence Committee had been arranged for November 21st.

The National Staff Side had adopted the motions proposed by the Civil Service Confederation that requests should be made at the next meeting of the National Council for the setting up of Committees to enquire into the conditions of employment of (a) Writing Assistants, and (b) Typing Grades.

Considerable discussion took place regarding a claim to be tabled by the National Staff Side dealing with increases on promotion, and reference was made to a similar claim, now in process of negotiation by a joint committee of the Executive Officers' Association, and the Executive Class Society. A sub-committee consisting of the President and four other members was appointed to investigate the facts in connection with this matter, and to report to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The panel of the National Staff Side which conducted the case regarding overtime payment for non-overtime classes before the Industrial Court has been instructed to consider and report as to the form which a further application to the Court, in relation to a specific case, should take.

The Staff Side had referred to the Super-

annuation Committee for investigation and report the resolution sent forward by the Confederation seeking to abolish the over-riding maximum on bonus pension.

Arising on a motion submitted by the Union of Post Office Workers, it was reported that the Staff Side had decided to set up a special committee to investigate and report on the question of amendments desired by Civil Service organisations to the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act.

It was also reported that the nominee of the Civil Service Confederation, Mr. W. Ewart Llewellyn, O.B.E., had been elected as Chairman of the National Staff Side, that Mr. J. W. Bowen had been re-elected as Vice-Chairman, and that Messrs. G. Chase and A. C. Winyard had been re-elected as Joint Secretaries.

A report was received from the General Purposes Committee dealing, among others, with the following subjects:—Contributory Pensions Act, Accountant of Courts Clerical Association (Re-organisation Scheme), Married Women (Employment) Bill, Proposed Improvement of Arbitration and Whitley Machinery, and Age of Retirement.

Replies given by His Majesty's Stationery Office to enquiries made as to the responsibility of Departments in connection with advertisements on official stationery were communicated, and it was also stated that the National Staff Side were making enquiries on the subject.



We listened some time ago to an admirable address on the subject of chivalry in business, and heard it proved that chivalry is just as possible in these days as it was in the Middle Ages when the word seems to have been surrounded with so much of romance that it is still a favourite theme. The chivalry of the Middle Ages finds its present-day parallel in the phrase "playing the game." A dishonest tradesman, for instance, could hardly be accused of playing the game or of practising chivalry, neither could a man who failed to study his employer. The term has a wide scope, and can be applied equally between the Government, administrative officers and Civil Servants generally. It is quite safe to say that recent years have shown a much better spirit in the Service than obtained in the past, and we have good reason to be thankful, especially in the Waterguard, that it is now possible to meet heads of Departments round a common table and share one another's views on

Service matters affecting not only the personnel, but also the Service itself. Chivalry demands service from all grades alike one to another; playing the game each to each; all working together to give the country that best which is its due and which it expects. The unnecessary harassing of the staff by supervising officers is much more rare in these days than it was twenty or more years ago, and the efficiency and loyalty of the staff is all the greater in consequence.

* * * *

There is still room for improvement. The responsible work performed by the Waterguard is by no means fully acknowledged. The time is not far distant when it will be necessary for a re-statement of the duties imposed upon, and efficiently carried out by, this Department, for it is well known by Waterguard officials generally that the importance of the work performed is not nearly realised by those who, above all, should know. The wide knowledge of regulations of our own Department and of other Departments that must be possessed by the Waterguard official must be sufficiently complete to enable him to act with precision in a host of circumstances which preclude the possibility of retreat to an office where refuge can be taken behind volumes of instructions.

* * * *

It is hardly necessary to remind readers, when making preparations for the festive season so close upon us, not to forget the advertisements appearing in this publication. Great care is taken to ensure that only advertisements of houses of repute are allowed to appear. It is worthy of note that Messrs. Mortons are offering to supply a handsome 5/- calendar quite free with all goods ordered from them between now and Christmas. The gift calendar is a very large one, about 16 in. by 20 in., and bears a charming full-colour picture by Mr. Frank Dadd, R.I., and is on a substantial mount fit for framing. An illustration of the calendar is given in the Morton Christmas Catalogue.

