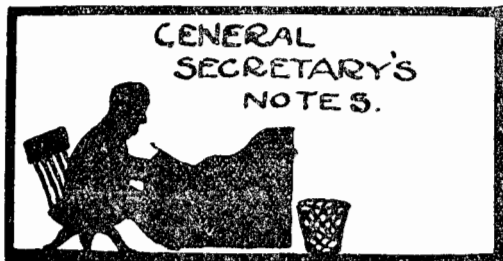


The Customs Journal.

No. 590.

June 4th, 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 numbers attending the Albert Hall Mass Meeting on May 27th were certainly not so large as at the previous gigantic Demonstration of Civil Servants held when a reduction of pay was dangerously threatening. But the meeting was large enough and representative enough to give emphatic expression of the views held generally throughout the Civil Service regarding Clause 5 of the Trade Unions and Trades Disputes Bill. Anyone who imagines that, because only about 5,000 people attended, the feeling against the proposed measure has been overrated is making a very sad mistake.

A most significant fact regarding this new Bill is that never before has there been such consensus of opinion amongst Civil Servants as on this particular issue. On every hand one hears indignation expressed by persons of every shade of political belief.

There is no doubt, however, that many Civil Servants, though strongly opposed to Clause 5, found themselves debarred by their own sense of loyalty to the State from attending what they mistakenly supposed would be a political meeting. The meeting was, of course, absolutely devoid of any political aspect. But the atmosphere that has surrounded the introduction of the Bill is such that many have been led to think that Clause 5 is inextricably mixed up in politics. Such is not the case, and this was made doubly clear at the Albert Hall Meeting.

Clause 5 is intended to place new restrictions upon all Civil Servants—not on any particular section, but upon the whole Service. It would be obviously illogical and unjust to class any indi-

vidual as a political partisan merely because he resented the imposition of restrictions which in his opinion are unwarranted and injurious.

A fairly accurate picture of what the Bill aims at, so far as Civil Servants are concerned, is to be found in the following extract from the speech of Major Cadogan during the debate in Parliament: "Surely, we in this House must envy the situation of the Civil Servant, removed above political strife. With the exception of yourself, Mr. Speaker, who in your high office are removed from the contagion of party politics, everyone in this House must envy the situation of the Civil Servant. On a recent occasion I was challenged by Mr. Bowen to define the whole duty of the Civil Servant. Surely it is a simple matter to do that. He ought to be capable, he ought to serve the Government of the day faithfully and loyally, and he ought to be capable of transferring his allegiance from the outgoing Government to the incoming Government with the same agility as was displayed by the Vicar of Bray. If I may be allowed to adapt a phrase of a famous predecessor of yourself in the Chair, the Civil Servant in his official capacity must have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak except as the Government of the day directs."

Is it possible that this description of themselves can send a thrill of pride through the ranks of Civil Servants? There is probably some truth, after all, in the newspaper assertions that the ideal State servant is devoid of business ability. Such qualifications as he is apparently expected to possess would qualify him for the "sack" from any reputable business concern.

* * * *

The principal speakers at the Mass Meeting were Messrs. Bowen, Llewellyn, Brown and Houghton. The speeches were all excellent, and dealt strictly with the possible effects of Clause 5 upon the Civil Service. The arguments were mainly towards showing that legislation for controlling Civil Servants should have no place in a Bill designed to prevent General Strikes. It was declared, and wholeheartedly approved by the meeting, that the Service Associations had never shown the slightest inclination to use the strike weapon, and that there was no likelihood whatever of them ever desiring to use it. None of the organisations had authority within their constitutions to call a strike.

A good deal of amusement was caused by the quoting from certain newspapers of some really very absurd statements against the Civil Service. These Press statements, though casting serious reflections upon Government servants, were so foolishly inaccurate that only their lighter side was seen, and the laughter was great.

By the time these Notes appear the Executive will have completed the business for which they meet on June 1st and the two succeeding days. As early as possible notification will be sent to the Districts regarding decisions in connection with the forthcoming Council Meeting. The draft Annual Report will be in the hands of every Councillor, together with agenda papers. Each District Secretary is no doubt already making arrangements for holding a meeting to deal specially with these matters as soon as full details of Council business come to hand.

