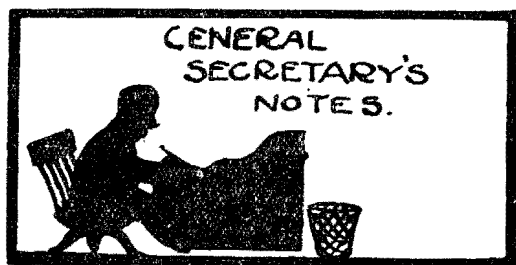


The Customs Journal.

No. 588.

May 7th, 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 letter by "Apa" in the last issue of the "Journal" is most interesting. It expresses a point of view which a good many of our members would do well to carefully study. Not often do we have exhortation for greater efforts towards efficiency as a means for improving Waterguard conditions. Yet, nothing could be more sound in principle. The best advice for the Waterguard to follow now, is to support any movement which aims at increased efficiency in the performance of the work. There is no need to fear that energies in this direction will be wasted, or that our efforts for betterment of conditions will thereby be slackened. As a matter of fact, the adoption of methods for obtaining a high standard of expertness in the Waterguard is the short cut to most of the things we desire.

The unfortunate atmosphere that has surrounded our Department in the past is gradually dispersing. People who still think the work consists of shovelling coal in ships' bunkers or the turning over of the contents of passengers' bunks, are coming to be regarded as back numbers. The time is not far away when the Preventive Officer will be acknowledged as the best all-round official in the Customs service; and the work of his assistant will be appraised accordingly.

"Apa" is right when he says that the Vocational Education Scheme is the biggest step forward since the P.S.A. came into existence. The successful operation of this scheme considerably hastens the day when the demand for full

recognition of the importance of Waterguard work will have to be conceded. The task is arduous, and great perseverance will be necessary, but the fruits will be well worth the labour. Every Waterguard man worthy of the name will give his utmost support to those who have taken up the burden.

* * * *

The suggestion which "Apa" makes for extending the Education Scheme has been provided for. The Central Committee have authority to explore all possibilities for development, and several interesting ideas have already been discussed by them. The Association has been asked to provide some system of instruction for candidates for the C.P.O. Grade, and within a short time the Central Committee will be tackling this problem. The members of the Committee are very much alive, and anything in the way of useful enterprise can safely be left in their hands.

The proposal to give free tuition to A.P.O.'s with one year's Association subscription to their credit is laudable, but, unfortunately, not practicable. The cost of running the scheme is not small, in spite of the fact that much voluntary labour has been given. At the moment expenses exceed income, but there is every reason to think that this will adjust itself in the near future. It is necessary in the interest of the scheme that it should pay its own way.

In any case there is plenty of evidence that the pupils are more than satisfied with the value they obtain for a small fee. In many instances those taking the preliminary course have themselves suggested a 50 per cent. increase in the fee.

* * * *

The Central Committee are to be congratulated on the remarkable success in their publication of the Duty Table Booklet. The promptitude with which the membership sent in orders was almost startling. Before the booklet had left the printers' hands, orders for more than 500 had reached the office. There has since been a steady stream of applications, and at the moment somewhere in the region of 1,000 copies have been distributed.

Many letters of warm appreciation have already been received, and in due course the inevitable criticism will come along. A slight inducement to keep this in a constructive vein is being offered by the Central Committee, and particulars are supplied by Mr. Purser elsewhere in this issue.

* * * *

Complaints have reached me that C.P.O.'s, in some cases, do not regularly receive their copies of the "Customs Journal." I would like to

point out that it often happens that this is due to the fact that Mr. H. B. Peake, Secretary for the "Journal," has not been notified regarding change of address. Complaints of this nature addressed to Mr. Peake are promptly dealt with.

I would ask all officers responsible for the distribution of the "Journal" locally to see that the C.P.O. gets his copy.

* * * *

There seems to be a growing opinion both in the P.S.A. and the C.P.O.'s Association that there should be a closer connection between the two organisations than exists at the moment. In dealing with questions concerning the whole Department there is much wasted effort under present conditions. This was pretty well illustrated during the discussion on the Leave question; and also when the P.S.A. scheme for training of A.P.O.'s was discussed on the Staff Side of the Waterguard Sectional Committee. There have been many other such instances. Undoubtedly, some system of effective co-operation would be most valuable.

The C.P.O.'s could assist greatly in the P.S.A. Educational Scheme, and there is no reason why members of this Grade should not become lecturers in connection with the V.E.S.

* * * *

The decision of the Government to place lock-outs under the same restrictions as strikes in the Trades Union Bill has been welcomed by the big newspapers with much ostentation and pleasure. Some of them, indeed, point out that without this amendment it would be possible for the employing classes to overthrow a Labour Government by means of a general lock-out. They overlook the fact, however, that the average employer is much too patriotic to lend himself to that kind of thing.

* * * *

Talking of the Trades Union Bill reminds me that it seems necessary once again to inform members that the affiliation of the Association to the Labour Party involves nothing more nor less than the payment of an affiliation fee. The Labour Party has no control of the P.S.A. in any shape or form. Neither have we any agreements or obligations in that direction. The Association is controlled in every item of its policy ONLY by the Council elected from the membership. A moment's consideration will serve to show how absurd are suggestions to the contrary.

* * * *

The "Daily Express" has been showing much vigour lately in attacking the slackness in business circles. The Saturday holiday of the Stock Exchange seems to be a heart-breaking problem, but there appear to be plenty of even worse cases than that. The "Express" points out that when the big business man shakes a loose leg—and many seem to be doing it—his neglect results in numbers of people being thrown out of work.

Can these be the wondrous business methods which the Civil Service is constantly urged to adopt?

