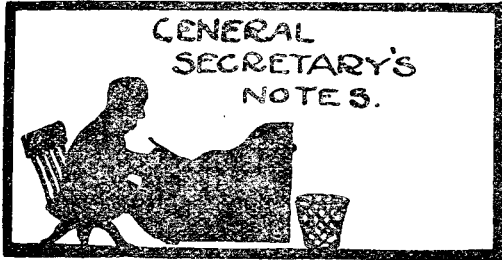


# The Customs Journal.

No. 594.

July 30th, 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.

August is the one month of the year looked forward to with eagerness by all Association officials. There is a temporary lull in Whitley activity which is a most welcome relief to those whose job it is to keep pace with the regular meetings. The work, of course, never actually ceases, but the slackening of speed at this time of the year is a valuable safety-valve, and the brief respite from continual strain saves many a nervous breakdown.

The Departmental Council meets on July 27th, and there will be no further meeting before September. It is possible, however, that this year even the September meeting will not take place, owing to certain administrative changes taking place about that time.

At the July meeting the Staff Side are to take the opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the great services rendered to Civil Service Whitleyism by Sir Horace Hamilton. Sir Horace has been Chairman of the Customs and Excise Departmental Council since the beginning, and it is undoubtedly due to his influence that the Council has reached so high a standard of efficiency as to be generally recognised as the best in the Civil Service. The true spirit of Whitley governs all procedure.

That our Chairman is now about to leave us on transfer to the Board of Trade is a fact which causes very real regret throughout the Depart-

ment. We in the Waterguard join heartily with all other branches of the Department in sending good wishes to Sir Horace, and we are grateful for the legacy of sound Whitley organisation which he leaves to us.

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Staff Side members of Local Whitley Committees will be interested to learn that the Customs and Excise Joint Committee have issued a brochure of information regarding Whitley procedure. Staff Side Chairmen and Secretaries will each be supplied with a copy, and further copies may be obtained at a cost of 2d. each. I understand that the number for sale is limited.

The information given is most useful and up to date. References to all appropriate Circulars and General Orders are included, and also there are clear explanations of important points.

\* \* \* \*

There seems to be a doubt in some quarters as to whether a Waterguard Officer can be compelled to take time off in lieu of payment for overtime. It should be distinctly understood that under the existing agreement an officer cannot be compelled to take time off for the purpose of avoiding payment of overtime.

Enquiries on this point are continually cropping up, and therefore it is hoped that members will make a note of the information now given.

\* \* \* \*

The rise in the cost-of-living figure to 66 for July 1st, as against 63 the previous month, makes things look more cheerful. A drop of three twenty-sixths had looked almost certain, but now there is a turn for the better, with every prospect of the September reduction being no more than two twenty-sixths—and that will be bad enough.

\* \* \* \*

The Staff Side of the National Council are considering a proposal from the Official Side on the question of the periodical adjustment of the cost-of-living bonus. The suggestion is that instead of the two adjustments per year under the present system, there should be only one. The idea is not altogether new, and it has in fact been a topic of discussion amongst Civil Servants for a considerable time. There is some possi-

bility that the Staff Side will agree to the proposal, but if this should happen, there is no doubt that ample safeguards will be taken to ensure that the change over will occasion no loss to the staff.

\* \* \* \*

I am glad that "Futurist" appears again in the correspondence columns. On the question of Monthly Pay we can agree to disagree. I might mention, however, that the action taken by the Executive was fully endorsed at the recent Conference, after the situation had been fully explained.

Regarding Promotion by Merit, I am in agreement with "Futurist." It ought to be pointed out, nevertheless, that the actual proposal he makes, together with every possible variation of it, has already been before the Council in 1926. It was, in fact, the basis of the Executive scheme, but the Council threw it out. At this year's Conference it was decided to submit to the membership a proposal similar in principle, and it is to be hoped that when this is circulated, other members will follow the example of "Futurist" by utilising the columns of the "Journal" for this important discussion.

\* \* \* \*

The proposal by "Buzzer," that failed A.P.O.'s should be slowly absorbed into the P.O. Grade, was fully thrashed out three years ago on the Council. It received fierce opposition from the ex-Service men, and it might well have received similar treatment from the failed A.P.O.'s themselves, for, whilst purporting to give them something, the proposal does not in actual practice give them anything at all. There are hundreds of A.P.O.'s who have failed the P.O. test. The suggestion that there should be ten "third-timers" at every examination would mean that it would take ten years to give the first hundred a chance to sit, even if exams. occurred every year. This would indeed be "slow" absorption. Another point to be observed is that the percentage of "second-timers" who pass the examination is extremely low, and it is logical to assume that this would be lower again with the "third-timers." It is not likely that the failed A.P.O.'s would be very grateful for a concession of this description.

\* \* \* \*

Owing to a slight accident causing the collapse of a portion of the ceiling at the P.S.A. Office, the work at Headquarters has had to be carried on in temporary quarters for the time being, until repairs can be carried out. This

has meant some slight disorganisation which, coupled with arrears of work accumulated during the Conference, has handicapped the Secretaries considerably. One result of this is that the Report of the Conference, due to appear in this issue, cannot be prepared in time, and must be deferred until next issue.