Members are urged to make every endeavour to attend these meetings so that Councillors may be enabled to come to the Conference fully acquainted with the views of their constituents. It should not be forgotten, however, that a Councillor who comes to London bound up with hard and fast instructions is wasting railway fare. It is, of course, imperative that District opinion should have full expression at the Conference, but in the majority of cases the Councillor should be allowed to use his own intelligence when voting.

As I have said on previous occasions, Conference delegates are as a rule extremely loyal to their constituents, and there is really nothing to be gained by tying down a representative to vote definitely on a certain question—except, of course, in very exceptional circumstances. Nothing can be more pathetic than the Councillor compelled to vote for something which has been clearly and logically proved in open debate to be wrong or undesirable.

* * * *

There are very few resolutions down for discussion this year, but there is ample material to occupy the Conference regarding business adjourned, and happenings throughout the year bearing on Waterguard affairs.

It is possible that a review of our position under the Trades Union Bill will be necessary. There are likely to be several points for careful discussion.

The Vocational Education Scheme will also have to be tackled seriously. The Scheme is very promising, and it is hoped that District meetings will provide Councillors with something substantial in the way of constructive suggestion for developing the work.

Salary claims will, no doubt, be as prominent as usual, but in this connection it is urged that before any District resolutions are passed on this question full consideration be given to appropriate records in Executive minutes for the past twelve months.

* * * *

At the Annual Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation held on Saturday, May 21st, a lengthy discussion took place on the Report upon the secretariat. A change in the system was adopted, with the result that there will be re-organisation within which provision will be made for the post of General Secretary of the Confederation to be held by a serving Civil Servant.

Mr. W. H. James, of the C. and E. Federation, was re-elected as President, and Mr. C. A. W. Sanders was again elected Treasurer.

* * * *

The Annual Report of the Chief Preventive Officers' Association, of which I have received a copy, is a very interesting document this year. Proposals for important modifications in Executive control are outlined. Until now the London members of the Association have automatically formed the controlling body, but in future the various districts throughout the country will have representation direct. The Association is to be congratulated upon the wise step that has been taken. P.S.A. wishes for successful results to the new departure are assured.

* * * *

I have received from Mr. W. W. Bishop, Sheerness, a request to take part in the Chess Club he has organised for the Waterguard. Unfortunately, I have, in company with Messrs. Sutton and Powell, who have received a similar invitation, been compelled to decline. Association work is too exacting to allow of indulgence in anything so leisurely as chess.

I would like to say, however, that enterprise such as Mr. Bishop displays is well worthy of support, and it is hoped that those of our members who are able to do so will take an active interest in the Club. In a scattered membership such as we have, the Chess Club is an excellent and pleasant device for bringing Waterguard Officers more in contact with each other. It is good for the Service and for the Association.

* * * *

The cost-of-living figure still continues to fall. The number for May is 64. The increase in prices for food only, above 1914 level, is 54 per cent.

J. MERRON.

◆◆◆◆◆

A French Canadian chopped down trees in the Canadian woods at a salary of a hundred dollars a year. He never had a holiday. After fifteen years of laying pines low he decided to go to New York and enjoy himself.

On the very first day he happened accidentally upon a card game, and his fingers itched. "I'll chance a five or ten spot," he thought to himself. Within an hour, however, they took his fifteen hundred dollars. The gamblers offered their sympathy, but the woodman merely brushed his trousers, put on his hat and coat and said: "What's the odds? It's just another fifteen years in the woods for me. Easy come—easy go."

* * * *

A very mean friend of mine said to me the other day, "Ben, will you have a little Scotch?" I said "Yes." He obliged by singing me four lines of "Annie Laurie." B.J.B.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

LONDON.

Despite a somewhat smaller attendance than usual, the agenda at the meeting on May 19th was keenly discussed.

The old question of rotation of duties was warmly debated, a number of valuable suggestions being put forward. These are to be submitted to the London Port Committee.

The position regarding the proposed scheme for the re-staffing of the port was thoroughly explained by the representative on the Local Joint Committee.

There were several recommendations to the Council. One was that the Council should meet annually not later than the month of August. A suggestion was also forwarded that consideration should be given to members on extended sick leave in the matter of Association subscriptions.

A proposal was carried that Rule 4, par. 5, should be amended by deleting all after "Assistant Secretary" in line 3.

The Trade Union Bill was discussed in its relation to the Civil Service, and it was recommended that a resolution of protest be placed on record by the Council and forwarded to the support of the Albert Hall meeting.