* * * *

The sharp drop in the cost-of-living figure to 65 is causing many people to be anxious about the next revision of bonus. There seems to be little chance of any sensational rise before that time. The present figure is the lowest since the beginning of the year 1917.

J. MERRON.

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

GLASGOW.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Mavisbank on April 13th, with Mr. J. Henderson in the chair. The attendance was the poorest in the Glasgow District for years, a fact which was keenly commented upon by various members present.

The office-bearers for 1927-1928 were elected as follows:—

President: Mr. W. McIlwaine, P.O.

Vice-President: Mr. R. M. Murray, A.P.O.

District Secretary: Mr. W. G. Manson, P.O.

Local Secretary: Mr. G. R. Murray, A.P.O.

District Organiser: Mr. J. Denby, A.P.O.

Local Organiser: Mr. T. J. A. McGlennon, A.P.O.

Whitley Representatives: Messrs. W. G. Manson, P.O., G. R. Murray, A.P.O., and J. Watters, A.P.O.

Auditors: Messrs. W. McIlwaine, P.O., and J. Henderson, A.P.O.

SPORT.—An appeal from the Civil Service Sports (West of Scotland) Committee for new members was presented, and Mr. R. Murray was instructed to get into touch with the Secretary on the matter.

FAILED A.P.O.'s.—The position of failed A.P.O.'s was keenly discussed, but as no satisfactory suggestion was forthcoming, it was resolved to leave the question in abeyance until the re-grading scheme had been thoroughly explored.

FREE GOODS.—The meeting held the opinion that the time was now opportune for pressing that the examination of all free goods should be taken over by the Waterguard.

The meeting terminated at 10 p.m. with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

NEWPORT (MON.).

A meeting of the P.S.A. was held at the Queen's Hotel, Newport (Mon.), on Wednesday, April 27th, at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Jenkins, P.O., was elected to the chair. Matters of local importance having been dealt with, the Hospital Savings Association was brought under discussion. A vote of appreciation was passed to Mr. Bishop for his introduction of the scheme to the Waterguard, and also

for his work in connection therewith. A vote of thanks was also passed to Mr. Boodle for his local work in this direction, and he was elected as Local Secretary to the H.S.A.

Following this, a promise of news to Districts re salary claim, made by the General Secretary in the "Journal" of February 26th, 1927, was discussed. As the District Councillor had received no communication with regard to this, the Local Secretary was instructed to write to the General Secretary about it. A very enthusiastic meeting closed at 9.30.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE STAFF SIDE.

The following letter has been sent to the Prime Minister:—

April 21st, 1927.

The Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P.,
10, Downing Street, S.W.1.

Sir,—I am asked by the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service to say that they have noted with profound regret that on a matter of important principle affecting directly no fewer than 300,000 Civil Servants and indirectly an additional 120,000, it should be found impossible to secure an interview with the Head of the Government. The decision is the more disappointing because the Staff Side have not only worked Whitleyism in a spirit of good faith, but have endeavoured to utilise to the fullest capacity the machinery of joint councils for the consideration of matters concerning the conditions of employment in the Civil Service. Your refusal to see the Staff Side will, undoubtedly, dishearten and discourage a loyal and devoted body of public servants.

The Staff Side have carefully refrained from using Parliament as a Court of Appeal on matters affecting the interests of the Civil Service; and it will be the entire responsibility of the Prime Minister if the House of Commons in general and Members of Parliament individually are troubled with questions which ought to, and could be, settled by Service machinery.

Civil Servants generally will, I am afraid, feel that they have been badly slighted by the Head of the Government, and at the end of a lengthy correspondence, I can only express the hope that the Government will yet realise the unwisdom of disregarding the elected representatives of Civil Servants.

There are real and serious differences of opinion between the Official Side and Staff Side on the scope and operation of Civil Service Whitleyism. Such differences have been revealed in the practical working of the National Council, and it was not, I should submit, unreasonable that the Staff Side should seek the only means open to them of securing an effective review of Service machinery.—I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd.) GEORGE MIDDLETON.

BETWEEN TIDES.

GRAVESEND.

The first football match between the London Waterguard Sports Club (North Side) and the Gravesend Custom House Sports Club took place at the P.L.A. Sports Ground, Cranbrook Park Estate, Ilford, on Wednesday, April 20th, 1927.

Mr. W. J. Donaldson, Waterguard Superintendent, I.S.O., M.B.E. (a keen patron of sport), kindly kicked off, and in weather more suited to cricket than football, a very good game resulted, and although the North Side lost by five goals to one, they did far better than the score suggests, their defeat being due very much to the sharpshooting of the Gravesend forwards, and the lusty clearing kicks of their right back when danger threatened his goal.

The game was clean and sporting, and everybody played well.

The match was followed by a splendid tea, to which everybody did full justice.

Speeches were made by Messrs. W. J. Donaldson, C. E. Egan, W. J. Evans, and E. L. Sharrock, all testifying to the progress made with sport in the Waterguard, and also to the way in which it brought all ranks together and fostered good feeling generally.

When the "inner man" had been satisfied, the majority of those present proceeded to the dance, which was held at the Harmonic Hall, Plashet Grove, East Ham.

The duty of M.C. was most ably carried out by Mr. W. J. Powell, and Mrs. Donaldson very kindly presented the prizes to the lucky winners in the spot waltz.

After a very good time, everybody went home probably feeling tired but happy, and thanking in their hearts the Committee of the North Side Sports Club for organising such a splendid afternoon and evening entertainment, which we hope is the forerunner of many more. Perhaps we at Gravesend may on some future occasion be able to entertain our London colleagues in a like manner.

NOT INCLUDED.

"Parson," exclaimed Ephraim, "I'se got 'ligion, I tell you."