It is hoped that by the time these notes appear, everything will be normal again, and correspondence can then be handled with the usual promptitude.

\* \* \* \*

During the past week or two one of the most interesting topics of conversation in Waterguard circles has been regarding the promotion in all grades, from C.P.O. Lower Section upwards.

The unanimous opinion of the recent Conference, that the method of selection from P.O. to C.P.O. was not satisfactory, seems to be echoed everywhere. A good deal of criticism has also been levelled at the type of question set for the written test. The general comment being that questions on the Regulations should be avoided as being appropriate to the P.O. examination.

It is of course impossible to give satisfaction to everyone where the question of promotion methods is concerned. There are very few unsuccessful candidates who would admit they had been rightly turned down. Criticism is not, however, confined only to these unfortunate failures, but comes from the somewhat puzzled rank and file.

\* \* \* \*

Through the good offices of a colleague who kindly consented to exchange duties with me, I was able to be present at Gravesend when the cricket match between the London (South Side) and Gravesend Waterguard teams took place. The London team journeyed to the ground in char-a-bancs, and, though the road to Gravesend is anything but beautiful and the weather was not at its best, the good humour of the party refused to be shaken. Both the outward and the homeward run were most enjoyable.

Gravesend proved to be the better team, but this is not surprising when it is considered that London has only this year commenced to take up organised sport, and the players are handicapped by lack of opportunity for frequent practice. Their defeat on this occasion will no doubt make them all the more determined to give the Gravesend team something to think about when they come to London. Gravesend will be worth beating because, so far, the staff at that port take first place in all Waterguard

sport—though they have not yet produced a tug-of-war team.

\* \* \* \*

London leads the way so far as tug-of-war is concerned, and everyone is expecting them to repeat their last year's success when the Customs and Excise Sports take place on August 11th. It is a most difficult task to keep a team together when they are employed on duties which prevent regular training, and a great deal of credit is due to those who are sticking to the job and overcoming this obstacle.

The cup presented for this event by the C.P.O. Association will not be given up by the Waterguard without a gigantic struggle.

J. MERRON.

## PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

### DOVER.

A well-attended meeting was held at the Queen's Head Hotel on June 24th, when the Conference agenda was considered.

It was agreed that when any member of the Executive Committee or Council has any motion which he wishes to appear as such on a Council agenda, such motion shall be submitted to a properly convened Branch or District meeting, as per Rule 8 of the Constitution. The proposed amendments to the Constitution and resolutions were taken individually, and some interesting discussions took place.

On the Executive proposal re re-grading, it was decided to adjourn the meeting for further information to be obtained from the General Secretary.

The meeting was resumed on June 29th, when correspondence with the General Secretary was read and discussed.

An extremely interesting proposal was put to the meeting and very fully discussed, the motion finally resulting as follows:—

That in the present system of promotion of A.P.O.'s to P.O.'s, we consider the following features undesirable:—

1. The calling up of an uncertain number of candidates at uncertain times.
2. The qualifications for eligibility to sit.
3. The uncertainty as to whether the examination is qualifying, or is competitive to meet the Board's requirements at the time the examination is held.

We therefore recommend to the Council the following system:—

1. That a definite number of candidates be called up annually, the month in which the examination is held to be decided upon in Committee.

2. That a certain number of years' service, as representing the degree of practical experience be the qualifying factor for eligibility to sit; candidates to apply to be allowed to sit, and to have two attempts at the Crown's expense. Where the number of applicants exceeds the number required, the requisite number to be decided upon by seniority.

3. The examination to be definitely qualifying, a definite pass mark being laid down, and the results of each examination being published in detail, showing the number of marks obtained on each paper, and oral.

4. The successful candidates to be placed on a waiting list.

A local matter from Folkestone was discussed, a line of action being decided upon.

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### GLASGOW.

A District meeting was held at Mavisbank on Friday, July 1st. Mr. R. Murray presided over a fair gathering of members. Various matters of local interest were discussed. Mr. Murray gave a detailed account of the Civil Service Sports Association (West of Scotland Section), of the action taken in enlisting support and obtaining particulars of facilities for prospective members; he also stated that a goodly number of the P.S.A. members were now shareholders.

The agenda of the Annual Conference was fully discussed, and it was agreed to instruct the Councillors to take action in certain cases.

The question of failed A.P.O.'s was again gone into. A proposal by Mr. Harrison met with some support, and it was agreed to bring forward a scheme at the next meeting for discussion.

◆ ◆ ◆

### LEITH.

At a meeting held on June 22nd, Mr. Gordon presided over a fairly good attendance, the out-ports being well represented.

The election of District Officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. Gordon; Vice-President, Mr. Cheyne; District Secretary, Mr. Groat; District Organiser, Mr. Grieve; "C.J." Correspondent, Mr. Kerr.