CARDIFF SUPPER AND SMOKING CONCERT.

The Social Committee at Cardiff commenced this season's programme in grand style by the arrangement of a supper and smoking concert at the Old Arcade Hotel on November 18th. This was well attended, Mr. Churchill-Lemon, the Collector, occupying the chair. He, in his usual cheery manner, extended a hearty welcome to the visitors.

After the supper a good musical programme was provided by the following artistes: Messrs. Harding, Sexton, Pike, Keane, Tucker, Crothers and Densley. Each item was very well received and many encores were called for. A special feature of this concert was the introduction, by Mr. Harding, of community singing, in which all present heartily joined.

In replying to a vote of thanks, the Chairman expressed the wish that many more social events should be arranged for this season.

List of Assistant Preventive Officers to be called up for Examination for Preventive Officer in March, 1928.

Albert E. Stocker, London.
 Harold Collier, Goole.
 Edward L. Galvin, London.
 James E. Woodgate, Ipswich.
 Joseph Smith, Middlesbrough.
 James Patterson, Glasgow.
 John W. Graham, Newcastle.
 Gilbert H. Kay, North Shields.
 Ambrose Twaddle, Fifehead St. Giles.
 Harry Arnold, North Shields.
 Arthur H. Stevens, Liverpool.
 William H. G. Turner, Liverpool.
 Thomas F. Prior, London.
 John Fox, Heston.
 Harold C. Oak, West Hartlepool.
 Louis W. Victor, London.
 William C. Spencer, London.
 Robert Naisb. Barry Deck.
 Henry R. Taylor, Cardiff.
 Frederick F. Shannon, Glasgow.
 Ernest F. Hackman, Dover.
 George H. Wales, Aberdeen.
 Joseph Burke, West Hartlepool.
 Alfred M. Beck, North Shields.
 Frederick S. Potter, Grimsby.
 Percy V. W. Burgoyne, Nowhaven.
 William C. J. McLoughlin, Hull.
 James Robertson, North Shields.
 Percival K. Rundle, Port Talbot.
 Robert J. Gifford, Harwich.
 Francis B. Olson, Cardiff.
 Arthur J. Church, Brightlingsea.
 William Hodgson, Hull.
 Archibald C. Dex, Hull.
 Charles V. Murphy, Hull.
 Horace V. Fleet, Gravesend.
 Sidney H. Atkins, London.
 Alexander F. Gahan, Liverpool.
 James A. E. Brownlow, Liverpool.
 Joseph W. Perkins, London.
 Robert H. Murray, Glasgow.
 John Wm. Booker, London.
 Stanley H. Matthews, Newport.
 George E. N. Camburn, Gravesend.
 Leonard P. Griffin, Portsmouth.
 Henry Arnott, London.
 Harold A. Foley, Portsmouth.
 John Wm. Allison, Grimsby.
 Joseph W. Porter, Bristol.
 Alfred S. Roper, London.
 John Helm, Newport.
 Arthur P. Potter, Liverpool.
 Henry W. Shoulders, Harwich.
 John R. Aynsley, London.
 John W. E. Erickson, Plymouth.
 Laurence W. Lainsbury, Liverpool.
 Francis W. Stewart, Greenock.
 Horace Hate, Grimsby.
 Ernest N. Clieyne, Leith.
 Claude H. Rowett, Hull.
 Ernest N. Coady, Barrow.
 Rupert W. Booth, Hull.
 Ernest Haigh, London.

