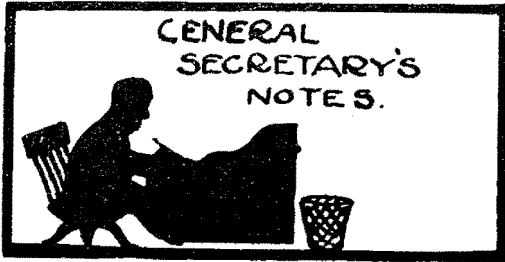


The Customs Journal.

No. 601.

November 5th, 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 examination for promotion to Preventive Officer rapidly approaches, and probably by the time these Notes appear, the names of the candidates will be known. These gentlemen will go through the great ordeal under somewhat different circumstances than have obtained hitherto. It is two years since the last examination, and during that period the long-talked-of scheme for providing standard tuition has come into being, and has had time to develop sufficiently to afford every candidate opportunity for availing himself of the excellent facilities provided.

A large number of those expecting to sit have taken advantage of the scheme. The students have indicated much enthusiastic appreciation of the study courses arranged for them, and there can be little doubt that preparation for the forthcoming test is being tackled by the candidates, generally, in a more workmanlike manner than ever before. Competition is sure to be keener, and there is reason to expect that the standard will improve. There are some people who object to any measure having the effect of raising the standard of the examination, but the majority take the view that this would be a step in the right direction.

In any case, it seems pretty obvious that no candidate can afford to neglect preparation for next February. Some prospective candidates have not yet enrolled for tuition under the Association scheme, and, though this does not necessarily mean that they are not making full preparation, it is pointed out that, to overlook the importance of the new scheme is unwise. The safest course is to enrol, even though private tuition is taken at the same time.

The Central Committee have realised that difficulties regarding payment of fees might prevent some officers from becoming pupils, and therefore I am asked to state that reasonable arrangements can always be made in this respect. Any member who desires special arrangements, particularly when taking more than one of the courses, is assured of obtaining helpful consideration by applying to the Secretary, Mr. Purser.

* * *

Another very useful feature of the Educational Scheme is the provision of facilities for students to take special intensive courses on any subject within the Regulations. No doubt there will be a demand for papers of this nature during the spell between the end of the course and the commencement of the examination. The Advanced Course consists, in effect, of examination papers, and when a student has completed this course he has a good idea as to his weak subjects, and is thus able to polish them up.

* * *

Part of the papers set at the recent examination for entrance to the A.P.O. Grade are printed in this issue. They show a decided improvement on the pre-war test, but are generally regarded as still too elementary.

Complaint is made that there is practically no difference in the type of questions set, compared with the reconstruction examinations. Since, however, this examination deals with normal recruitment, the true comparison is with that type of examination up to 1914, when normal recruitment was last in full operation. Judged from this standard the value of the improvement can be more accurately assessed.

Information as to the number who took the examination is not available at present, but it is probable there were not more than 400. As far as can be ascertained, a good number of the candidates were fresh from school, and were likely to force the pace at the written test at least.

* * *

The result of the great chess match, referred to in the previous issue, was 297½ for "The Rest of England," and, for the Civil Service, 210½. The Service is quite pleased about it in spite of the defeat.

It will interest members to know that though the Waterguard was represented by only two players, one of them, Mr. W. E. Standing, won his game.

* * *

Waterguard members seem to be gradually coming to realise the existence of the Suggestions Committee. Several individual suggestions have come along lately from our members. Recently a suggestion for a coloured duplicate

slip in the Duty Receipt Book has been adopted. The usefulness of this will be apparent to all who handle these books. The suggestion was submitted by Mr. H. E. Fry, Asst. Preventive Officer.

I hear of another suggestion to be submitted in due course by a Waterguard Officer, which aims at making a somewhat revolutionary change in departmental practice.

* * * *

The first Annual Dinner of the London Waterguard Cricket Club (South Side) was an unqualified success. Eighty-four persons sat down, and at the dance which followed, there were over 230 present.

Mr. C. E. Egan, in the chair, conducted operations in his usual inimitable style. The attendance of Mr. J. Connaway, M.B.E., whose function on this occasion was to present the sports prizes, was much appreciated.

Everyone had an enjoyable evening, and the Club is to be congratulated on the outcome of the venture. It should be remembered, however, that good support was forthcoming from the North Side Club, and it is hoped that there will be reciprocity when the North Side hold their own first Annual Dinner in the early part of next year.

These social affairs are not arranged without a great deal of labour on the part of the promoters, and members should display a willingness to co-operate by attending whenever possible. Movements of this nature are all for the ultimate good of the Department.

* * * *

The articles on Small Port work, contributed by "Vagrith," have been so well appreciated that one cannot help hoping his example will inspire others to contribute to the "Journal" columns. Many officers are making a point of keeping the Small Port articles by them for reference purposes.

* * * *

Arrangements for an Executive Meeting are now in progress, and a date in the last week of November will probably be fixed. Some very knotty problems have to be tackled, and not the least important is the framing of proposals for revision of the method of promotion to the C.P.O. Grade. Instructions were given at the last Council Meeting that a competitive written test should be introduced and that a scheme on these lines should be submitted to the membership for approval.

It is hoped that a Waterguard Sectional Committee Meeting will be possible to fit in with the date of the Executive Meeting. The result of the Annual Leave and Seizure Award negotiations are anxiously awaited.