A considerable amount of time was devoted to the question of honoraria. Opinion had it that there was a lack of consistency in recognising the work of various office-bearers. This resolved itself into a resolution calling upon the Council to undertake revision in this direction.

The meeting voiced its opinion in a resolution to the effect that District Officers should not voluntarily leave their Districts for special service.

The meeting terminated at a late hour.

LIVERPOOL.

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch was held on the 18th ult., with Mr. H. Atwill in the chair. The meeting was well attended.

The reconstitution of the Waterguard Staff in Liverpool was thoroughly discussed, and it was agreed to maintain opposition to one of the points in the Board's proposal.

A resolution urging the Conference to consider a reduction of subscription for A.P.O.'s with less than five years' service was carried.

The meeting expressed its dissatisfaction with the unsatisfactory attitude the Board have recently adopted over the A.P.O. entrance examination and also with refusing to open an avenue for A.P.O.'s desiring to enter the Officer Grade under favourable conditions.

It was decided that the Conference should be recommended to drop the application for separate Waterguard Codes.

The Secretary was given further instructions for the Executive Meeting to be held shortly.

It was remarked that the keenness and enthusiasm of the meeting rivalled that of the time of the reconstruction claim of 1920.

* * * *

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

Owing to the shortness of time at the disposal of the Organising Secretary to conduct the election for A.P.O. Councillor, Liverpool Area, I should be glad if the members in the Area will kindly facilitate matters by promptly returning the ballot papers to the Organising Secretary.

W. G. THOMSON,
P.O. Grade Councillor.

BETWEEN TIDES.

SWANSEA.

The chief officer of the steamer "Baucis" was summoned at Swansea Police Court on May 21st for concealing 50 bottles of brandy. He declared on the arrival of the vessel, and also to Mr. A. L. Martin, A.P.O., attached to Mr. C. Northway's rummage crew, only half a pint of perfumed spirits. The 50 bottles were discovered by Mr. Martin hidden against linen and crockery.

The defendant's explanation, given through an interpreter, was that he had the brandy "for his own consolation."

He was ordered to pay £57 7s., the interpreter's fee, and costs.

CRICKET.

LONDON TEAM MEETS WITH DISASTER.

The match between the London South Side team and the Fambridge XI. produced a most surprising result. Playing a very fine game a fortnight before on the same ground, the C. and E. were put out to field first. The wicket had been freshened by a few hours of rain two days previously. Pescod's wicket-keeping early put the batsmen on their mettle, and run-stealing proved a very risky proposition. Peake brought off two neat catches during the innings. Boundaries were, however, freely scored, and Fambridge closed their innings with a total of 120.

Our innings commenced with disaster, and wickets at once began to fall without the compensation of runs, and James, the opposing bowler, accomplished the remarkable feat of capturing nine wickets for one run. Our team was out for a total of five, and followed on with a score of 38 in the second innings, Fambridge winning by an innings and 77 runs.

PARLIAMENT.

By CARACTACUS.

[Foreword.—Parliament talks and legislates; lawyers interpret the law; but it is administration which gives the Acts of Parliament their significance. The "Administration" is the Civil Service, in the main; and it is surprising how few of its members understand the State which they serve. The purpose of this series is to give, in a palatable form, information of a general character which *may* be of use to them as Civil Servants, but which every man ought to have as a citizen.]

I.—THE CONSTITUTION.

When, some time ago, on joining a certain philanthropic body, I was asked the question, "Are you a true and loyal supporter of the British Constitution?" I confess I scratched my head.

Tocqueville said, "En Angleterre la Constitution peut changer sans cesse: on plutôt elle n'existe point." That is, that it may change endlessly; or, rather, it does not exist. Well, he was wrong.

Without a Constitution, good government is impossible, yet the comparative excellence of British government is so obvious to the meanest student of history that it does not even require discussion.

Foreigners, and particularly those of Tocqueville's time, have always found it difficult to understand English government, because it has its roots in the darkness of those times previous to reliable history, and such forms of government as are largely traditional are foreign to the foreigner.

Tocqueville approached the truth in saying that our Constitution may change ceaselessly. It does, and therein lies its success. Instead of saying it does not exist, he should have said that it is indeterminate.

Do you ask me to define the Constitution, I can only reply that no man ever yet succeeded in doing so, nor is any man ever likely to do so. I can only hazard a sort of explanation.