Mr. Manson, from Glasgow, was welcomed to the meeting. The agenda of the Conference was

dealt with, and the views of the members were made known to the Scottish representatives.

A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring District Secretary, Mr. Cheyne, and to the members from the outposts.

Communications for the new District Secretary should be addressed—Mr. B. A. Groat, Watch House, Victoria Dock, Leith.

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## C. & E. DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.

The eighty-sixth meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on June 29th, 1927, the chair being taken by A. J. Dyke, Esq., C.B., C.B.E., Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

### COLLECTORS' OFFICES.

Agreements were reached, on the basis of a Special Committee's report, on the staffing, etc., of the following offices and sub-offices:—Belfast, Edinburgh, Manchester (Excise), Middlesbrough, Southampton, Sunderland and West Hartlepool.

All the offices in the country having been dealt with, with the exception of those at Harwich and Folkestone, where material changes in the work are being effected, the Special Committee was discharged, and the Council recorded appreciation of the work performed. Similar business will in future be referred to the Departmental Clerical Class Committee for treatment.

### TRANSFERRED "P" CLASS CLERKS.

The Staff Side asked for an assurance that "P" Class Clerks receiving the pay of Grades I. or II. Temporary Clerks should not be transferred from the Department while those receiving Grade III. pay were available for transfer, as only the last were not liable to suffer loss of pay thereby. The Official Side stated that the question would be examined, but in the meantime every effort would be made to give effect to the Staff Side's views.

### MESSENGERS.

It was agreed to increase the complement of Established Messengers at Headquarters to eleven, subject to the reconsideration of one of the posts at the next vacancy.

### LEAVE.

It was agreed that consideration would be given to individual applications by the Coast Preventive Men stationed at seven comparatively inaccessible places in Scotland for extra leave

not exceeding two days, where the applicant was proceeding on leave to places in the South of England for family or other good reasons.

### FILLING OF VACANT STATIONS.

Procedure was agreed for filling vacant Coast Preventive Stations, any Coast Preventive Man being entitled to petition for transfer at his own expense after serving one year in any station.

### CLERKS' DUTIES.

The Council having confirmed, at its previous meeting, a local agreement terminating the practice by which Clerks in the Collector's Office opened imported postal packets and decided liability of the contents to duty, and the Staff Side having then suggested the advisability of issuing a General Order to prevent the adoption of the practice elsewhere, the Official Side now stated that there appeared to be no ground for the issue of such instructions, but that the question would be reconsidered if it were found that Clerks were being so employed in other places.

### OTHER MATTERS.

The Council dealt with a number of other decisions advised by Local, Office and Grade Committees, with results that have been advised to the Committees concerned. The Local agreements included a number relating to the appointment of Fixed Officers, Fixed Officers and Collection Unattached Officers.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, July 27th, 1927.

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## A FRESH START.

A pal of mine said to me the other day, "Ben, I saw an account of your death in the 'South Wales Daily News.'"

Naturally I was upset, so I went and saw the Editor at once. "Look here, my friend," he said, "we never contradict anything we have published, but I'll tell you what I will do. I'll put you in the births column to-morrow and give you a fresh start." What hopes!

B.J.B.

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## ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

INKY: Please let us have your name and address; otherwise we shall be unable to identify you.

# PARLIAMENT.

By "CARACTACUS."

## V.—SOME VICISSITUDES.

The "Statutes of Labourers" which we mentioned in the last issue were typical examples of that kind of legislation which has been introduced now and again that cannot be carried out; a kind of legislation which is fraught with danger to the constitution. We still have it thrust upon us from time to time even in these enlightened days. Even the attempt to enforce such legislation is provocative of contempt for the law as an institution, with all that that contempt involves.

But the "Statutes of Labourers," evil as they were, did have some good effect, for the strength of feeling about them in the country eventually killed the oppressive measures of the property owners who formed the House of Commons, and stimulated a demand for reform. The speeches in the House assumed a note of strength which a short while before would have cost the guilty one his head, and concessions which the king was compelled to make became more and more far reaching.

Before the Wars of the Roses, Parliament passed through some great basic changes. The House of Lancaster held the throne by Parliamentary sanction, so that the House had a much augmented power which was out of all proportion to its executive efficiency, that is to say, a power which it could but imperfectly digest. As a result we find that although Parliament greatly increased its power, this only bore good fruit in after years, and a fact which may have contributed to this is that the Lancastrians were what we nowadays call "high-brows," people who put education and the abstract of things before efficiency, which latter was the Yorkist ideal.

The struggle between the two was a fight between these ideals. The latter, of course, won, resulting in a highly efficient government of the bureaucratic type. It was not an unmixed blessing, because political education for the time being took a back seat. It could not be otherwise in any bureaucratic system, and therein lies the main reason why it could never be permanent, because democracy demands that where efficiency clashes with educational advancement, the latter must stand, and that is a failing of democracy, although in the long view

it may be that a temporary loss of that kind may bring a much greater future again.