* * * *

The cost-of-living figure for October is 67, an increase of two points over the previous month. Since the last revision of bonus the increase has been slow and steady, but not so

steep as for the corresponding period last year. If the present tendency continues there is a prospect of a small increase in the bonus at next revision.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

SWANSEA.

The annual meeting was held on Friday, October 21st, at the "Market Café," Swansea. Mr. P. Ould occupied the chair.

The principal business of the evening was the election of officials, the result being as follows:—

Chairman.—Mr. Powell, P.O., Port Talbot.
Vice-Chairman.—Mr. J. R. Conibear, P.O., Swansea.

Local Organiser.—Mr. Bottel, P.O., Swansea.
Local Secretary.—Mr. Knapton, A.P.O., Swansea.

"Customs Journal" Correspondent.—Mr. B. J. Burge, P.O., Swansea.

Whitley Council Representatives.—Messrs. McEnaney, P.O., White and Colburn, A.P.O.'s.

Local matters discussed were those affecting deck cargoes, A.P.O.'s leave, and salary.

COUNCIL ELECTION.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.

Gentlemen,—

Having been nominated for the Council Election (A.P.O. Grade), I take this opportunity of canvassing your votes. You have already been informed of my ideas re wage claim through the medium of the "Journal." In other directions I believe in progression. Should you elect me, however, my own ideas will be of secondary consideration to your wishes, as I believe in every Association official carrying out, as far as is possible, the wishes of the members. In the event of election I will therefore endeavour to be—Your obedient Servant,

E. T. SANDFORD.

FITTING.

I heard a good story the other day about a Gentile who invited four friends to his golden wedding—a Welshman, a Scot, an Irishman and a Jew. The Welshman brought a packet of gold-tipped cigarettes, the Scot brought a fountain pen with a gold nib, and the Irishman a gold-fish in a bowl.

The remaining friend brought his friend, Mr. Goldberg. B.J.B.

PARLIAMENT.

By "CARACTACUS."

XII.—CONCLUSION.

We have, then, a system of government unequalled throughout the world, either in the present or the past, so far as we can determine, in its capacity for equitable conduct of a nation's affairs; an institution without which this country would not be England, and which is revered by the people of every country in the world. It is a system which is far nearer to perfection than is any other, being founded upon the best principles that were in every state system throughout known history. Yet it is still imperfect, and in the very nature of things must always be a shade out of date. Herein lies one of its weaknesses. In these days of swift developments, which change the very foundations of the industry and commerce by which we live, with rapid dislocations of employment and the social order, we need to develop our system so that it shall be less cumbersome, more mobile and elastic; we must remember that our proverbial British phlegm may become a very present danger. Under the constitution as it exists to-day, a Mussolini may arise, and, once having secured a majority, which is seldom indicative of public opinion and often not even of a majority vote, may establish a dictatorship, which, having regard to the inherent traits of British character, would be disastrous, whether it be Communist or the other extreme. We need, in the same way, to guard against the very real tendency to highly centralised autocratic rule. Already we see that neither local authorities, nor the electors who send them there, can exercise very much discretion, and that will not suit the hook of a people who show an ever-rising intelligent interest in local as well as national politics. Indeed, to speak of local authorities at all in these days is almost a misnomer.

As to politics, John Citizen is so impressed with the audacity of the lies and misrepresentations that are bandied from all sides, the specious promises and the equally specious excuses, and it is so obvious that politics merely make a career, that a large and increasing number of him regard the average politician as a master hypocrite. It seems significant that Chambers' describes a politician as "a man of artifice and cunning." We can scarcely wonder that the polls are not true tests of public opinion, nor that elections are won and lost on the appeal which propaganda—which generally means lies—has for the psychology of that great mass of voters who vacillate in their political allegiance, who, in short, know not whom to trust. How can we have real stability under such conditions? We can scarcely blame the Communist for his belief that constitutional means of change are non-effective, although he goes to unreasonable extremes.

Above all, we must never lose sight of the fact, as we are apt to do to-day, that the business of a central government is to direct national affairs and only to guide local ones. Legislation, particularly in social and industrial matters, should as far as possible be permissive, and the compulsory element should only obtrude when absolutely necessary. The man in the street *can* be appealed to through his good sense and fairmindedness, while he detests, with every fibre of his being, prohibitions and fiat alike. It is in the nature of us all to secretly defy the one and to circumvent the other.

There is a growing discontent among the electors with things as they are. The elector sees that, however he votes, things are done of which he wants none, while the reforms and changes he desires are avoided with excuses, or shelved, the while his attention is distracted from the real issues by Press attacks on the wicked wanton wastrels of the Civil Service, and how they take an out-size in vests, and do nothing but sit in Whitehall offices, sipping afternoon cups of tea to the accompaniment of almost audible glad-eyes from the comely young damsels who type. Either that or some similar clap-trap. There is, to-day, none of the earnestness which marked the politics, if such they could be called, of the Middle Ages and before. In those times, even the common people had some conception of the importance of wise government. But the old earnestness of the governing class gave place first to a desire for power, and finally to rhetoric and competition for place and position. Rhetoric can never beget prosperity, and it is a very welcome sign that we are now beginning to re-absorb an idea of the vital character of the principles of government. We are passing through a very bad time indeed just now, yet the misery and hopelessness which is rampant throughout large sections of the community, the tightened purse-strings of that middle class which is still the backbone of the country, will have one good effect. They will stimulate, as similar periods in the past have done, a demand to get things done, for reforms long overdue, and will beget that political interest which is of such urgent necessity to-day. The whiter the heat of political controversy, the greater the good which is likely to accrue to the nation, providing always, and anything else is unthinkable, that the Englishman does not lose his traditional sanity.