It is an unwritten hotch-potch of precedents, customs, rights and traditions, interlarded, interwoven with laws founded upon them, apparently aimless, but with an underlying purpose in the direction of national consciousness; it is without definite form, elastic, ever changing, developing, expanding, ever being defined, modified, ever being completed, yet never complete.

I have said that English government is historical, and thus, if one would thoroughly understand a problem of to-day, it may be necessary to go back one hundred years, or even to Norman times.

Our Constitution has evolved, side by side with the evolution of the English people, is in it, with it, of it; and so it is local of type, wholly

and truly national, and, like everything else English, unique. Its elasticity enables the free expression of varying shades of opinion from the die-hard Tory to the most rabid Communist, and we have its due effect without giving the country those hard knocks which have jeopardised, and do even overthrow, more rigid Constitutions.

Particularly in these swift-moving times, when peoples, industries, politics, civilisation even, are ever in a state of flux, a Constitution which can accommodate itself easily and immediately is invaluable, and the surest safeguard against disruption. The evolution of our people is roughly divided into the realisation of—

- (i.) Communal consciousness;
- (ii.) National consciousness;
- (iii.) Industrial and commercial consciousness;
- (iv.) Political consciousness.

I shall try to take you from each to the next in future articles, from the earliest times of which we have definite knowledge right up to the present day, when Young England is trying to break through the barriers of ignorance and poverty to take an active hand in government, and we shall see how the one merges into the other.

My explanation of the Constitution may seem to some of you unsatisfactory, elusive. You may be tempted to think that our Constitution is haphazard; that the excellence of British government is quite accidental. Nothing could be further from the truth. Each point in that Constitution is founded upon a precedent, a custom, or a right, which itself had a very definite reason for its existence. In practice, we find that, because of the conservative nature of our Constitution (which is concomitant with our phlegmatic character), it is a sure safeguard against freak legislation and national instability, for a step having been once taken by the House of Commons, it is a difficult and tedious job to reverse the process or go off at a tangent, while the time taken and the fact that the Constitution is founded on precedent causes sober reflection and a deep sense of responsibility in the minds of our statesmen. Yet, because our Constitution is largely indeterminate, these circumstances do not prevent the occasional courageous, outstanding figures of Parliament from creating new precedents to meet great needs. It is largely in this way that we have, Parliamentarily, progressed so much. To preserve this value of precedent, too, we find, in one instance, when the King levies taxes without in any way consulting Parliament, the latter, being too weak to offer resistance, meets after the lapse of some months, and solemnly endorses the King's action by giving him permission to raise the money of which he is already possessed. Had the matter been ignored a dan-

gerous precedent would have been created, and who knows but that as a result the King even to-day might have power to do the same?

It may be noticed that the significance of precedent is reiterated over and over again, nor can it be stressed too much, for the essence of our system of government is that it shall be representative of the will of the people. If it is not, that is the fault of the people. In the past the voice of the people has been able to make itself heard only by the creation of precedent, and the uncompromising defence of its sanctity. The constitutional points founded on these precedents is from time to time augmented and defined by an Act of Parliament, perhaps brought up to date to meet contemporary needs, with a view to greater clarity of our national code, such as is demanded in these days after the activities of lawyers right from Stewart times, lawyers whose business it has always been to split hairs. Charles II., determined to avoid the pitfalls of his father and possibly live a little longer, did not adopt his sire's policy of Divine Right and defiance of Parliament and its laws, but rather a policy of circumvention through the medium of legal definition, thus he seems to have been the pioneer of the legal age, for which circumstance, at least, we should tender him our thanks, even if at times we *do* feel rather dubious. Nowadays, of course, an Act or Parliament requires not only a declaration of principle, but also very clear definition, before it can be operative. Our Constitution has grown to demand that legislation shall be explicit.

I have suggested that the Constitution and the law have grown up together, and the great landmarks of our history demonstrate this, e.g., Magna Carta (1689), the Act of Settlement (1701), the Reform Acts (1832-1867), and in our own day, the Parliament Act (1911). They have given recognition to existing principles while creating new ones, and have themselves become parts of the Constitution which really gave them birth.