William H. Wood, Hull.
 William B. Clayson, Liverpool.
 Albert Hampshire, Harwich.
 Basil N. Hutley, Llanelly.
 William S. Kemp, London.
 George H. Weller, Lowestoft.
 Percy C. A. Burkey, Manchester.
 John A. Barrett, Southampton.
 William H. Croker, London.
 Thomas A. Stuart, London.
 Harold Gibson, Maryport.
 Robert Davies, Point of Ayr.
 Raymond L. Jones, Liverpool.
 James F. Elrick, London.
 William McDovall, Grangemouth.
 Francis Purnell, Leith.
 George Fleming, Middlesbrough.
 Albert T. Rankin, London.
 Charles H. Sparge, Glasgow.
 Frederick J. K. Heaver, Dover.
 Percy W. Hicks, Gravesend.
 Percival C. White, Swansea.
 George F. R. Murray, Glasgow.
 Percy R. Page, Gravesend.
 Arthur C. Cole, Dover.
 Charles S. Iredale, Liverpool.
 Frederick C. Crabb, London.
 Harold F. Wheeler, London.
 Richard H. Grey, London.
 Arthur R. Millward, Gravesend.
 William H. B. Legg, Swansea.
 John Watters, Glasgow.
 James Cussen, London.

ARE WE CONCERNED?

By W.M.S.

The recent promotion of Departmental Clerks to the Officer Grade has caused some comment in certain Waterguard quarters. Any such Departmental move will always provide material for discussion, and perhaps fear as to future policy.

But in what way are we concerned? If it were a question of promotion to Preventive Officer, then it would be a subject which would make us very seriously to sit up and take notice. Such a move, however, would not be in the best interests of the Customs and Excise from a revenue point of view, and a move which the authorities would hardly venture to suggest. As distinct from the "Officer," the Preventive Officer only gets his position after a searching departmental examination. He must be adjudged capable of displaying initiative in an emergency, and must be competent to deal with important situations involving revenue protection, and make decisions without reference. His early training, the nature of his duties, the preparation necessary to secure his position, and his close contact with the public, are assets not found in many Departments of the Civil Service.

It might be said that appointments to the "Officer" Grade should be made from the P.O.

Grade. If that is seriously advocated, then what is to prevent the inception of a policy which would react upon the Waterguard, by reserving superior appointments for outsiders without any gain to the general body? It cuts both ways. The fly in the ointment is not in the promotion of Departmental Clerks to Officers, but in the fact that the Landing and Shipping are not Waterguard duties. It is this feeling in the mind of the progressive Waterguard Officer that prompts him to look askance at any new move made in filling positions in the sister Department. The Waterguard Officer is, naturally, the most suitable man for performing Landing duties. The P.O. of to-day is the superior of the old Examining Officer, and certainly more capable for the duties than the Departmental Clerk. The sole reason why this Department has not progressed in salary and conditions to the same proportional extent is simply that it has been so much ignored in the periodical schemes of reconstruction in the Customs and Excise Service, which schemes have benefited so well the members of the Landing Branch. If the Waterguard is to come into the light it will only be by a wide extension of Departmental scope, to include the duties of what is known as Landing Officers.

LONDON SOUTH SIDE CRICKET CLUB.

The annual meeting on November 10th, under the able chairmanship of Mr. R. E. Dudley, altogether disproved the theory that sport could not be successfully organised in London. The meeting marked the close of the Club's first year which, if it had not held phenomenal victories and records, had at least shown that a very real sporting spirit existed to no small extent.

The gratitude of the Club to Messrs. C. E. Egan, S. E. Romans, G. H. Baldwin and W. J. Ferguson for the provision of prizes at the end of the cricket season was warmly expressed. The prizes were presented at the Club Dinner, recently reported, by Mr. Connaway, W.S.

Affiliation with the C. and E. Sports Club was approved by the whole of the members present.

The President and Vice-President for the ensuing year will be Messrs. C. E. Egan, C.P.O., and S. E. Romans, C.P.O., respectively; the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. O. Eldridge; the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Ferguson.