"That's fine, brother! You are going to lay aside all sin?"

"Yes, sub."

"You're going to church?"

"Yes, sub."

"You're going to care for the widows?"

"Sho, am."

"Are you going to pay your debts?"

"Suh! Dat ain't 'ligion. Dat's business!"

HOLDING FAST.

A young woman sent 5s. for a recipe, "How a girl may keep her youth." The answer she got for her money was: "Never introduce him to another girl."

THE TRADE UNION BILL.

THE CUSTOMS FUND.

CLAUSE AFFECTING CIVIL SERVANTS.

Clause 5 of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill, which is headed "Regulations as to organisations of which Established Civil Servants may be members," runs as follows:—

5.—(1) Amongst the regulations as to the conditions of service in His Majesty's civil establishments there shall be included regulations prohibiting established civil servants from being members, delegates, or representatives of any organisation of which the primary object is to influence or affect the remuneration and conditions of employment of its members, unless the organisation is an organisation of which the membership is confined to persons employed by or under the Crown and is an organisation which complies with such provisions as may be contained in the regulations for securing that it is in all respects independent of, and not affiliated to any such organisation as aforesaid, the membership of which is not confined to persons employed by or under the Crown or any federation comprising such organisations, that its objects do not include political objects, and that it is not associated directly or indirectly with any political party or organisation:

Provided that the regulations made in compliance with the provisions of this section shall not prevent—

- (a) an established civil servant from remaining a member of any trade union or organisation of which he had, at the commencement of this Act, been a member for more than six months if under the rules thereof he is or may become entitled to any payment during incapacity, or by way of superannuation, or on the death of himself or his wife, or as provision for his children; or
 - (b) a person who in addition to being an established civil servant is, apart from his service as such, also engaged in some other employment or occupation from being any member, delegate, or representative of a trade union or organisation, of which the primary object is to influence or affect the remuneration or conditions of employment of persons engaged in that employment or occupation.
- (2) If any established civil servant knowingly contravenes any of the provisions of the said regulations he shall be disqualified for continuing to be a member of the Civil Service.
- (3) In this section the expression "established civil servant" means a person serving in an established capacity in the permanent service of the Crown, and includes any person who, having been granted a certificate by the Civil Service Commissioners, is serving a probationary period preliminary to establishment.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The one hundred and eleventh Annual Meeting of the Customs Annuity and Benevolent Fund, Incorporated, was held at the Custom House, Lower Thames Street, E.C., on Thursday, April 21st. Mr. S. Bozman, I.S.O., the President, was in the chair.

The Chairman said:

"May I understand that as usual you will take the report and balance sheet as read? These embody records of successes which the Directors think are very gratifying and each one of you has had a declaration of bonus which we hope you consider very satisfactory. The profits of this Triennium are in the nature of a record—indeed the amount allocated to subscribers in the form of bonus has not been equalled since 1876 when the profitable Bill of Entry business was in full swing. The cash value of the bonus amounts to £64,369, and that of the previous Triennium was £49,706, showing an increase of more than 30 per cent. Because of this large increase I want to state as impressively as I can that the stringent basis of valuation applied in the past has been applied this time also. I say most emphatically that the profits now distributed are **not** given at the expense of security. No doubt part of them is due to the sound policy pursued in the late uncertain conditions of war and finance, when, in a critical time, profits were devoted to strengthen the general position and to write down securities. The satisfactory aftermath now appears. In this, our test year, when what has been done, or not done, finds expression in cash, it may not be out of place to recall that the main profits of insurance business are based upon sound selection of lives at fair premiums, prudent investments of accumulated funds, and restricted expenses of management—supplemented in our case by profits from extraneous business. Each of these sources has been fertile. Our mortality experience continues to be favourable, showing about 70 per cent, ratio of expected to actual deaths. The expected rate of interest for purposes of valuation is put at 3 per cent. The **actual** rate of interest earned after deduction of tax for the whole Triennium is £4/19/5 against £4/11/9 per cent. for the preceding Triennium. Here you find a source of handsome profit. The expenses of management are practically the same for each test period and are **less** than is anticipated for valuation purposes. From extraneous sources the total income for this Triennium was £9000, as compared with a total of £7000 for the previous Triennium, and the reserve for these subsidiary businesses has been increased.

"So that, all round, and notwithstanding the serious economic troubles of the past year, we think these results are highly satisfactory.

Summing up the position, our Actuary, whose distinguished services we thankfully acknowledge, and here I quote his exact words, reports 'the directors and subscribers are to be heartily congratulated on such a remarkable result.' The insurances in force have grown from £994,673 in 1918 to £1,174,016 in 1927. You are, of course, aware that the recruitment of the Service has not been normal since the War, and as our clients must be Service men or women we are at the mercy of national conditions which we cannot control. With the coming of normal recruitment we may look for increased new business, and in the first quarter of the current year new insurances came forward at a fair rate. But we have no single premium insurances which are, or were, such a great feature in outside societies nor can we offer endowment policies. Our field is officially circumscribed, but the results prove that we have cultivated it intensively. Here let me state that I am a whole-hearted believer in whole life insurance with profits as opposed to fancy insurances, especially for you people who, like myself, have, in effect, by virtue of your contract with the State an endowment assurance maturing on retirement. I have personally, if erroneously, taken both ways. The great beneficent societies who cover regions far outside ours, have thrown good sprats to catch fat salmon more especially in regard to endowment insurance. Anyone who reads the speeches of the men who control these magnificent societies cannot fail to perceive that a certain restraint is now exercised in their official recommendations with regard to endowment insurances. The Actuaries of these great societies who interpret scientifically the experiences of life and finance which have accumulated in the past thirty years have begun to recommend separate classifications and separate rates of bonus for the two classes of business. For the man in our department who has to meet the contingency of either pension or death it seems to me that if he has, as he ought to have, proper sympathy for those of his household who will have to carry on when his salary is halved, or when his pension ceases, he should provide in advance, that the people concerned should have a sum equal to three or five years' of his income in order that they may turn round and face new conditions of life without official income, whether they be his inevitable widow, his inevitable orphans or, in the case of bachelors and widowers, it may be his family dependents. I refrain from attempting close comparisons between our own first-class society and other first-class societies who have, of course, a wider range than ours, because I feel that nothing short of a close comparison of exact valuation records can be made of real service in such cases. As an old statistician I have learned that when lame ducks travel over ploughed fields their perspective is very often obscured by their tumbles, and in insurance business a long and