We are passing through a crisis which coincides with a period wherein we are on the threshold of vast changes in civilisation whose magnitude is beyond our present conception, changes of which wireless and 200-miles-per-hour motor cars and aeroplanes are merely fore-runners. With the world in sight of the limit

of its possible development, there will be a race, if it is not already on, for economic supremacy, and the nation which is not keenly and zestfully alive, awake, will be left behind to face conditions worse than any we have yet experienced, for the pressure of life grows day by day, and must continue to grow.

Pessimistic? Not a bit of it! That kind of optimism which refuses to face realities more truly merits the name of pessimism. This nation shows signs of realising, more than any other people, just how strenuously we will have to struggle to avoid submerision. If that is pessimism it is welcome, for we shall stand some chance of consolidating our Empire and promoting its complete economic independence.

Another encouraging sign is the demand of working men for a share in the management of and responsibility for industry. Nothing could be better. The time is long past when these could be the legitimate sphere of the employer alone, and the latter is himself beginning to realise the oneness of his interest with that of the employee. Co-operation is the ideal in this direction, but fair division of profits will pay the employer best in the long run, while the working man, having real knowledge of the capacity of his industry, will cease, in his own interest, to press impossible demands, and the nation will gain security. The one thing which would prevent such a state of things from coming about is repressive legislation with all the bitterness it would engender. Let us fervently hope that such legislation will not be attempted in the future, that such legislation of that kind as is now on the Statute Book will quickly be abated, and that serious attempts will be made to promote goodwill and fair-mindedness between what are now, unnecessarily, opposing forces.

We have a fine governmental machine which is capable of being the foundation of a better. It can be adapted to suit any possible set of circumstances. Intelligently handled, stoked with that fire of patriotism which puts national need first and personal gain second, of which the Englishman has again and again proved himself capable, we can show the world that we are *not* decadent. Is it arrogant to say so? Perhaps it is; but I am convinced that our destiny is just what we choose to make it. It is in our own hands, and with the will to do, we still have a great future before us.

BACK TO THE LAND.

A negro passenger in the steerage, who was very seasick, was bantered by his friend as being a landlubber.

"Dat's correct," said the mal-de-mer victim weakly. "Dey ain't no abgyment dere. Ah's a landlubber an Ah's jes' findin' out how much Ah lubs it."

THE ENTRANTS' EXAMINATION.

Some questions set at the recent examination for entrance to the A.P.O. Grade.

GEOGRAPHY.

Time allowed, 1 hour.

Answer any *four* questions. Only *four* answers will be valued. All the questions carry equal marks. Give up the map separately from your answer form, whether you use it or not.

1.—On the accompanying map of the world name (without showing boundaries) India, Mexico, France, Natal. Name the Andes, Rocky Mountains, the Rivers St. Lawrence and Nile. Indicate two alternative routes from Great Britain to Hong Kong (China).

2.—A man buys a new outfit—soft felt hat, suit, boots, socks, cotton shirt, linen collar, and silk tie—which is guaranteed of home manufacture; that is to say, made in Great Britain or Northern Ireland. State a probable town of manufacture of each article, and a probable place of origin of the raw material.

3.—Describe any *two* of the following journeys, stating the position and character of the place of destination in each case:—

London to Isle of Man.
Newcastle to Blackpool.
Southampton to Scarborough.
Glasgow to Skye.

4.—Name *two* important sources of meat, and *two* of sugar, outside the British Isles. In each case describe briefly the general character of the region in which the commodity is produced.

5.—Name the chief building materials used in this country for the walls and roofs of (a) large public buildings, (b) of working-class houses in towns, and give a possible place of origin for each of the materials you mention.

6.—Describe accurately the position, and account for the importance, of any *four* of the following:—Aden, New York, Birmingham, Bombay, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh.

7.—Point out the most striking contrasts between the life and surroundings of the people in the place in which you live (which must be named) and that of the people in *either* (a) Japan *or* (b) the Gold Coast (West Africa).

* * * *

ENGLISH.

Time allowed, 1 hour.

Select one of the following subjects and number it on your answer form as it is numbered here. Your work on only one subject will be valued.

1.—A friend of yours has written to you saying he spent last Saturday afternoon at the pictures, and describing how much more enjoyment he thinks is to be got out of this than by watching a football match. Write his letter and write also a reply expressing a preference for watching football, and giving your reasons. Use fictitious names.

2.—Give a description of any continuous stretch of British coast with which you are familiar.

3.—Give an account of the most interesting story of adventure in a foreign land which you have read.

* * * *

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.

Time allowed, 1 hour.

Three questions, and no more, are to be attempted. All the questions carry equal marks.

In assigning marks, attention will be paid to the accuracy, clearness, and orderly arrangement of your answers.

1.—State briefly how you think you would distinguish between the following if you met them in the street: an American, a Frenchman, a German, a Hindu, a North American Indian, a West African Negro.

2.—What precautions would you take in trying to rescue a person in danger of drowning? How would you endeavour to revive a person who was taken from the water apparently drowned?