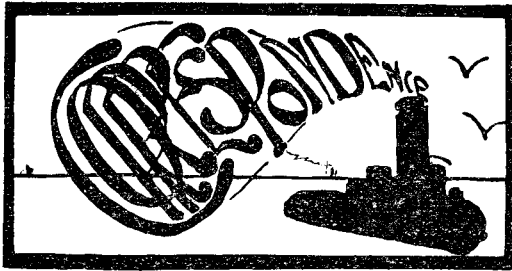
The election of Chairman and Committee resulted as follows:—Mr. R. E. Dudley, Chairman; Messrs. G. H. Baldwin, J. Pescod, M. J. Griffiths, R. J. Steers, H. B. Peake and A. L. G. Searle, form the Committee.

The Auditors elected were Messrs. H. S. Pickford and J. E. Dilling.

In discussing the ground for next season, strong opposition was shown to further use of the Lower Sydenham ground, and the Committee was instructed to negotiate for another ground in the most central position possible.

The Captain and Vice-Captain are to be chosen by a ballot of the Club membership, and the result will probably be announced in time for our next issue.

A series of social events has been arranged for the winter, the first of which took place on Wednesday last, November 30th. The scene of these fixtures will be the New Cross Palais de Danse, in South London, a really delightful place with a tip-top floor, plenty of space, and much that is calculated to contribute to an enjoyable evening.



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

THE V.E.S. AND THE EXAMINATION.

Sir,—Just recently I was examining the list of pupils who are receiving tuition under the Vocational Education Scheme.

Apart from the particular object I had in view, I came across another fact that has since caused me some consideration. In short, I was surprised to ascertain the number of probable candidates at the forthcoming examination who are members of the Association, and who have not taken advantage of this scheme.

To illustrate my meaning, I would mention that with perhaps a solitary exception, I believe that of the men stationed at Hull who will undergo the ordeal next February, none are receiving tuition under the V.E.S.

I feel that I cannot allow this state of affairs to remain without voicing my opinion. I can assure every A.P.O. who is interested in the next examination that unless he has arranged to receive tuition under the V.E.S. he is at a great disadvantage compared with those candidates who have taken this step. Based upon recent experience, and a fairly extensive knowledge both of the regulations and their study, I can safely say that in the courses of the Vocational Education Scheme exists the most expert and helpful method of qualifying for the P.O.-ship.

Every candidate at the examination who is not receiving this tuition should reconsider his position. The above opinion is given with the sole intention of assisting A.P.O.'s to achieve success at the examination.—Yours, etc.,

J. T. SUTTON.

WATERGUARD DUTIES.

Sir,—Are the allegations of the public Press of extravagance entirely without foundation?

For example, is it not an unnecessary waste of public funds to ordain that when such goods as tiles, chemical manures, cement, etc., are imported in bags or cases they necessitate the attendance of the Landing Officer?

Looking at the matter from a taxpayer's point of view, how does it strike him?

A vessel arrives one trip with such goods in bulk (i.e., stowed loose in the holds). The Waterguard deals with her throughout. The next trip the cargo is the same, but in bags, crates or cases, and as a result, the Landing Officer, who has a salary scale of nearly double that of the Waterguard Officer, attends *in addition*.

Then again, take the case of commercial travellers with samples of ad valorem and silk goods. This country has entered into agreements with several others to allow the importation of samples on deposit of any duty involved, but with subsequent refund on exportation.

Although the Waterguard Officer is considered capable of dealing with the ordinary passenger's importation of such goods (within a duty limit of £5 each article), he is compelled to detain the unfortunate commercial traveller, whose samples perhaps only involve a few shillings duty, for the Landing Officer to deal with.

For the business man such delay is not only vexatious, but costly.

Invariably he employs an agent to pass his "entry" at a fee of up to £1.

I hesitate to even think what opinion these gentlemen must have of our methods of conducting public business.