right judgment is the thing that really matters. So forgive me if after this divergence I return to my original point which is, personally, without arrogance, to recommend to Civil Servants of the Customs and Excise Department in a general way to put their insurances on the basis of whole life policies with profits, not pretending that this suggestion applies to all cases. You will observe that the directors have put into operation a form of insurance whereby premiums cease in the case of members compelled by health disability to retire from active service. Advantage has been taken of this provision by existing subscribers and most of our new business includes this cover. The directors also are prepared to accept insurances without medical examination subject to health and family records being good and passed by our medical referee. Instalment mortgage business which we have nurtured for many years has grown from £387,739 to £413,856 and gives satisfactory results. Other societies are looking for similar business and we must meet their competition. The notable characteristics of our mortgage business are that we often advance the full survey value of houses bought by members on the instalment principle, and that we secure favourable treatment in the matter of law expenses, and we don't inflict fines. Moreover, further advances are made and suspensions of instalments are permitted as necessities arise and security permits. Our trust funds are carried on as usual and have not fluctuated considerably. Interest at 4 per cent. is paid quarterly on money belonging to the representatives of deceased's subscribers when invested with the general assets, and owners are secured from depreciation of capital and may withdraw small sums practically on demand. For those who inherit small estates the advantages of our method leap to the eye. Our other assets, including an unchanged reserve of £15,000, are not varied in character nor indeed do they vary much in amounts and, therefore, they do not call for extended analysis. If special enquiries arise on these or other topics I will endeavour to answer before we proceed with the next business."

In reply to questions, the President said that the Fund had taken the highest legal opinion on the question of the issue of Endowment Insurances, but the Fund's Act does not permit this class of business whether singly or in connection with house mortgage business. As a matter of fact, however, so far as house mortgage business was concerned, the Fund had invariably more applications from subscribers and Civil Servants than it was able to finance. With regard to insurances under the half premium system for the first five years, the business under this head was about one half of the whole business. The half premium tables were popular with the younger members of the Service. He stated that for the purposes of new business, new entrants to the Service were circularised, and a circular was also sent before

the completion of five years' service whilst insurance without medical examination was available. A Prospectus was also sent to officials on promotion. He gave the information that the number of subscribers who held mortgage accounts is about 10 per cent. of the whole, and the amount of money advanced to subscribers at the present time was £296,000 and £96,000 to other Civil Servants. The difference between these figures and the balance sheet figure represented money invested in land loans. With regard to the subsidiary businesses, the President said that they had all shown a profit during the year, and although the figure this year might not compare with an isolated figure in a balance sheet twenty years ago, the position was satisfactory, and the reserve for these businesses was now four times as much as it was at that distant date, and had materially assisted the bonus. In reply to a question about loans on policies, the President said that these were personal transactions between subscribers and the Fund based on the surrender value of policies, but they were private transactions of which he would not, of course, give any particulars.

Before proceeding to nominations of candidates for the office of director, the President referred to the resignation of Mr. Sobey who had served on the directorate for so long and of whom the directors had spoken in their report. He did not think that he could add anything to the words there given.

Mr. Sobey in response to a call from the meeting said that he much appreciated the kind words that had been said about him and the proof that the meeting had given by its acclamation of their acknowledgment of his services. He had always done what he thought to be best in the interests of the Fund. Kingsley wrote years ago that "every dog has its day," and he felt that it was better that he should give way to younger men. He did not mean to infer that the retired subscribers who were one-third of the whole, should not be represented. He thought they should and he recommended the subscribers to retain the services of some of those who were reaching the retired stage.

The nominations for the vacancies on the directorate were then proceeded with.

Mr. Miles proposed, and Mr. Loveless seconded the re-election of Mr. Elrick.

Mr. Moffat proposed, and Mr. Thorns seconded the re-election of Mr. Littler.

Mr. Merron proposed, and Mr. Goalen seconded the nomination of Mr. Fitzsimons.

Mr. Harman proposed, and Mr. Davis seconded the nomination of Mr. Higginson.

Mr. Forbes proposed, and Mr. Thorns seconded the nomination of Mr. Sanders.

The re-election of Mr. Loveless as Auditor was proposed by Mr. Fish, and was seconded by Mr. O'Flynn.

A vote of thanks to the Secretary and the staff of the Fund in appreciation of their services and a vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.



It has come to our knowledge that difficulty is being experienced by some Chief Preventive Officers in obtaining a copy of the "Customs Journal." The Chief Preventive Officers' Association subscribes to the "C.J.," and each C.P.O. is entitled to a copy of each issue. Sufficient copies are sent out for this purpose, and, with the exception of one or two cases, the C.P.O.'s copies are included in the batches despatched to ports and stations where C.P.O.'s are stationed. We should be glad if officers responsible for local distribution would make sure that this obligation of the P.S.A. is discharged.