3.—Describe how a concrete road is made. What are the advantages and drawbacks of such roads?

4.—Is cricket a better game than football? Give reasons for your opinion.

5.—What is the purpose of a fuse on an electric lighting circuit? Of what does such a fuse consist? How would you replace one that had blown?

6.—Say why you agree or disagree with the suggestion to raise the minimum school-leaving age to fifteen.

7.—Choose *three* of the following persons and say briefly why they are well known: Mr. Howard Baker, Lord Burghley, Mr. Winston Churchill, Sir Alan Cobham, Sir Walford Davies, General Hertzog, Sir Oliver Lodge, Signor Mussolini, Mr. J. H. Thomas.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. M. E. GOTTS.

Colleagues and friends of Mr. G. W. Gotts, P.O., Ramsgate, will be grieved to learn of the death of his wife. Mrs. Gotts passed away on October 16th, after a serious illness lasting about six months, the result of an accident.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, October 19th, at Ramsgate Cemetery, the interment being preceded by a choral service at St. George's Church.

The Service was represented by a number of Mr. Gotts' colleagues.

A VISIT (WITHOUT O.T.).

By "BRIT."

A few weeks ago I found myself in the vicinity of Fenchurch Street, and it struck me that I was somewhere near the Association Office. I was on leave from a small outpost where Association news is rather scarce, and I thought it would be a good opportunity to get posted up in all the latest news.

To use the style of P. G. Wodehouse, I staggered down Mark Lane and crossed the road, where I found Water Lane. Being a Froth-blower, I knew of the close relationship between beer and water these days, and surmised that Beer Lane could not be very far away.

I was quite right—it was the next turning.

My next business was to find the office and the General Secretary, which I did with very little difficulty.

I was amazed at the welcome extended to me when I introduced myself, and at the interest taken in an individual member of the Association. I was made comfortable in the office, and over a pipe or two all the latest events were recounted to me. Mr. Powell popped in and greeted me like a long-lost brother, yet I doubt whether he had ever heard my name before. When I left, after a very long chat, I was asked to be sure to call again when I next visit London.

To say that I was astounded is mild. So hearty was my welcome that I felt when I left that my 6s. 6d. per quarter was the means of keeping the Association going, and that us chaps in the outposts were the mainstay of it. Mr. Merron assured me that officers from outposts and secluded spots are always doubly welcome, as they sometimes get the idea that they are neglected. This is not the case at H.Q., at any rate, I am sure of that. I can heartily recommend a visit to Beer Lane by any officer visiting that way who feels that he is neglected, and I am sure that he will feel the same as myself about the Association when he leaves, and that's that. Although you may lack Association news through your District Secretary, you are not forgotten by H.Q., and *your* membership and interest are as essential to the Association as anybody's. If anyone is thinking of visiting Beer Lane, I might mention that it is as well to drop a postcard to Mr. Merron to avoid a disappointment.

CUSTOMS FUND.

The recent ballot for Auditor to the Customs Fund has resulted in the election of Mr. Frederick G. Perkins.

A GREAT BIG SHAME.

By "LONDONER."

As I climbed to the top of my homeward-bound tram one evening not so long ago, took out my pipe, filled and lighted it, in the calm and satisfactory assurance that life had, for me at least, some share of peace and quiet after a strenuous day at the docks, I began to ponder on the strangeness, nay, I might even say the fearfulness, of that everlasting problem, the "cussedness of things" in general. Now, to some people this cussedness is a sheer delight, for there is nothing in all the world these people like so much as to be forever up against difficulties, scattering obstacles to the right and left, and, after many a rough and tumble with adversity, to come up "smiling after all," and, meeting a friend, pant out, with feverish breathlessness, "Well, that's that!"

I was thinking along these lines, going over in my mind again the many obstacles that I had encountered during the day just past, of how many times Contrariness had beaten me, and, conversely, of how many times I had had Adversity "whacked to the wide," the tram lurching and lumbering along the while, when I became conscious of a Spirit of Disquiet coming to anchor on the seat beside me.

"I say it's a shame," the Spirit declared, "don't you reckon so, mate?"

I glanced at this element of disturbance that had dared to thus rudely upset my mental repose, and, not being in any mood for argument, wishing to be at peace with all the world, and anxious to please, I said, with as much commiseration as I could command, "Yes, it is a shame, old friend, but what's the row?"

"This," he said, holding out a small slip of blue paper with a few words printed above a pencilled signature.

"Just you fancy," he continued, "Two pounds, four and six, two pounds, four an—" Just then the tram stopped with a lurch, and the slip of paper fell from his fingers to the floor.

"Oh, Lor' lummy!" he said. "Don't lose it, mate, it's all I've got left for my two pounds, four an' six."

"But, my dear old thing, what's wrong with two pounds, four an' six?" I said. "Have you lost this sum of money anywhere?"

"No," he said, "but I've just paid out two pounds, four an— Oh, it's a shame, that's

what it is, and this is all I've got to show for it," holding up the aforementioned blue slip.

"But I don't understand," said I. "What, did you buy something with this money?"

"Buy something!" he groaned. "Buy something! Oh, I can see you don't understand."

"Of course I don't understand," said I.

"Oh, all I can say is that it's a great big shame," he continued.

"Yes," said I again, anxious to please him.

"It is a big shame, but I don't see how I can help you, if I don't know what it is all about."