The reiteration of the word "precedent" may further serve to emphasise the difference between Constitution and law. Constitution is the tacit acceptance of principle; law is the definition and embodiment of some of those principles. For instance, the King may legally veto a Bill, yet it would be unconstitutional to do so, nowadays, without the advice of his ministers. He may, without penalty, for he is above the law, break any law of the land. A premier may continue in his office for five years, even though he has lost the confidence of the House. He may introduce and pass through the House legislation exceeding, or even in opposition to, the wishes of the electorate. In my opinion, at any rate, this has been done in our time, but it is none the less unconstitutional, and if the electorate can retain the impression in their minds, this constitutional crime is punished at the next poll.

To sum up, then, our Constitution is an indeterminate mass of principles, rights, precedents and customs, having a core of idealism which has taken form by a process of evolution,

is never complete, being ever in a state of flux, with the manifold intricacies of our changeful political consciousness and needs from year to year. It is a tree, having its roots in the communal conclaves of our tribal ancestors on the mainland of Europe, who by reason of the endless fight with Nature herself for even a bare living developed the habit of "talking things over"; a tree growing up as the logical outcome of a people's temperament, through age after age of the struggles of a hard-bitten nation; a tree which spreads its branches in the present and the future, laden with the fruit of many fresh young nations scattered the world over, leaves and flowers fresh with the sustenance of its vigorous sap. Lop off a branch, it will grow afresh. Demude it of foliage in one great cataclysm, and the potent sap, a nation's pride of race, its painfully evolved instinctive good sense, will cause the shoots to spring afresh, feebly, perhaps, at first, but with growing strength, until the old timber, albeit badly scarred, will burst out once more, with ever-growing pith, well nigh as beautiful as before. To destroy it, you must uproot it, and that you cannot do, for its roots are before modern history was.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

APPOINTMENT.

Assistant Preventive Officer: Cumming, A. P.

TRANSFERS.

Chief Preventive Officer, Upper Section: Imrie, J., Plymouth, to Middlesbrough, Sunderland.

Preventive Officer: Pender, J. W., Cardigan, Swansea, to Plymouth.

Assistant Preventive Officers: Goodliffe, C. H., Cardiff, to Penarth, Cardiff; Simpkin, A. V., Dover, to Swansea; Walter, A. A., London, to Dover.

PROMOTIONS.

Assistant Preventive Officers to Preventive Officers: Hyland, L. W., Manchester, to Portadown Land Barrier, Belfast; Nightingale, F., Hull, to Belfast; Sallaway, A. J. L., London, to Cardiff.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

Retirements.—Preventive Officer: Fitzsimmons, A. H., Belfast. Mate-in-Charge: Kelly, J. T., Liverpool.

VACANCIES.

Mate-in-Charge: Liverpool, 1.6.1927.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Allen, C., Chief Preventive Officer, Lower Section; Duke, G., Chief Preventive Officer, Upper Section.

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The Fourteenth (Annual) Council Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Saturday, May 21st, 1927, in Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. W. H. James presided over an attendance of 72 representatives of 43 constituent organisations, in addition to the officers and other members of the Executive Committee.

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee, the Hon. Treasurer's Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 1927, and the Report on Parliamentary and Publicity Work, were presented and adopted.

Communications were read from the International Federation of Civil Servants and Teachers, calling attention to the persecution of Civil Servants in Greece and the reduction in salaries of Civil Servants in Holland, and also protesting against the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill of the British Government. A report was given by Mr. W. E. Llewellyn of a recent meeting of the Bureau of the International which he had attended on the Continent.

Attention was called to the delay on the part of the Official Side in furnishing certain information desired by the Industrial Court in the case presented by the National Staff Side for the reduction or abolition of the present differentiation in the salaries of certain Civil Servants engaged in the provinces, which originally came before the Court on October 21st, 1926, when the hearing was adjourned pending the submission of such evidence by the Official Side. On the motion of Mr. W. J. Brown, seconded by Mr. C. A. W. Sanders, a resolution was adopted in the following terms:—

“That this Council meeting condemns the delay on the part of the Treasury in producing the information asked for, and which we know is obtainable, and calls upon the Industrial Court to take such steps as will secure the production of this evidence within a reasonable time.”

It was further agreed that copies of this resolution be sent to all Members of Parliament as evidence of the inadequacy and defective working of the present machinery for the redress of Civil Service grievances.