* * * *

The great event of the past week has been the publication of the Preventive Officers' Guide, for which the Central Committee of the P.S.A. Vocational Education Scheme has been responsible. If proof were needed of this Committee's ability, surely it is here; for no time has been lost since the issue of the new Budget Tariff in compiling and circulating this useful pocket reference. Every Preventive Officer, and many an Assistant Preventive Officer, carries about with him a booklet containing carefully tabulated tariff duty rates, compiled in his spare time, and amended year by year as a result of the speeches of succeeding Chancellors of the Exchequer. The amount of trouble and time saved to Preventive Officers by this concise booklet is enormous, for such a reference, whether printed or written, is a real necessity; for passengers must not be kept waiting while numberless little calculations are worked out.

In view of Mr. Purser's letter, appearing in another column of this issue, it is best not to give a review of the Guide. We have accepted the duty of adjudicating the criticisms received, but we reserve the right of publishing, or withholding publication, of each or any of the entries.

Answer to Correspondent.—"Puzzled."—Yes, you are quite right. "Highmore" is supplied for use on the station, and should be accessible to officers on all watches.

THE V.E.C. AND THE PREVENTIVE OFFICERS' GUIDE.

The following letter has been received from the Secretary of the V.E.C. :—
To the Editor.

Sir,—The Central Committee of the Vocational Education Section of the P.S.A. has found great pleasure with the reception that has been given to its publication of a duty table.

The expressions of goodwill are so numerous that I cannot possibly answer them all individually. I therefore beg you, Mr. Editor, to allow us through the medium of your columns to express our deep appreciation.

Members of the P.S.A. will perhaps be interested to learn that publication of the booklet is an outcome of the Vocational Education Scheme, the proposals of the Central Committee receiving full approval from the Executive Committee.

It is now satisfactory to be able to report that the venture has been successful and that the Association has suffered no loss, whilst the financial basis of the V.E.S. will be somewhat strengthened.

With such a new departure, however, it is only natural that criticism will come along, and, in fact, we invite it. For this purpose, Sir, I am enclosing the sum of ten shillings, and ask you to be good enough to undertake the task of awarding this sum as a prize for the best article of criticism forwarded to you. We consider that your opinion, as an unbiassed individual, would be popular amongst those who desire to compete, and we thank you in anticipation of your accepting the rôle of adjudicator.

I have been asked, how would the table assist, say, in the seizure of two gallons, liquid (1.50 proof gallons), of U.U. Spirit? The method is simple. Take the T.V.D. of 50/100 gall. Spirits, add this to the gallon. Now ascertain the value only of the difference between the liquid and proof quantities (i.e., 1/2 gall.), multiply by three, and add it to the 1½ gall. proof amount—less than a minute's work.

One criticism I must forestall. The printer could not guarantee to get seven columns of figures in the same size booklet (without possibly getting some of the figures too close to the binding for easy reference), if the printing were to be carried out so as to enable it to be read when the book is held vertically.

In conclusion, I might add, Sir, that owing to the almost negligible demand for paper-covered booklets, it was decided at the last moment to supply linen covers only.

Yours faithfully,

C. R. PURSER.

The Editor gladly accepts the post of adjudicator.

Criticisms must be written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the Editor, "Customs Journal," 91, Tressillian Road, Brockley, London, S.E.4.

Good, constructive criticism is what is wanted, and criticism based on experience in the use of the booklet. With this end in view, we propose to fix the closing date sufficiently well ahead in order to give ample time for testing its usefulness.

Entries must reach the Editor by the last post on Monday, August 22nd, 1927.

Ten shillings will be awarded to the sender of the best criticism. It is a condition of entry that the Editor's decision be accepted as final.

Don't forget to write your name and address on your attempt.

DISTRICT MEETING, GRAVESEND.

A meeting of the Gravesend District was held at the Labour Exchange, Gravesend, on Friday, April 8th, at 7 p.m. Mr. Richardson was in the chair, and the attendance was fairly good.

A motion to amend the P.S.A. Constitution by deleting all the words after "Secretary" in paragraph 5, Rule 4, was lost by two votes.

A further resolution to amend Rule 5, paragraph (e), was also lost. The suggested amendment was to add the words "Chartered Accountant," but there were only two votes in favour of the motion.

The election of District Officers resulted in Mr. Richardson continuing as Chairman; Mr. Westcott was appointed Vice-Chairman; Mr. Dunlop, District Secretary; and Mr. Grace, District Organiser.

Representatives on the Local Joint Whitley Committee were elected as follow: Messrs. Grey, Smith, Dines, Brown, Prisley and O'Connor. Messrs. Grey, Dines and O'Connor were elected to serve as Staff Side representatives at full meetings of the Local Whitley Committee.

Under "Other Business" a resolution was moved and carried, "That the Waterguard Superintendent be approached regarding the treatment received by the Gravesend applicants for special duty at Lerwick."

After prolonged discussion it was decided to take no action regarding Tilbury Docks.

The meeting closed at 10 p.m.

"THE MIRACLE."

A Scotsman stood in line waiting to buy seats for a film, "The Miracle." Behind him stood a Jew.

"Have you any 2/- seats for this show?" inquired the Scot when he reached the window.

"I'm sorry, but we have sold all the 2/- ones," was the answer.

"Then give me two 3/- seats," said the Scot.

When the Hebrew heard this, he immediately left the line.

"I will keep the money—I have seen de Miracle," he said. B.J.B.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENCE.

The following letter has been addressed to all M.P.'s by the C.S. Civil Rights Defence Committee:—

April, 1927.

Dear Sir, or Madam,

The precise terms of the Government's Trade Union Bill are now available, and the Civil Rights Defence Committee desires to communicate to you the following observations on the effect of this Bill, if carried into law, on Civil Servants and Civil Service organisations.