"Who asked you to help me, anyway?" he snapped; and then, in a hurried but conciliatory tone, "I'm sorry, mate, I didn't mean to be rude to you."

"That's all right, old friend," I said, getting interested in this strange being.

"All right," he said. "I'll tell you all about it." And he began to tell the following story, new for the moment, but ever old.

"It was like this," he went on. "I've just come home from South Africa, and have paid off down at the Dock, from a ship called the 'Fairey Ann.' Before I went on this trip, my brother-in-law as lives at Benfleet, near Southend, asked me to bring him home a stick o' hard, when I came back, and, like all sailors, I wanted to do him a good turn, and I brought him five sticks, a pound altogether."

"But what's a stick o' . . ." I began. I heard him mutter between his teeth, and then he said aloud, "A stick o' hard is a plug o' baccy, and I brought five of 'em, you see?"

"Yes, I see so far," I said, "but you didn't steal them or anything like that, I suppose?"

"Steal 'em! Well, I like that," he scornfully remarked. "No, they were mine all right, bought and paid for."

"Well," said I, "if you didn't steal them, but bought and paid for them in a proper manner, where does the shame come in?"

"Why, bless your heart," he said, "what a greenhorn you are."

"Why, what's wrong with me?" I said. "Can't you do what you like when you come home from foreign parts to your own country?"

"Not so likely, you can't," he said. "I reckon them newspapers are to blame for all this trouble, ever since they started this business about smuggling being on the increase, them Customs Officers at the docks does nothing but trip us up, where once upon a time we could walk about in comfort, now, when we walks

ashore, why they runs the rule over you before you can say 'Blow me tight,' and there we are; where are we? Why, they've got us, see?"

"But I suppose you had a chance to say that you had this, didn't you?" I said.

"Yes," he said, "but I didn't tell them, you see. If I had told them I had it, I would have had to pay the duty, wouldn't I?"

"But you had to pay the duty when they caught you, didn't you?" said I.

"Pay the duty!" he said scornfully, "pay the . . ."

"Two pounds, four and six, more like it."

"But why two pounds, four and six?" I said.

"Well," he said, "these here Customs Officers, if they once get hold of you and your baccy, why it's the police station for it."

"But," I said, "they can't do a thing like that, can they?"

"Can't they!" he said. "Don't you give them a chance like I did."

"But surely," I said, "they can't go about locking people up just when they like, can they?"

He looked at me out of the corner of his eye, winked, and then said, "This was the trouble. Look at this 'ere bit o' paper. That's a receipt for two pounds, four and sixpence, which amount is three times as much as the duty on them five sticks o' hard, and three times the value of 'em, and, furthermore, nine times as much as I paid for 'em, so now you knows. Oh, it ain't all honey going to sea, leastways not the coming 'ome part of it, an' I says it's a great big shame."

Just then the tram stopped, and I found that it was time for me to leave, so I said to my companion, "Cheer up, old man, better luck next time."

"There ain't a going to be no next time, for me, at any rate. Two pounds, four and six, o—h, it's a great big shame. Gee'night, mate."

TOPSY TURVY.

There emerged the other day from an East End police court a dismal and slightly battered figure. He was hailed by a bystander. "'Ello, Bill, you look 'ed up."

"No wonder," said Bill. "Life ain't 'aff 'ard, it ain't."

"How's that?"

"Well, think of this. Tunney gets £200,000 and I'm fined thirty bob, both for doing the same thing." B.J.B.

"ELLAN VANNIN."

The Isle of Man attracts many thousands of visitors to its shores each year, and those who once pay a visit, invariably return. The attractions are so varied, the scenery so delightful, and the climatic conditions so nearly approaching the ideal, that one can quite understand the popularity of the Island. The wonder is, indeed, that many thousands more do not make the crossing.

Fast vessels leave Liverpool twice a day during the season, and the sail across, usually taking 3½ hours, is generally a happy omen of the joys to come. When the glorious Bay of Douglas opens up to view, one is immediately enchanted, and the joyful spirit of holiday-making enters into one's being.

The attractions of the island are so numerous, and each and every taste so well catered for, that no individual would feel out of his or her element when spending a holiday there. To those whose tastes sway them towards golfing, tramping, swimming or fishing, no better spot could be found in which to indulge their appetites.

What of the gay life of Douglas? The three-mile front of smiling bonnie lasses? The Palace, the Villa Marina, and other dancing halls, with the merry throng, tripping the light fantastic toe to the inspiration of divine music, or, promenading, with always the prospect of an adventure as the sequence? What of it? I leave you to find out for yourselves when you make that long-deferred voyage.

A new industry has started on the island, or rather, an old one has been revived, which is proving a great attraction to visitors. I refer to the herring fishing which is being prosecuted off the western shores. Hundreds of steam and motor drifters from Scotland, England and Ireland commence fishing in June and continue operations until September. The night's catch of herring is landed at Peel, Port St. Mary, and Douglas, where hundreds of Scotch and Irish girls are stationed, who clean, pickle and barrel the herring for the continental market.

It is a grand sight to stand on the Headlands at Peel early in the morning and watch the drifters making the harbour. From the different points of the compass within our view are vessels, all under full steam and converging on the harbour. On walking to the pier, one finds them chasing each other in, and mooring head on to the breakwater ready to land their haul. In half-an-hour the scene is one of bustle and the place a regular hive of industry. Salesmen selling the fish, Buyers buying them, and carters carting them away as they are landed, to the various curing stations, where the girls are in readiness to commence their arduous toil.