It was reported that, after repeated applications, a reply had at length been received from Sir Russell Scott refusing to receive a deputation from the Confederation for the purpose of urging the claims for sick pay on behalf of those Departmental Classes to whom the grant of sick pay privileges had so far not been extended. A meeting of the Special Committee of the Confederation on Sick Pay for Unestablished Classes was called for May 26th, 1927, to consider this communication from Sir Russell Scott.

It was also reported that the revised proposals of the Confederation for the increase of the retired gratuity to Unestablished Classes

had been adopted by the Staff Side of the Superannuation Committee of the National Whitley Council, and had been placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Joint Superannuation Committee to be held on June 16th, 1927.

Reference was made to the case of Mr. J. Thoms, formerly a ganger employed in Hyde Park, in which superannuation rights for Sunday duty performed for a period of thirty-two years had been refused by the Office of Works. Considerable efforts had been made by the Confederation to secure some concession or modification of the attitude of the Department in this connection, but these efforts had so far proved unavailing. A suggestion was adopted that the officers of the Confederation should consult with representatives of the Royal Parks Employees' Union to see what further steps it might be possible to take.

The overseas organisations affiliated to the Confederation were represented at the Council meeting by Mr. D. M. O'Kelly and Mr. T. O'Shea, the President and Secretary respectively of the Civil Service Federation of the Irish Free State. Mr. O'Kelly briefly addressed the Council, emphasising the desirability of closer co-operation between the Civil Services of Great Britain, the Irish Free State, and Northern Ireland, in view of the similarity of the difficulties and problems which each Service had to face.

Proposals for the re-organisation of the Secretariat of the Confederation were discussed and adopted, involving the termination within the next three months of the services of the present General Secretary and the appointment of a part-time General Secretary who shall be a serving Civil Servant.

It was reported that an All Grades Demonstration, under the auspices of the Civil Service Civil Rights Defence Committee, would be held at the Albert Hall, London, on Friday, May 27th, at 6 p.m., to voice the protest of the Civil Service against Clause 5 of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill. The Confederation would be represented, among other speakers, at this Demonstration by Mr. W. J. Brown, Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, Mr. W. H. James, and Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton.

Mr. W. H. James was re-elected as President and Mr. C. A. W. Sanders as Hon. Treasurer of the Confederation, both without opposition. Mr. G. Chase and Mr. Ross Wyld were re-elected without opposition as Vice-Presidents.

For the six seats on the Executive Committee filled by election at the Annual Council meeting the following were elected: Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, Mr. W. J. Brown, Mr. J. W. Chapple, Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, Mr. E. Rogers, Mr. F. C. Osgood.

For the eleven seats held by the Confederation on the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service, the following were elected: Mr. G. Chase, Mr. G. R. Speed, Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, Mr. C. A. W. Sanders, Mr. W. J. Brown, Mr. R. McC. Beamish, Mr.

Reg. D. Crook, Mr. W. H. James, Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, Mr. W. G. Boys, Miss Rose Smith-Rose.

CRITICISM OF THE BOOKLET.

Does the Booklet, recently published by the V.E.C., supply all your wants? Is it as complete as the one you used to prepare for yourself, or are there features you would like to see embodied in future editions? Your opinion would be of value.

The V.E.C. offers ten shillings for the criticism which is considered the best. Entries, which should be written on one side of the paper only, should reach the Editor by the last post on Monday, August 22nd, 1927, and must include the sender's name and address.

The suggestion of a Civil Service Member of Parliament in another article is rather a novel idea and one that might be enlarged upon. It certainly seems to us that if Civil Servants are to be treated in a sort of specialised way, then they ought, in fairness, to be accorded special privileges to compensate for that loss of freedom which is the inherent right of all Britishers.

HOSPITAL SAVING ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly accounts have been presented for audit, and the returns have been forwarded to headquarters.

The total number of members has now reached sixty-one, and the total amount paid into the bank up to the present is £15 16s. 4d.

It is gratifying to know that such a good result has been achieved during the short time that has elapsed since the idea was first put forward.

Details of the scheme were first published in "The Customs Journal" of March 12th, 1927.

WHY NOT A CIVIL SERVICE M.P.?

By HANNIBAL.

Once again the Civil Servant is called upon to give—and that not voluntarily; he indeed has little to give of his own free will. When the Civil Service is called upon, it is too often by legislation.

The question of affiliation with outside bodies is far wider than first appears in Clause 5, and undoubtedly the freedom of the Civil Servant is about to be seriously curtailed.