I think, if this aspect of the Wars of the Roses were stressed, students of history would cease to regard it as a scratch-penny civil war, they would gain a more true understanding of the significance of the period, and their boredom over what seems to be a mere squabble would disappear.

At this time we find that Members of Parliament would return, at the end of each session, and give to the constituents an account of the work of Parliament, perhaps because they would not have received their pay otherwise. But if that procedure were adopted to-day, how much more illuminating it would be than a doped and doctored Press!

In the middle of the fifteenth century another notable change occurred. Previously only knights could represent the shires, and it had been difficult to find those who were willing; now, from 1455, it was allowed that where a knight could not be found, a squire might be appointed, and about this time, too, people began to regard it as a fine thing to be elected, and the old unwillingness among the commoners disappeared. The nobles had long realised the desirability of getting their representatives elected to further their own nefarious ends; not that this "cut much ice," for about two-thirds of the House of Lords were ecclesiastics, who thus had everything their own way.

Now knights of the shires were elected in the shire courts, and as the higher gentry tended to neglect those courts, the electoral power seems to have devolved more and more on the more lowly property holders, until the gentry felt the urge of class, and in the early fifteenth century petitioned for restriction of the franchise, and in 1429 it was duly restricted to "forty-shilling freeholders." (Note that this would be twenty times as much of pre-war money.) These people were the main body of the electorate right until the thirties of last century, and they were the real power which fought the tyrannies of the Stuarts, kept the country on its feet through the turbulent period of the Reformation, and which made possible the revolution which culminated in the Bill of Rights (1689) that gave us such

a sturdy foundation on which to build. It is noteworthy that at this time women, as such, were not disqualified from voting, but attendance at a shire court was not a privilege; it was deemed a responsibility to be avoided if possible, and as they performed military service by proxy, they voted in the same way.

We must examine this Bill of Rights more closely. It definitely limited royal power, established kingship by the will of Parliament, and laid it down that no future king or his consort might be a Roman Catholic. The second of these was the most important. The supremacy of Parliament was a confirmed fact. The Act of Settlement (1701) clinched matters by setting aside the hereditary principle once and for all, and caused the succession, after the death of Anne without heirs, to pass to the nearest Protestant branch of the Stuart line, namely, the House of Hanover, of which Victoria was the last. This supremacy of Parliament is undoubtedly good, as is exemplified by the fact that there has been no conflict with the Crown now for more than a century.

Representation of the towns in the fifteenth century is much more hazy. We cannot find who really elected Members of Parliament, but probably the sheriff, when selecting a town to be represented, would often also choose a burgher and well-nigh force him to act for that town. When the towns formed definite organised corporations, these would assume the right of electing their representatives, and in the fulness of time, popular confusion of the corporation with the town council would probably lead to the elective conception which is confirmed and legalised in the constituencies of to-day.

The whole process of government right up to this time had been for a body representative of the people to tabulate their desires and present them to the king, and the struggle which began between Parliament and Crown was an endeavour on the part of the former to establish that those who did the actual work of government should be representatives of the people and have their goodwill as represented in the Commons. It was now determined that Commons might request the king to call new ministers and he must do so, but that both the ministry and Commons might appeal to the electorate, thus, while it is true that Commons might end a ministry, it is equally true that a ministry might end a Parliament. That is, of course, still the position to-day, and it is an important part of our Constitution.

As we have said before, this Parliamentary supremacy did receive something of a set-back

under the Tudors, superficially, at any rate. It was probably the feeling that while the Crown ruled in accordance with public desire, finer principle did not matter over much. Apathy would be assisted by the fact that it was a period of expansion in trade and colonisation, when men could not be bothered with politics. Such times have always been marked by stagnation in Parliament. It was, too, a time of danger from the two great nations of Europe—France and Spain—and in a time of external danger, internal liberty is apt to take great strides, so that the need was for strong rather than for popular government. At that time our position was analogous to that of Germany before the Great War. As has been pointed out previously, you must remember also that the Tudors kept their fingers on the pulse of the nation to some purpose.

This the Stuarts did not do, nor did they credit the people with any great degree of intelligence, and so they failed as some of our statesmen are failing even to-day. Then the value of money was debased by the acquisition of wealth from the Americas to a much greater extent than Parliament could quite realise, and the undoubted extravagance of the reigning house was much accentuated. Again, Parliamentary power rested largely on custom, while James I. was a creature of his lawyers, who interpreted his relations with the House and the people in terms of law, causing a contest between legal rights on the one hand and customary rights on the other. It was a battle of cross-purposes, and the Stuarts were, to a great extent, the victims of circumstance, while their greatest mistake was to deal with custom in terms of law and vice-versa. They had against them a return of pre-Tudor political zeal in the persons of men like Hampden and Pym, who had the Tudor ideal of strong government, and this, together with a growing competition for election to Parliament and the great religious break, finally brought about their downfall. Parliament stressed the point that the King's ministers must have their confidence. After Buckingham they attacked Strafford, and ultimately won the point, as the voice of the people always will, and as the people recently did in Germany. If a ruler insists on being his own adviser, or appointing advisers who are mere echoes of himself, those who disagree with existing policy automatically become rebels, and if they are a majority, the ruling head will succumb to them when the power of force fails him. That happened with Napoleon III. and the Kaiser, as it happened with Charles I.