The silvery fish in their thousands are piled in troughs in front of the girls, who immediately set to their task. They sing and chatter all the

time, but they work. One is absolutely fascinated with the speed and dexterity with which they wield their knives. When an extra large catch has been made, these girls will be found working at the same speed, late into the night, but still they sing. A crowd of visitors may always be seen gathered round the girls, unable to withdraw themselves from the fascination of these bright, flashing knives.

Two years ago this industry was non-existent in the island. This year fully 20,000 barrels of cured herring have been exported to the Continent and America. Needless to say, this brings additional work to the officers of the Department.

When the holiday is over and one is steaming out from Douglas Pier, a sigh of regret cannot be restrained, and a lingering gaze is bent on the shore until the island begins to recede into the distance.

Should one leave Douglas at night, when the illuminations of a myriad coloured lights are outlining the front and buildings and the island in the bay, one feels that one is leaving fairyland behind and proceeding to the mundane affairs of our own prosaic sphere.

On returning to duty, feeling invigorated and fit to cope with the wildest of smugglers or the most intricate ambiguity of C.C., Vol. 1, one immediately turns up the leave scheme to find how soon one may return to "Ellan Vannin." APA.

SMUGGLING AT ISOLATED PLACES.

"By JOVE."

It is reassuring to know that there is such a number of public-spirited citizens in our midst who take a lively interest in everything associated with the safety of the revenue and who, with praiseworthy zeal, contribute regularly to the public Press pointing out the danger to which it is exposed by the illicit exploits of the wily smuggler, whose lack of discrimination is surprising—due apparently to an imperfect knowledge of the tariff—seeing that he frequently includes amongst his ill-gotten goods many things which have, so far, escaped the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Reports referring to smuggling are becoming a popular feature of the daily Press, so much so, indeed, that it would appear as if the wily smuggler is gradually taking the place hitherto held with such distinction by the equally wily and illusive sea serpent.

The modern smuggler appears to confine his activities mostly to what is referred to as "isolated places on the south coast," as if such places have suddenly sprung into being or as if there is really any reason why they should now be regarded as happy hunting grounds for smugglers any more than they should have been during the last twenty years or more. The fact is that at any of those places you can get any kind of news referring to smuggling you want. There is no difficulty once you convey the brand you require: and, particularly if you take or pretend to take notes, the supply will always meet the demand.

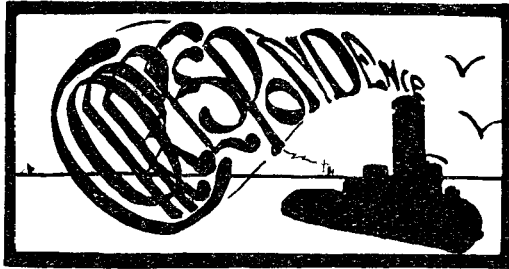
I know from experience how fishermen, boatmen, etc., can spin a "yarn" for the benefit of a stranger, particularly if they take him to be a newspaper reporter; but if you explain that you are an official, it is remarkable how the leg-pulling immediately ceases. In almost any little group of fishermen, boatmen, etc., especially if they are whiling away an idle hour, you will find one more or less expert at "telling the tale," and if you can manage to manoeuvre him just a little way from the "audience," but within their hearing; when he is "well away," if at the proper moment you suddenly whip round, you will be pleased to notice from their expressions how well they are enjoying the "turn."

Some of the yarns recently dished up are too weak to be of interest to readers of this paper. Most small places have their smugglers' caves, which may have been used and useful in the days of the caveman. Who has not heard of the unsuspecting and unsuspecting Customs Officer—really an interesting specimen—who has been done brown by the wily passenger or seaman, and assisted him unwittingly to carry away undeclared cigars, spirits, silk, etc.?

Such stories are rather cheap, one would imagine, to obtain such prominence as they do in the columns of popular "dailies." They have a peculiar appeal and form part of the stock in trade of every aspiring entertainer. They are always popular, independently as to whether they are told in the drawing-room of a stately mansion or in the tap-room of a public-house. Then there are the mysterious lights seen away out at sea (they are always "mysterious"), as if it would not really be difficult to gaze in that direction almost any night, at any place—not even excluding an isolated place—and not observe lights of one kind or another. It may be admitted that lights observed seawards at night have a setting more or less weird, and naturally appear mysterious to those who do not understand them.

The powers-that-be are no doubt suitably grateful to those voluntary coast watchers, and although they have not succeeded in discovering anything of a definite nature so far, it is to be hoped that this will not deter them from con-

tinuing to keep a sharp look-out for the wily smuggler in lonely and isolated parts of the coast.



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.

CUSTOMS FUND.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me the privilege of expressing through your columns my thanks to the large number of subscribers to the Customs Fund who cast their votes in my favour in the recent election to fill the vacant post of Auditor.

I appreciate the honour conferred upon me in being selected as an Auditor, and hope to serve the Fund subscribers to their complete satisfaction in the course of my new duties.—Yours, etc.,

FREDERICK G. PERKINS.

EX-SERVICE.

Sir,—As I believe I am the only 1923 entrant on the Executive Committee, I would like to reply to the letters by "A.E.F." and "K.S." which have appeared in recent issues of the "Journal."