Upon the arguments for and against the proposed measure, however, I do not intend to deal with here. The attitude of the Service is well known and needs little elaboration. What I have in mind is something far wider than the mere taking away of privilege. The Government often gives to the Service with one hand and takes away with the other. 'Tis well known. We almost look for it. Seldom does it happen that one hand robs and the other subsequently gives; but a thought has been gradually forming in my mind that in this present case something may be suggested that might possibly bear fruit.

I would suggest that the Cabinet goes a little farther in the case of Civil Servants—that all established Civil Servants be not only prohibited from affiliating with outside bodies, but, if they are to remain aloof, that this aloofness should become a privilege. Let something be put in the place of that which we lose. Whitleyism has not so far been the boon that it was intended to be. The Official Side's use of the Whitley machine leaves much to be desired.

I would, then, suggest that all Civil Servants affected by Clause 5 should cease to exercise the Parliamentary vote in the manner in which it



The evening papers of May 21st announced that the Customs Authorities of France had paid Captain Lindbergh the compliment of announcing that he would be exempted from the usual Customs examination. It would seem at first sight to be an unusually empty sort of compliment, for a voyage under the conditions in which Lindbergh flew unaccompanied across the Atlantic was surely the last occasion in which advantage would be taken to indulge in illegal importations. It was not, however, a question of what he might or might not have carried, very few have the privilege of exemption from examination, for it is almost exclusively confined to Royalty and their representatives, and very high officials of other countries. France has a way of doing things gracefully.

* * * *

This issue contains the first of a series of articles from the pen of one who has written before for this journal. This present series deals with a subject that we hope will be appreciated by many of our readers, for although they are not of direct Association interest, still, they are not altogether dissociated from our affairs. They will tend to give some better understanding of the ways of the mother of parliaments.

"Caractæans" does not attempt to define the Constitution, but, as he says, only attempts to hazard an explanation.

has so far been used by them, and that we be allowed to elect our own representative to Parliament in the same way that the Universities do. We are, admittedly as far as the Cabinet is concerned, a body which should be beyond the influence of any other organisation. Here is the opportunity. Place us on a footing which will give us that representation which the proposed Act will deny to us.

THE ALBERT HALL RESOLUTION.

At the great meeting of Civil Servants at the Albert Hall on May 27th the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

“That this meeting condemns the provisions of Clause 5 of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill as an unwarrantable interference by the Government with the rights of organisation and combination of Civil Servants as employees, and affirms that while Civil Servants are bound to carry out their official duties as servants of the State they have an inalienable moral right, in their capacity as wage-earners, to such forms of organisation and of combination with other wage-earners as, in their judgment, they may think necessary: That Civil Servants assert their rights as citizens to form a judgment on any public issue which arises in the corporate life of the community, and to express and act upon that view, either individually or collectively, through their associations so long as their duties as Civil Servants are not interfered with: That they regard the terms of the Bill as it affects them as an attempt to weaken the power of Civil Service Associations in their efforts to protect the economic position of Civil Servants, and they affirm the determination of the Service to do its utmost to prevent the Clause passing into law, or if it becomes law, to work for its repeal at the earliest possible moment.”

WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB CUP TOURNAMENT.

SECTION 1—ROUND 2.

J. M. Mitchell, A.P.O., E. W. Kidman, A.P.O.,
Leith. Liverpool.

White.	Black.
1. P—K4	P—K4
2. Kt—KB3	P—Q4
3. P×P	P—K5
4. Q—K2	Q—K2
5. Kt—Q4	Kt—KB3
6. Kt—QB3	P—OB4
7. P—Q6	O—K4
8. Kt—B3	R—KKt5
9. Q—Kt5+	B—O2
10. Kt×Q	B×P
11. O×KtP	O—O
12. Q×R	B×Kt and resigns

Entrance for this Cup Contest is now closed, but membership is open for friendly games.

Members are requested to complete their games as soon as possible, in order that the team may be selected to play a match with the Customs Chess Club, if this can be arranged.

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

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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Founded for the purpose of assisting in the Maintenance and Education of the Children of deceased Officers, and affording relief to the Widows of Members left in necessitous circumstances.

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„ £160	„ £350 „ 10/-
„ £350	„ £500 „ 15/-
„ £500 per annum	„ „ 20/-

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