The terms of the Bill are infinitely worse than anybody in the Service has hitherto conceived possible, and the publication of the Bill has created a great wave of indignation amongst Civil Servants of all shades of political opinion.

The broad effect of the Bill is to forbid any established Civil Servant (with certain exceptions) to be a member of any Association which—

- (1) Has members outside the Service;
- (2) Is affiliated to any other body with members outside the Service;
- (3) Has "political objects"; or
- (4) Is associated directly or indirectly with any political party.

Effect is to be given to these points by "regulations." No provision is made for the submission of these regulations to Parliament. The existing Associations are thus presented with the alternative of outlawry or altering their constitutions to comply with this clause and these yet unseen regulations. Assuming that they take the latter course, some of the results of the Bill would be as follows:—

- (1) To destroy the affiliation between Civil Service Associations and the Federation of Professional Workers.
- (2) To destroy the affiliation between 130,000 Civil Servants and the Labour Party and the Trades Union Congress.
- (3) To destroy the political funds of Service Associations.
- (4) To make it impossible for Civil Service Associations to run their own candidates for Parliament. (This is a "political object.")
- (5) To make it impossible for Civil Servants through their Associations to actively support other candidates favourable to the Service or to oppose candidates unfavourable to the Service. (This also is a "political object.")

In short, the Bill says to Civil Servants: "You have already no right to strike. Hereafter you shall not be allowed to influence Parliament, although Parliament in the last resort is your employer. You shall not be allowed to associate with outside workers, although their conditions are quoted against you whenever you try to improve your own. You must be content to place yourselves completely in the hands of your employer, who may deal with you as he will."

With this Bill in operation, Civil Servants would only have one or two remedies against any injustice done. The first is the Whitley machine on which no decision of any kind can be reached save by agreement between the two sides, and which is so unsatisfactory that the National Staff Side have for the last two years been pressing the Prime Minister to receive a deputation to discuss the inadequacies of the system; the second is an Arbitration Board which can only deal with certain limited types of cases, and to which Service Associations can only go with the consent of their employers. The Bill cripples the power of Service Associations to seek other remedies when these inadequate remedies fail to secure a just settlement of a dispute.

We wish to invite all Members of Parliament, to whatever political party they may belong, to offer the strongest possible resistance to this Bill. The Associations embraced in the above Committee, which represents 130,000 Civil Servants, including Post-Office Workers, fully recognise that the position of a Civil Servant carries with it a definite responsibility to the State. They affirm with equal conviction, however, that the employed person, whether of the State or of a private employer, has a right to protect himself as an employee, and they affirm that the effect of this Bill will be largely to destroy that possibility, and to reduce Civil Servants to the level of Civil serfs.

Yours faithfully,

J. W. BOWEN, Chairman.

W. J. BROWN, Secretary.

PRESENTATION TO Mr. A. H. FITZSIMMONS, P.O.

At a pleasant little function held in the C.P.O.'s Office, Belfast, on April 28th, a presentation was made to Mr. A. H. Fitzsimmons by his colleagues, upon his retirement after thirty-seven years' service.

Mr. A. Woffenden, C.P.O., presided, and in the course of a pleasant speech referred to the sterling qualities of Mr. Fitzsimmons, and expressed the hope that he would be spared many years of well-earned contentment.

These kindly sentiments were also expressed in a few well-chosen words by Messrs. D. H. Thornton, P.O., P. A. Richardson, A.P.O., G. V. Acheson, Surveyor, and T. J. Shannon, Landing Officer.

Mr. Woffenden then asked the acceptance by Mr. Fitzsimmons of a handsome mahogany clock (suitably inscribed) and pipe as a mark of esteem.

The recipient, replying, expressed his thanks for the kindly references and handsome presents, and said he would always remember pleasant days spent at Belfast.

**PRESENTATION AT GRAVESEND TO
Mr. FRANK ROUFFIGNAC.**

On Monday, April 11th, the City of London Hotel, Terrace Street, was the scene of a finely attended "Smoker," held by Officers of H.M. Immigration Service, Special Branch, and H.M. Customs and Excise, to bid farewell to Mr. Frank Rouffignac, on the occasion of his transfer to Plymouth.

The extraordinary enthusiasm displayed, together with the representation of the many circles with which Mr. Rouffignac has been in touch, officially and socially, during his fifteen years' service in Gravesend, was a fitting tribute to his popularity.

The chair was taken at 7.30 p.m. by F. C. Cook, Esq., M.B.E. (Aliens Branch, Home Office), and a fine entertainment followed.

Vocal efforts by Messrs. J. de Mora, W. Varney, Wiseman and Palmer, together with a remarkable rendering of the latest "jazz" by the "Custom House Four," comprising Messrs. G. Malcolm (ukelele), R. Westcott (one-stringed fiddle), R. Hammond (mandoline), splendidly accompanied by Mr. Will Kennedy at the piano, made the evening pass joyously but only too quickly. Mr. W. Heath pleased everyone by his dramatic recitation of the old favourite, "Smuggler Bill."

Letters of regret at inability to be present, and expressing good wishes, were read by the Chairman from the following gentlemen: Messrs. W. P. Shearman, C.P.O., E. Webber, P.O., F.

M. Stanford, A.P.O., A. Stacey, Station-master, S. Rly., and E. Coveney.

At 9 p.m. the Chairman presented Mr. Rouffignac, on behalf of present and absent colleagues and friends, with a massive silver entree dish and a silver cigarette case, both suitably inscribed, and in a neat and witty speech expressed the regard and admiration which he felt for the popular "Frank," and the regret experienced at his departure.