When Parliament tried to fix the responsibility for misrule on Buckingham and Strafford and thrust them and every other minister away, they were confronted, despite themselves, with the King's person as the real centre of it all. It was impossible, in the circumstances, for them to do other than they did.

The war came, and left the country divided into four camps, namely, the King, Parliament, the Scots, and the Army. The Scots were bought off, as was their desire, the King was beheaded, Parliament was driven forth by Cromwell, and the Army was left, the autocratic head of the country, imbued with a vastly different idea from the Presbyterianism of Parliament. The whole of the past was swept away, and there could have been an entirely new beginning of political history in this country with the power of custom and precedent destroyed. Why, with such a man as Cromwell at the head of affairs, did this not happen? It was just that the conservative nature of the Englishman made it impossible to eradicate his love of the customary, and that affection proved stronger than the Army. I offer this for the consideration of those pessimists who fear a great upheaval in this country. We are not, and cannot be, a revolutionary people. We dislike radical changes intensely, to the point of hatred.

It was the tragedy of Cromwell's life that he failed to build up, for this reason, a better Constitution on entirely new institutions; he failed to produce his idea of Utopia, and all that was left to the country to do after his death was to bring back, with every evidence of passionate joy, all the things which had apparently been destroyed so gleefully a decade before.

So much for our capacity for revolution.

Throughout the whole of the period, then, we see that the power of the throne depended on the personality of the king; it waxed and waned from absolutism to abject beggarliness according as the nobility and the people were strong or weak, or apathetic, according as expansion in trade and colonisation increased or diminished; but this fact stands out above all else, that there was a constant trend in the direction that the king should become a mere figurehead, and that the real sovereignty should become vested in the people through their representatives in Parliament.

## BETWEEN TIDES.

### PARAGRAPHS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

#### LONDON.

We have just heard the result of the Newport v. London chess match, and have to congratulate Newport on its win by 2 games to 1. Unfortunately, London is not yet in the position to issue challenges, but the little circle of chess "fiends" is gradually growing, and before long we hope to be able to challenge the larger ports. Nothing could be better or more interesting than an Inter-Port Tournament.



#### MIDDLESBROUGH.

The newly-formed Customs Cricket Club, Middlesbrough, this week had the satisfaction of turning the tables on two local teams who had previously defeated us by enormous margins. On Monday evening, July 18th, we met Dormans Ironworks eleven, and in a very keen game on their ground achieved the fine score of 117 against their 82, on the following evening defeating the Stainton C.C. in a close game on the home ground by the narrow margin of two runs. Our players are very keen, and have shown great signs of improvement since the Club was started two months ago.



## WAR BONUS ARREARS.

### CIVIL SERVICE JOINT COMMITTEE.

IMPORTANT. Parliament Mansions,  
Victoria Street,  
London, S.W.1.

Negotiations with the Treasury in connection with the appointment of an independent arbitrator to adjudicate on outstanding War Bonus claims appear to be nearing completion. It will shortly be necessary to lay down a time limit for claims, and any claimant, therefore, who has not already tabled his claim should do so, **through his appropriate Association**, not later than August 15th.

The claim should, in every case, give the fullest possible details, including the reason for refusal of payment.

J. W. BOWEN, Chairman.

A. C. WINYARD, Secretary.



The Hospital Saving Association is keeping Mr. Bishop very busy. There has been a fair response to the invitation to join this most useful scheme, and already advantage has been taken of the facilities offered. The first green voucher has been issued to an officer in London. We understand that negotiations have been opened up with hospitals in the provinces with a view to their giving treatment under the H.S.A. scheme.

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The Civil Service Housing Association has issued a new booklet, at once enlightening and informative. The success of this Association is shown in the fact that extended activities are announced. It is gratifying to note that the Association is now prepared to assist any Civil Servant without distinction of Grade or of Association and free of any entrance fee or subscription.

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In a letter which accompanies the booklet, and signed by the Chairman and Secretary, it is explained that the C.S. Housing Association is the sequel to an unsuccessful attempt by the Staff Side of the N.W.C. to persuade the Government to give an example to other large employers by making such special arrangements for Civil Servants to acquire their own houses as would prove to be a contribution on a substantial scale towards the solution of the housing problem. What the Government are not prepared to do for their own employees, Civil Servants can in a great measure do for themselves, provided they will organise their own credit power. A single year's experience has more than justified the hopes of those who called the Association into being. The primary purpose of the Association is to provide facilities for Civil Servants to acquire their own houses, not to make profits.

Up to date over 300 mortgage advances have been made, amounting to over £200,000.

They urge Civil Servants to always consult the Association first in any matter connected with housing.