For years the Waterguard have cried out in vain for "examination of all free goods" to be given to them. In such days as these a very big extension of the official term "Free goods in bulk," and the inclusion in Waterguard duties of the clearance of commercial travellers' samples of all descriptions, is essential if we have any regard for business-like methods and economy.—Yours, etc.,

"FAIRPLAY TO THE TAXPAYER." HONORARIA.

Sir,—Your correspondent, "A.E.S.," introduces a very curious mixture when he places honoraria and subscriptions in the same dish. He sets off a slight increase in the amount paid in honoraria to the officers against a demand for reduced subscriptions. How much reduction does he require in the matter of subscriptions? Is it a half? How much would the reduction be if it were based solely upon the increases he has mentioned? A ridiculously small figure. If he is unaware of the amounts of the increases, it is rather puzzling to me that he has embarked upon this subject without going thoroughly into the pros and cons of the matter.

The assertion that a reduction in subscriptions would be a serious matter for the Associa-

tion is a question that is fully realised by our members generally, and this has been evidenced in a number of cases where A.P.O.'s on the lower scales of pay have been most emphatic in declaring that they do not wish for differences in subscriptions. They have gloried in the fact that our present organisation is ONE association.

His opinion of the mentality of the members forming the London meeting of September 15th is rather striking. It would appear that because the Council had taken certain action, London had no opinion. "A.E.S." desires to make it appear that London merely called a meeting in order to say that it agreed with all the Council had done merely because it had been done. There are many of us in London who bitterly resent the terms of "A.E.S.'s" second paragraph as a libel on the good sense of his colleagues. What right has he to make such an implication? The Conference discussed the question of honoraria on the resolution sent from London. The meeting of September 15th was called to receive the report of the London members of the Council, and the explanation of the Council's treatment of this particular resolution was favourably received, not because the Council had dealt with it, but because they were satisfied with the manner in which it had been dealt with.—Yours, etc.,

"INDIGNANT."

THE PAY OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

Sir,—Once again I wish to reply to "A.E.F." of Liverpool, but before doing so, let me say that I was very pleased to see that my letter, appearing in the "Journal" of the 5th inst., was backed by a similar one from one of our Councillors. In fact, I feel as if he had rendered me a personal service, and therefore thank him for his very timely remarks.

"A.E.F." in replying, again reiterates the comparison between earlier ex-Service entrants and 1923/5 ex-Service entrants, but he makes no comment regarding the comparison drawn by me of ex-Boy Messengers (1921 and after) and earlier ex-Service entrants, which is greater. I therefore presume that the bottom is knocked out of his argument; perhaps "A.E.F." thinks ex-Boy Messengers are superhumans and can live on half the amount it costs ex-Service entrants.

However, I am very glad he admits that party claims are not conducive to contentment amongst the staff in general; but he contradicts himself by saying that exceptional circumstances warrant his party claim, and states that he has the support of a number of members not personally concerned.

I may state that at a recent meeting of the P.S.A., held at Leith, this question was discussed, and every ex-Service entrant (1923/5) present agreed that an increase to them only would result in more discontent, and they desired that a higher rate of salary for the whole staff be pressed for.

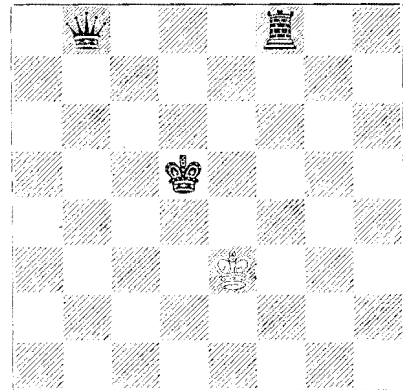
Summing up the question, I would say that an increase all round should be asked for in preference to this party claim, because in the

former instance no increase has been asked for, and the Treasury won't come and offer it unless a claim is made. In the latter instance, in my opinion a claim by 1923/5 ex-Service entrants would not be considered because, as the Editor remarks, their case was fought in 1924 and a favourable decision was given and accepted. In concluding, I want "A.E.F." to understand that I bear him no ill-will, but only desire to impress upon him that an increase for the whole Grade is needed and wanted badly by the Waterguard.—Yours, etc.,

"EX BOY MESSENGER."