Laudatory speeches marked by deep sincerity were also made by Mr. T. Sparrow (Pilot Service), Messrs. Wall, Stoneham and Taylor (Customs, Thameshaven), the latter gentlemen having come from Thameshaven specially for the occasion, H. Keeble (Special Branch, New Scotland Yard), Cubitt, Yeldham, Payne, Carnie, Malcolm and Woodford (Immigration Service), and Heath, Sharrock, Grey, Westcott, W. Young, A. Brown and O'Connor (H.M. Customs).

Mr. J. de Mora, responsible for the excellent entertainment, and Mr. Alec Hemming, "mine host," of the "City of London," together with his charming wife, were congratulated on their much-appreciated arrangements, which contributed largely to the success of the evening. Mr. W. Kennedy, who obliged at very short notice, was also thanked heartily.

A warm vote of thanks was tendered to the Chairman by Mr. T. Yeldham, and to the artists by Mr. J. O'Connor, and the evening closed by all joining in "Old Lang Syne," followed by "God Save the King."

Mr. Rouffignac left on Tuesday morning to take up his new duties at Plymouth.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SCHEME.

Owing to the rush consequent on the publication of the Booklets, the new term cannot possibly commence until the last week in May. Applications should reach the Association Offices as soon as possible, so that work may be allotted to the Tutors.

The Secretary (V.E.C.),
Preventive Staff Association,
13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3.

Please enrol me for Preliminary Course
Intermediate Course (delete Courses not required) in Waterguard
Advanced Course

Departmental Regulations. Postal Order, payable to C. R. Purser, London, value..... (insert amount), enclosed.

Name

Address

Tutors.—Messrs. Angus, Ashford, Finley, Gardiner, Gordon, Jeffreys, Lake and Sheehan.

Please indicate Tutor desired.

Fees: 5/-, 12/6 and 20/- per term respectively.

SEIZURE ON YACHT AT SOUTHAMPTON.

Liquors and tobacco secreted in a salt-water ballast tank, from which a man-hole door fastened with 32 bolts had to be removed, and other dutiable goods, hidden behind 200 volt live batteries on the s.y. "Portia," were discovered on a rummage of the vessel at Southampton.

As a result, the chief engineer of the yacht was ordered at Southampton Police Court, on April 30th, to pay treble value and duty amounting to £81/1/3, a fine of 10/- and 4/- costs, or six weeks' hard labour.

The master of the vessel, under whose mattress, in a locker, was found a quantity of tobacco and spirits, was ordered to pay treble value and duty of £31/11/3, a fine of 10/-, and 4/5 costs, or one month's imprisonment.

The chief engineer was charged with illegally importing and concealing the following goods: Four bottles of brandy, 16 bottles of whisky, 8 bottles of gin, 1 jar of rum, 2 bottles of wine, 4 bottles of liqueurs, 3 bottles of perfumed spirits, 2 lb. of tobacco, and 1/4 lb. of cigarettes. The treble value and duty, the penalty applied for by Mr. J. W. Conaway, Waterguard Superintendent, amounted to £81/1/3.

Defendant pleaded guilty.

The Mayor (Alderman P. V. Bowyer) told the defendant the Bench were satisfied this was a deliberate attempt to defraud H.M. Customs, and the secrecy displayed proved that. The Bench congratulated the Customs officers on the thoroughness of their search. The case proved also that the leniency extended in the past towards some yachts was not merited by them all.

The Bench ordered payment as stated above.

The Mayor asked Mr. Conaway to convey the views of the Bench on the efficiency of the officers concerned to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

The master was similarly charged in respect to 6 tins of tobacco, 1 bottle of sparkling wine, 1 bottle of liqueurs, 1 part bottle of brandy, 6 bottles of gin, and 9 bottles of whisky, treble value and duty being £31/11/3.

This case was heard first, and there was also a plea of guilty.

The Mayor said defendant as a ship-master was in a position of trust. The Customs officers

took his word, and that of other ship-masters, and they should be the last to break the law in that respect.

Payment as stated above was ordered.

The officers concerned in the seizure were: Mr. T. H. Sherlock, P.O., and Messrs. E. Northfield, H. L. Boach and J. H. Wood, A.P.O.'s.

T.D.V. MEDIÆVAL STYLE.

The "Option," regarded as the lesser of two evils, but still a harsh penalty, is a mild affair compared to the treatment given to unlucky smugglers of years ago.

In England mutilation, branding or transportation were common sentences, while the Moors considered the only fit punishment for the smuggling of arms was mutilation. The latter punishment was really even more severe than apparent at first scrutiny, as the Moors, being followers of Mohammed, believed that a maimed man could not enter their paradise, so the arms smuggler was not only punished in this world but also in the next!

Should any doubt arise as to the fact that these sentences were passed and carried out, a splendid example is mentioned by Robertson in his "Trade and Tariffs." He relates how five vessels were seized at Saint Valery laden with the corn. Richard I. had the seamen hanged, "and also slew some monks possibly concerned in the transaction." Apparently King Richard did not believe in giving the offenders the benefit of the doubt.

There was one splendid point from a Preventive point of view in this drastic treatment, and that was, a beheaded man certainly would be cured of smuggling.

VULCAN.

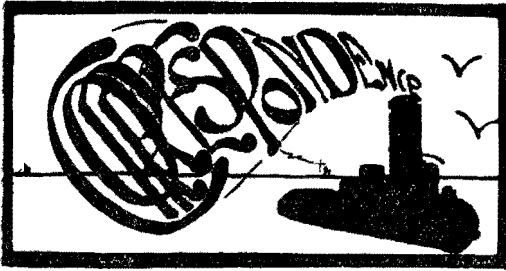
NOT FROM ABERDEEN!