Let me first say that, existing on the same pay as Messrs. A.E.F. and K.S., I am in full sympathy with the cause which has prompted their letters, but I do feel that the means they suggest to attain their ends is entirely wrong.

Personally I am satisfied that, were I adequately paid as a Waterguard Officer, I could afford to forget that I am an ex-Service man, and furthermore, nine years after the Armistice, that argument has lost its value so much that it is capable of being considered the ONLY contention one can make for increased pay.

Already ex-Service-ism has caused enough bitter controversy within our Association, and

we are well aware that even with "Age Pay" Waterguard Officers are underpaid for the nature of the duties they perform.

Why, then, use the time and organisation of the Association in fighting a claim which, even if successful, would only raise the standard of one section, to that of another, which the majority already consider to be too low?

Let us strive together for sufficient remuneration for the position we hold and the work we perform. We have sound enough a case without recourse to our war-time activities; these latter we can treasure as memories and use as replies to the question: "What did you do in the Great War, Daddy?"—Yours, etc.,

S. E. D. BALL,
Councillor, A.P.O. Grade,
S.C. Area.

Sir,—Having read remarks by "A.E.F." and "K.S." in the "Journal," it has moved me greatly to endeavour to make a reply of some sort.

"K.S." remarks that the letter by "A.E.F." of the 8th inst. is most opportune, he also wonders at the difference in wages between earlier ex-Service entrants and 1923 entrants, and considers it unjust. I quite agree that our wage does not compare very well with that of most Civil Service Grades, but of all the letters I have read I have never noticed any remarks regarding better conditions of pay where the Boy Messenger entering after 1921 was included. Does it not seem more unjust if you compare the earlier ex-Service entrant with the Boy Messenger?

Roughly speaking, the Boy Messenger, after serving three years in a Custom House, which is practically an apprenticeship, enters the Waterguard at the same time as some ex-Service men, who themselves were prepared for various other stations in life. They started complaining the minute they entered the Service, and of course received more remuneration and better seniority, but still they keep grumbling, but only for themselves. The Boy Messenger never makes a complaint, and of course nobody thinks of his case.

In short, the point that I wish to bring to everybody's notice is: I would like to see the ex-Service men turn less selfish.

We want a better scale of salary for the Waterguard as one body, not for one party. We are all Waterguard Officers, and as such entitled to the same rate of wages according to our actual service.—Yours, etc.,

EX-BOY MESSENGER.

LONDON SOUTH SIDE CRICKET CLUB.

DINNER AND DANCE.

The first Annual Dinner and Dance of the London South Side Cricket Club, at the New Cross Palais de Danse, on October 26th, has been unanimously voted a splendid success.

The President and Secretary have received many expressions of praise and admiration for the work of organisation which could have resulted in such a smooth-running and enjoyable evening.

Preceding the loyal toasts the guests stood for a moment as an expression of sympathy with Her Majesty the Queen in the recent loss of her brother, the Marquis of Cambridge.

In giving the toast of the Cricket Club, Mr. C. E. Egan, the Chairman of the evening, remarked upon the difficulties that had been experienced in the past in London in organising cricket or other sports clubs. The inception of the present Club was a move both daring and risky. The originators of the movement were, however, determined to have a club, and it spoke much for their tenacity of purpose that their efforts had been crowned with success. The request that he should be the first President had come as a great surprise, for at the time he had had no idea that they had got so far with arrangements. However, after a little conversation he consented, and subsequently found the Committee both energetic and determined. They had entered heart and soul into the work, and he congratulated them on the success that had been theirs. He hoped the Club would continue to go forward, and said it was the proudest moment of his life to have taken the chair on this, the first Annual Dinner of the Club.

Mr. Eldridge, the Hon. Secretary, replied for the Club, and echoed the feelings of the members when he said they were extremely lucky to have Mr. Egan as President.

Not the least important item of the evening was the presentation of the prizes. Mr. J. W. Connaway, Waterguard Superintendent, was present, and in the course of his remarks said that he hoped to see the good work of the Club next year. The prizes were presented by Mr. Connaway to Mr. R. G. Steers (silver-mounted oak biscuit barrel), for the highest score in a single innings, and (silver cigarette case), for the best bowling average for the season; and to Mr. H. B. Peake (case of silver coffee spoons), for the best batting average of the season. The gold medal which Mr. Egan had promised to the member of the Waterguard scoring an individual success at the C. and K. Sports was also presented to Mr. Peake.

The toast of the visitors was given by Mr. Merron, who, with his neat compliments to the

ladies, who he held had first claim to the title of visitors, proved that he was just as much at home at after-dinner speaking as when sitting at a Whitley table.

Mr. Purser replied. He felt that the Club had carried out the principles of cricket.

Mr. Egan was supported by Mr. Connaway, W.S., Mr. Fleet, C.P.O., and Mrs. Fleet, Mr. C. Gardner, C.P.O., Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Howell, and the officials of the Club.

The dance that followed lasted till close upon midnight, and was most enjoyable. A fact that was noted and appreciated was the presence of a number of colleagues and friends from the North Side.