Appearing in this issue is a review of Dr. Finer's book, "The British Civil Service." It is a very useful work and is of peculiar interest to Civil Servants. We cannot, however, allow to pass unnoticed the reference to our own Association, which is wrongly described as the "Customs and Preventive Staff." The statement appears that we, together with other Associations, are affiliated to the Trade Union Council. We certainly were affiliated to the Labour Party, but never have been to the Trade Union Council.

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The absence of a report of the recent Conference is explained on another page by the General Secretary.

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### PREVENTIVE OFFICERS' GUIDE.

Does this very useful booklet, recently published for use by the officers of the Preventive Staff, meet your requirements? Is it all you could wish? Is it just what you would compile yourself, or would you make some useful additions? The V.E.C. offers 10/0 for the letter containing the best suggestions for the improvement of the Preventive Officers' Guide. Send your letter to the Editor, 91, Tressillian Road, London, S.E.4, so as to reach us not later than August 22nd.

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### NATIONAL WHITLEY COUNCIL FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

At the thirty-third meeting on July 1st the following formula was adopted:—

"In any case where it appears to either side of the Council that it is necessary or desirable to examine the outcome of any general arrangement to which the National Council is committed, the matter shall be referred to a Special Committee consisting of two or three members of the Official and Staff Sides of the Council respectively, whose business it would be to provide the Council with an agreed statement of the relevant facts of the matter, together with any recommendations that they may be in a position to make for the guidance of the Council as to the steps, if any, which should appropriately be taken either by way of a more precise definition of the existing scheme or by way of amendment of the existing scheme. In the light

of this Committee's report, it would be open to the Council to consider what steps might so be taken in order to secure a mutually acceptable settlement of the matter."

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## "THE BRITISH CIVIL SERVICE."

By HERMAN FINER, D.Sc. (Econ.), London.  
The Fabian Society, 2s.

Although we in the Waterguard would appear to be looked upon by many as mere hewers of wood and drawers of water, and are only too often treated as such, nevertheless, we are always prepared to stand on guard against unwarranted attacks on the Civil Service, of which it may one day be appreciated we form no unworthy part. In this task we have an able ally in the person of Dr. Finer, who, in his "British Civil Service," explains with a wealth of knowledge and signal ability what such a title really means. Although this publication is humbly described as an "Introductory Essay," it covers a very wide field. Such questions as the growth and reform of the Service, Parliament, the Public, Civic Rights and Whitleyism all receive treatment.

At times when one reads certain of the attacks made by, what the author describes as the "vulgar newspapers," one would almost be led to think that the Civil Service is wholly unnecessary or that, at the very least, it is an expensive luxury. As is pointed out, however, to a modern State a Civil Service is absolutely essential, and all cras of civilisation have known such an institution, though its character has varied widely in accordance with time and place. The greatest admirers of the British Civil Service will be prepared to admit that it has its imperfections, which are largely the result of the fact that, after all, the human beings who control it are neither infallible nor impeccable. One, however, would be quite justified in claiming, even taking into account its drawbacks, that it has yet to be equalled for its organisation, its personnel and its spirit.

Dealing with the question of the growth of Public Departments, Dr. Finer shows a keen sense of understanding. He points out that the industrial revolution compelled society to equip itself to meet new material obligations on a vast scale: health, poverty, education, communications, trade, agriculture, and so forth, and showed elements which demanded large scale

regulation. "Consequently, State regulation spread wide and deep." Since the revolution referred to, society tends year by year to become more highly complex and, naturally, demands more regulation than would be necessary in a simpler state. Consequent on this, the problem which is continually presenting itself is, as has been stated by a prominent authority, "to frame and direct machinery of control for free men, jealous of their liberty, and to reconcile tolerable order with indispensable liberty."

His remarks on the alleged unbusinesslike methods of the Service are equally pointed when he states "its principle is equity, not salesmanship. It treats all its clients alike and does not charge what the markets can bear, or make a profit on one citizen to recoup itself for its losses on another."

Too often do we hear of the secure and stable life of the Civil Servant. Dr. Finer reminds the critics that, in point of fact, the legal position of the Civil Servant is very insecure. That he is legally liable to instant dismissal, that he has no case in the Courts for wrongful dismissal and damages, and that, by Statute, the Treasury is the final authority on questions of superannuation, are a few points which it would be well for an ill-informed public to digest.

In treating of Whitleyism its vital weakness is touched upon. It is pointed out that no statute founded it and that the Councils derive their power simply from agreement between the two sides. It is rightly stated that "the Official Side are still, in some cases, despotic, and that the Treasury representing the Government is too often prepared to evade agreements which cost money and energy."

The final chapter is concerned with answering the question, "What will be the position of the Civil Service under Socialism?" If the book had no other recommendation, the manner of treatment of this question would alone justify it.

When the public attack the Civil Service with such religious fervour as they do to-day, one is almost justified in concluding that what they really wish to attack is the industrial state which reigns. Without doubt, they are restless and dissatisfied, the result of being conscious that something is materially wrong which they are unable to diagnose. It may be that, after all, Mr. Hilaire Belloc is right when he contends that the servile state is commencing. Perhaps the public, in some fragmentary manner, can visualise it only through the operations of the Civil Service. If that be so, the words of Mr.