An Englishman and a Scot seemed to be always meeting in thirsty weather. The Scot stood the Englishman a drink, and naturally expected a return of the compliment. But time passed and the Englishman made no move. Presently the Englishman discovered that his pipe had gone out, and fished about for a match. He found a loose one in his pocket, and eyed the moist counter frowningly.

"There's not a single dry spot to strike it on," he complained.

"Is there no?" replied the Scot. "Whit about trying ma tongue?"

B.J.B.



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.

SHOULD THE PROMOTION BOARD BE SCRAPPED?

Sir,—In your last issue I notice that "Oliver" has scurried, rabbit-like, into his burrow. He says, in effect, "What I have said, I have said," etc.

I think he is quite at liberty to say "finis," but, Mr. Editor, why abuse and bully others?

The bully stunt reminds one of the bygone days of the Department when to suggest, or to even think for oneself, was practically considered a crime. I well remember the days when, as a boatman, one dared not even suggest to a P.O. any course of action for the improvement of the job or for the bettering of one's conditions. Fortunately those days are gone, and by argument, and even suggestions, etc., from the grades in combined efforts, we have advanced in status and self-respect by leaps and bounds, and at the present moment are enjoying the fruits of the labours of the men that dared to think and fight for justice.

I want to assure poor old "Oliver" that that is all I desire now: that justice and fairness should be meted out to all who are fortunate to appear in the days to come before the august assembly, the Promotion Board. I am still doubtful that such has been given to some who have appeared at Lower Thames Street for the positions of C.P.O. and Waterguard Superintendent.

However, these little breezes that blow from our minds help to set us thinking even harder, I trust, and I hope at least that poor old "Oliver" will survive the interview when his turn comes.

Who knows? He may be one of the fair-haired lads and is thus assured.

Thanking you for the courtesy you have given me.—Yours, etc.,

"HOPEFUL."

H.S.A. WATERGUARD GROUP.

Sir,—May I bring the undermentioned to the notice of members?

STREET ACCIDENTS.—It has been pointed out in the H.S.A. that it is unfair that the Association should pay for the hospital treatment of a person injured by the carelessness of a third party. The point raised is not easy to deal with, and the first consideration must always be the peace of mind of the injured H.S.A. member.

The Waterguard Group Secretary will accordingly issue a voucher (for production at co-operating hospital) to the member, but the member should give the Group Secretary full details of the case, so that he can notify the full facts to the Association, in order that the Association may, in order to recover from the person responsible, take the necessary steps.

Will members take in the "Contributor," 1d. monthly, plus ½d. postage, obtainable from Group Secretaries? This monthly book of the H.S.A. gives full particulars of the objects of the Association, and items as above, for the guidance of members.

Please note the Group No. is D/582.—Yours, etc.,

W. W. BISHOP,
Group Secretary.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

To April 22nd 1927.

APPOINTMENT.

Mate-in-charge: Cook, M.

PROMOTIONS.

Assistant Preventive Officers to Preventive Officers: Adams, C. E., Plymouth, to Glasgow; Self, W. G., King's Lynn, Norwich, to Glasgow.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

Retirement.—Assistant Preventive Officer: Jury, C. E., Southampton.

VACANCY.

Chief Preventive Officer, Upper Section: Middlesbrough, Sunderland, 1.6.1927.

CHESS CLUB RULES.

A CORRECTION.

Mr. Bishop calls attention to the last line in his letter published in No. 586, on April 9th. It reads: "N.B.—Open only to P.S.A. members." The limitation of membership is somewhat wider, and we are asked to inform readers that the Chess Club is open to MEMBERS OF ALL WATERGUARD ASSOCIATIONS.

WATERGUARD CHESS CLUB CUP CONTEST.

SECTION 1—ROUND 1.

Mr. Hardie, C.P.O. (White). Mr. Kidman, A.P.O. (Black).

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. P—K4 | P—K4 |
| 2. Kt—KB3 | Kt—QB3 |
| 3. B—B4 | B—B4 |
| 4. P—B3 | B—Kt3 |
| 5. P—2Kt4 | Q—K2 |
| 6. P—Q3 | Kt—Q1 |
| 7. B—K3 | P—Q3 |
| 8. QKt—Q2 | P—KR3 |
| 9. Kt—KB sq. | P—KKt4 |
| 10. P—KR3 | P—KKt5 |
| 11. P×P | B×P |
| 12. Q—QR4 (ch.) | B—Q2 |
| 13. Q—Q sq. | Kt—K3 |
| 14. Kt—KKt3 | Kt—Kt2 |
| 15. Q—Q2 | Castles Q side |
| 16. Castles Q side | P—KR4 |
| 17. Kt—KR4 | B—KKt5 |
| 18. P—KB3 | B—K3 |
| 19. B—KKt5 | Kt—KB3 |
| 20. R on Q sq.—B sq. | QKt—K sq. |
| 21. P—KB4 | P—Q4 |
| 22. KP×P | B×P |
| 23. B×B | R×B |
| 24. P—QB4 | R—Q5 |
| 25. Kt on Kt3—KB5 | Q—Q2 |
| 26. Kt×Rt | B×Kt |
| 27. P×P | Kt—KKt5 |
| 28. Kt—KB3 | Kt—KB7 |
| 29. R×Kt | B×R |
| 30. Q×B | P—QKt3 |
| 31. Q—QB2 | Q—KKt5 |
| 32. P—Q4 | Kt—Kt2 |
| 33. B—KB6 | R—KKt sq. |
| 34. R—KR4 | Q—KKt6 |
| 35. B×Kt | R×B |

White is the winner of this game, being a Knight and a Pawn to the good.

F. G. BOODLE, M.C.

Note.—Though Black has a good fighting chance still, White's careful play and advantage must win the game.

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

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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