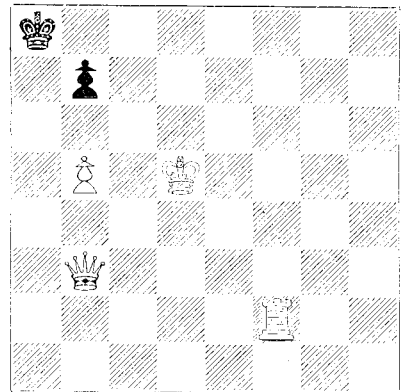
CUP FOR THE CHESS CLUB.

At the Cricket Club Dinner at the New Cross Palais de Danse on October 26th, Mr. C. E. Egan, C.P.O., formally presented to Mr. R. E. Dudley a silver cup to be competed for annually among the members of the Waterguard Chess Club. Mr. Dudley accepted the cup on behalf of the Club.

This practical interest in the well-being of the Chess Club is very much appreciated by the members in different parts in England, Scotland and Wales. We hope to reproduce a photograph of the cup in our next issue.

CUSTOMS WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB.

PROBLEM No. 2.



White to move and mate in two.

* * * *

Solution to No. 1.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| (1) K—Kt6 dis + | (1) K—Kt1 |
| (2) Q—Kt7 or QB8 | or |
| (1) Q—KKt1 | (1) K—R2 |
| (2) Q—Kt7 | |

KENT COUNTY ASSN. CORRESPONDENCE MATCH.

Waterguard Chess Club Opponents.

TEAM A.

- 1.—Mr. J. M. Mitchell (Team Capt.) v. Miss E. E. Abraham,* Herne Bay C.C.
- 2.—Mr. A. Hardie v. Mr. S. Hussian,* Ramsgate C.C.
- 3.—Mr. F. G. Boodle v. Mr. D. M. Polley, Rochester C.C.
- 4.—Mr. J. Smallwood v. Prof. R. W. Genese,* Tunbridge Wells C.C.
- 5.—Mr. W. W. Bishop v. Mr. O. Miles, Cranbrook C.C.

TEAM B.

- 1.—Mr. E. T. Sandford (Team Capt.) v. Mr. W. B. Dixon, Canterbury C.C.
- 2.—Mr. S. H. Matthews v. Master J. W. Thomas, Orpington C.C.
- 3.—Mr. E. W. Kidman v. Mr. S. H. C. Lucas, Lewisham C.C.
- 4.—Mr. O. M. Williams v. Mr. F. M. Martin, Sevenoaks C.C.
- 5.—Mr. R. E. Dudley v. Mr. W. Minter, Margate C.C.

* Vice-Presidents of K.C.C.A.

* * * *

CUP CONTEST.

Section 1—Round 4.

Mr. W. W. Bishop, Mr. A. Hardie,
Sharpness. Ayr.

Centre Gambit.

- | White. | Black. |
|----------------|----------|
| 1. P—K4 | P—K4 |
| 2. Kt—QB3 | Kt—KB3 |
| 3. P—Q4 | P×P |
| 4. Q×P | Kt—QB3 |
| 5. Q—Q3 | Kt—QKt5 |
| 6. Q—K2 | Kt—QB3 |
| 7. B—KKt5 | P—Q3 |
| 8. Kt—KB3 | B—K2 |
| 9. Kt—Q5 | Castles |
| 10. Castles | R—K1 |
| 11. Q—QB4 | B—KKt5 |
| 12. P—K5 | Kt×P |
| 13. Kt×P | Kt×Q |
| 14. Kt×R on R1 | B×Kt |
| 15. P×B | P—Q4 |
| 16. R—Kt1 | Q×Kt |
| 17. B—KR6 | P—Kt3 |
| 18. P—KB4 | Q—QB1 |
| 19. P—QKt3 | B—QR6+ |
| 20. K—Kt1 | Kt—Q7+ |
| 21. R×Kt | R—K8+ |
| 22. R—K1 | R×R mate |

Section 1.

- Round 2.—Mr. Clark, Weymouth, beat Mr. Standing, London.
 Round 4.—Mr. Hardie, Ayr, beat Mr. Bishop, Sharpness. Mr. Clark, Weymouth, beat Mr. Hargrove, Eastham.
 Round 5.—Mr. Mitchell, Leith, beat Mr. Bishop, Sharpness.

Section 2.

- Round 2.—Mr. Sandford, Newport, beat Mr. Terry, Liverpool.
 Round 3.—Mr. Douglas, Liverpool, draws with Mr. Knight, Sharpness, adjudicated.

* * * *

CIVIL SERVICE v. THE REST.

The players taking part numbered 1,016. Civil Service lost by 210½ to 297½. Two Waterguard Officers played for the Service, one of whom won his game.

V. E. S.

Wide appreciation of the work of the Vocational Education Committee is constantly being shown, and the following two extracts from letters received are typical of many now to be found in the V.E.C.'s mail bag:—

Dear Sir,—I feel I must—in view of the interest taken in forwarding specimens of papers to those not yet enrolled, and also in view of the remarkable good value for money—send my compliments and thanks to your Committee, and hope that the list of successes in forthcoming examination will be a success also for the V.E.S. I hesitate to suggest, but should like to see a "Special Exam. Course" at an appropriate fee for those sitting in February.—Yours, etc.

Dear Sir,—I wish to thank you very much for reminding me to take the Advanced Course. I was just on the verge of applying for it. It is plain that the V.E.C. is out to do its best, and I wish to tender my appreciation of this fact. I will carry on, as has been suggested in the "Journal." I am retaining the papers. Again thanking you and the V.E.C. very much.—Yours, etc.

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

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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