G. K. Chesterton are worthy of recall: "There are moods in which a man considering that conclusion of our story (The Servile State) is half inclined to wish that the wave of Teutonic barbarism had washed out us and our armies altogether; and that the world should never know anything more of the last of the English, except that they died for liberty."

J. C. O'SHEA.

## QUESTIONS—AND ANSWERS.

By "GEN."

Who is it rules the Conference  
With kindly hand but firm;  
Encouraging the good intent,  
But quick to make us squirm  
Should we attempt to waste the time  
With irrelevant word,  
And give us what I've heard sometimes  
Referred to as "the bird"?  
Who does his best to make our lot  
A better one by far,  
And shows us that we've really hitched  
Our wagon to a star?  
Whose efforts, say, have done so much  
Our hearts and minds to gladden?  
Can you not guess it? Yes, of course,  
It only can be —

Who is the man that takes the wheel  
And steers our ship along;  
Whose leisure moments all are ours,  
Whose life's not "one sweet song"?  
Whom do we fly to when perturbed,  
Keen to enlist his aid?  
And who's the man we always slang  
Should slight mistake be made?  
Who is our counsellor and friend,  
Whichever side we err on?  
Why! it must surely be, it is,  
The one and only —

Who looks at the financial side  
Of every undertaking  
On which the P.S.A. embarks,  
Fantastic schemes well raking,  
With common sense and solid fact,  
And figures you can't alter,  
With words that never fail to make  
The visionaries falter?  
Who runs his job just as it should  
Be run? Why, sure as mutton,  
You've guessed it right first time, it is  
That expert we call —

Whom do we at Headquarters find  
His task each day increasing;  
His thoughts intent upon our good  
And never word of ceasing;  
Though night by night he be employed  
At office work so dreary,  
Turns up again next night for more  
With manner brisk and cheery?  
Who is it plans and well conceives  
Almost each innovation  
That always for our uplift makes  
And fills us with elation?  
Who, in the background, does his bit?  
You've realised by now well.  
The man whom I refer to is  
Our benefactor —

Clues to missing words will be found in  
P.S.A. Membership Card, page 2.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

### TRANSFERS.

Preventive Officers: Hyland, L. W., Portadown Land Barrier, Belfast, to Liverpool; Thomson, W. G., Liverpool, to Bangor, Chester.

Assistant Preventive Officers: Exchange—Smith, H., Blyth, Newcastle, with Stewart, D. C., North Shields, Newcastle.

### PROMOTIONS.

Assistant Preventive Officers to Preventive Officers: Buchanan, W. W., London, to Barry Dock, Cardiff; Walter, V. H., Gravesend, London, to Fishguard, Swansea.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

Retirements.—Preventive Officer: Forth, F. J., Dartmouth, Plymouth. Assistant Preventive Officer: Morrell, F., Bridgwater, Bristol.

### VACANCIES.

Waterguard Superintendent, 1st Class, London, 3.8.27.

Chief Preventive Officer, Upper Section, Grimsby, 18.8.27.

Preventive Officer, Blyth, Newcastle, 30.7.27.

Preventive Officer, Granton, Leith, 1.9.27.

### OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Graham, J. J., Preventive Officer; Harbottle, J., Preventive Man.

## C. & E. ORPHANS', WIDOWS' AND WAR MEMORIAL FUND.

At the quarterly meeting held on July 4th, applications for membership from 72 members of the staff were considered, and all were duly elected as members. The income for the quarter amounted to £603 11s. 5d., which included a donation of £25 from Mr. Andrews, Surveyor, on his retirement.

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from the Inland Revenue Department stating that in view of the new rule adopted at the annual meeting, they were now prepared to regard the Fund as established for charitable purposes only within the meaning of the Income Tax Acts.

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## CRICKET.

### LONDON v. GRAVESEND.

On Saturday, July 16th, the cricket section of the Gravesend Sports Club met the London Waterguard South Side C.C. on the Gravesend ground at Chalk. The result was a win for Gravesend by 91 runs.

As usual, "Old Sol" was conspicuous by his absence, and weather looked very much like putting a damper on an afternoon of sport, but the Weather Clerk favoured us, and the afternoon was an enjoyable one. The recent heavy rains made foothold rather difficult for bowlers and batsmen alike, but notwithstanding this, some remarkable bowling and batting was seen. London took first knock, but could do nothing against the bowling of Lucas and Brown, and were all out before the tea interval for the total of 31. Farmer, who scored 9, was the only one to withstand the bowling for any length of time and made several good hits. Lucas finished with the remarkable bowling average of 6 wickets for 10 runs, and Brown 3 for 13.