CUSTOMS WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB.

PROBLEM No. 4.



Black move. Mate in two.

Solution to No. 3—

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1. ——— | 1. Q × P + |
| 2. K × Q | 2. R—KR5 |

Dr. FRANKLIN'S MORALS OF CHESS.

By THE SECRETARY.

By playing at chess, we learn—

(1) **FORESIGHT**, which looks a little into futurity, considers the consequences that may attend an action; for it is continually occurring to the player, "If I move this piece, what will be the advantage of my new situation? What use can my adversary make of it to annoy me? What other moves can I make to support it and to defend myself from his attacks?"

(2) **CIRCUMSPECTION**, which surveys the whole of the chess-board, or scene of action, the relations of the several pieces and situations, the dangers they are respectively exposed to, the several possibilities of their aiding each other, the probabilities that the adversary may make this or that move, and attack this or the other

piece, and what different means can be used to avoid his stroke, or turn its consequences against him.

(3) CAUTION, not to make our moves too hastily. "If you touch a piece, you must move it somewhere; if you set it down, you must let it stand." The observance of these laws makes the game the image of human life, and particularly of war; in which, if you have incautiously put yourself into a bad and dangerous position, you cannot obtain your enemy's leave to withdraw your troops and place them more securely; but you must abide by all the consequences of your rashness.

(4) The HABIT of not being discouraged by present bad appearances in the state of our affairs, the habit of hoping for a favourable change, and that of persevering in the search of resources. The game is so full of events, there is such a variety of turns in it, the fortune of it is so subject to sudden vicissitudes, and one, so frequently, after long contemplation discovers the means of extricating one's self from a supposed insurmountable difficulty, that one is encouraged to continue the contest to the last, in hope of victory by our own skill; or at least getting a stalemate by the negligence of our adversary.

PROSECUTIONS.

AMBLE.

At a special sitting of the Police Court on November 14th, the second engineer of the s.s. "Chevington" was charged with illegally unshipping eleven bottles of spirits and also with concealing on board three further bottles of spirits.

The goods were seized by Mr. A. Forster, P.O. in charge, Mr. T. Riordan, C.P.O., conducting the case.

The offender was fined £7 18s. 8d. and costs.

BELFAST.

In the Belfast Custody Court, on November 24th, the master of the steamer "Winga," from Gothenburg, was charged in connection with a concealment of twelve bottles of brandy (1.92 liquid, 1.32 proof). The offender was fined T.V.D. (£18 5s. 6d.).

The brandy was discovered under the well of a winch by Mr. P. A. Richardson, A.P.O., while engaged on boarding duty with Mr. W. P. Manley, P.O. Mr. P. O'Keefe, C.P.O., prosecuted.

CARDIFF.

On November 11th, at the Cardiff Police Court, the steward of the Greek steamer, "Calafatis," was fined £19 9s. 1d. in respect of a concealment of .14 gall. perfumed spirit, 7½ lb. of silk tissue, and 4 pieces of artificial silk. The goods, concealed in sacks of beans and rice, were discovered by Mr. H. R. Taylor, working under the supervision of Mr. A. J. Sallaway, P.O.

On November 17th the steward of the Spanish steamer, "Tereza Pamies," was found guilty of concealing, under a drawer in his berth, .82 gall. brandy, proof (1.12 gall. liquid). A fine of £11 4s. 9d. was imposed and paid. The goods were found by Mr. A. M. Pucknell, under the supervision of Mr. W. H. Hills, P.O.

Mr. H. Howell, C.P.O., prosecuted in each case.

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

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