Lucas came to the fore in Gravesend's innings in the capacity of a batsman. He is known as a hard hitter and lived up to his title. Twice he hit the ball out of the ground. He was ably partnered by Grey, and London's score was passed without the loss of a wicket. Brown commenced in a rather restrained manner, but put in some energetic work before being bowled by Steers. The London bowlers met with more suc-

cess afterwards, and by 7.30 Gravesend were all out for 122, Varney carrying his bat for 12.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson, who keenly followed the whole of the game. Mr. Blake, until recently C.P.O. at Gravesend, was also present. Mr. Merron was one of those who accompanied the team from London.

Gravesend are due to meet London again on August 31st at Lower Sydenham.

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## C. AND E. SPORTS CLUB.

### ATHLETICS.

What the Customs and Excise Athletic Club lacks in publicity it more than makes up for in ability, but although little is heard of the Club's activities in Service journals, its performances do not escape the notice of the daily Press. For instance, the other day the "Evening Standard," commenting upon the remarkable series of successes of the Club relay team, and upon the possibility of staging a relay match between the Customs and the Rest of the Civil Service, said:

" . . . and there is little doubt that they have the finest string of sprinters of any club in the Service. Although there is an inclination in certain circles to doubt the ability of the Customs to beat any other four sprinters in the Service, it must be remembered that they are, by virtue of keen practice, extremely efficient in taking over the baton, and this asset should enable them to win the match."

The Customs team would be selected from: P. A. G. Gummer (Irish Athletic Club), Statistical Office; R. C. Jarvis (Poly. Harriers), London Central Excise; W. Quimby (Herne Hill Harriers), A. and C.G.; H. Titherly (Belgrave Harriers), Stores Dept.; R. Coulthard (South London Harriers), Chief Inspector's; and A. E. Iffe (Oxford University A.C.), Secretaries' Office.

The Service would be able to call upon Fred Gaby and D. Crowley, both of the British Olympic team, and Jack Gillis, who is also an English International; so the Customs would be up against no mean opposition, and yet the "Evening Standard" thinks they "should win."

However, the fact remains that down at Stamford Bridge the Customs won the most gruelling event in Service athletics, the Mile

Relay in four quarters, for the Nathismus Challenge Shield. A strong team took the field—Gummer, Jarvis, Titherly and Quimby—and won by a street. Later the same team won the championship and the Turner Challenge Salver for the third consecutive year. During the season the Club has fielded teams which have won over every combination of distances and against every club in the Service, so it hasn't its name for nothing.

The match of which the "Evening Standard" speaks is to be staged at the Customs and Excise Third Annual Sports at Chiswick on August 11th. Doubtless many members of the Customs will seize this opportunity of viewing the new Headquarters of Civil Service sport, and its fine pavilion (and its bar). A closely packed evening's sport is assured, and the whole will be rounded off with a dance in the Pavilion Hall.

The Waterguard has its fist very firmly upon the Chief Preventive Officers' Tag-of-War Challenge Cup, and the promoters of the events would be only too pleased to welcome a Waterguard invasion into each and every other event.

Any way, a hearty invitation is extended to the Waterguard Service to join us both in the social and the athletic sphere. V.J.P.

- |              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| 18. Kt—B3    | P—KB4 |
| 19. B—K3     | P×P   |
| 20. B×QKt    | B×B   |
| 21. P×P      | KR—K1 |
| 22. B—B3     | B×Kt+ |
| 23. P×B      | P—Q4  |
| 24. O.O.O    | P×P   |
| 25. B—Kt2    | R×R+  |
| 26. K×R      | P—K6  |
| 27. K—K2     | R—K4  |
| 28. B—B3+    | K—Kt1 |
| 29. P—B1     | R—KR4 |
| 30. Resigas. |       |

The Round 3 game between Mr. B. H. Clark, Weymouth, and Mr. W. W. Bishop, Sharpness, was played in London, and took over 80 moves, Bishop having finally won the point.

The Club requires more members for friendly games or to learn.

## WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB CUP TOURNAMENT.

### SECTION 1—ROUND 3.

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| F. G. Boodle, A.P.O.,<br>Newport.<br>White. | A. Hardie, C.P.O.,<br>Ayr.<br>Black. |
| 1. P—K4                                     | P—K4                                 |
| 2. P—KB4                                    | P×P                                  |
| 3. Kt—KB3                                   | P—KKt4                               |
| 4. B—B4                                     | P—Kt5                                |
| 5. Kt—K5                                    | Q—R5 (disc +)                        |
| 6. P—KKt3                                   | P×P                                  |
| 7. Q×KtP                                    | P—Kt7+                               |
| 8. Q×Q                                      | P×R and becomes Q                    |
| 9. B—B1                                     | Kt—KR3                               |
| 10. P—Q3                                    | B—KKt2                               |
| 11. Q—KR5                                   | P—Q3                                 |
| 12. Q—KB3                                   | Q×Q                                  |
| 13. Kt×Q                                    | Kt—QB3                               |
| 14. P—QR3                                   | B—KKt5                               |
| 15. B—K2                                    | B×Kt                                 |
| 16. B×B                                     | Kt—Q5                                |
| 17. B—Q1                                    | O.O.O                                |

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