

# The Customs Journal

No. 629

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Fortnightly

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*Letters to the Editor, and articles and correspondence intended for publication, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Customs Journal," 91 Tressillian Road, Brockley, London, S.E.4.*

*All matter for insertion in the forthcoming issue should reach the Editor on or before the Monday preceding the day of publication.*

## THE KING.

At the time of going to press there is still a note of seriousness in the bulletins issued by the King's physicians. The gravity of his illness is well realised, and the world-wide sympathy that has been shown is shared by all subscribers to the "Customs Journal." We sincerely hope that by the time this issue appears all cause for the nation's anxiety will have been removed by a very definite step towards His Majesty's recovery.

## A CENTURY.

**T**RULY, the Departmental Council of the Customs and Excise Department might be pardoned for a feeling of pride when surveying its work in retrospect. The Council has now met a hundred times, and the report of the hundredth meeting will be duly reported in our next issue. The score of a century has been a brilliant one, and it is a common opinion in Civil Service circles that the C. & E. Council is a pattern upon which all similar bodies could be moulded. The Council at the Admiralty considers that it runs ours a close second.

The Council met for the first time in 1920. Since then something like two hundred decisions have been reached, and it is noteworthy that only eighteen of them were disagreements. These figures speak for themselves. It is inconceivable that such a body, composed as it is of members of the Official Side and Staff Side, should always remain in constant agreement, and there would be justifiable suspicion that all was not right if there should be a preponderance of disagreements. There is, however, a very fine feeling of understanding on both sides of the table, bred of a certain knowledge that opinions can be given without fear and will be honoured by both sides. The Chairman of the Board, who presides at the meetings of the Council, made a brief

reference to the work of the Council at its last meeting on October 24th. In it, he said that, personally, his convictions as to the value of Whitleyism had been strengthened by the past year's experience, and, on the near approach of the hundredth meeting of the Council, he wished to state that he and his colleagues on the Official Side unreservedly recognised the value of Whitley discussion as an aid to the efficient and economical conduct of the work of the Department. The Vice-Chairman (Mr. T. Morton) afterwards referred to the expedition and absence of acrimony with which their large amount of business had been conducted. The credit for success was shared by both sides and the staff associations. So long as the fraternal spirit endured, the Council could continue to work in the interests of the Department and for the common good.

To celebrate the hundredth meeting, a group photograph was taken of the Council, a copy of which is inserted in this issue of the "Customs Journal." It is well worthy of note that the fraternal and democratic spirit of our Departmental Council is strikingly shown in the disposition of the group. The grouping was quite spontaneous, and it will be seen that members of the Official and Staff Sides are happily intermingled round their Chairman.

## CURRENT COMMENTS

THE decision of the Executive to proceed with the salary claims will, no doubt, be received with satisfaction by members and non-members alike, and it is certain that both categories will follow the operations of the staff representatives with fervent hopes for their success. The non-member is, however, going to be in a rather difficult position. Up to the present, almost any old excuse he has advanced for keeping outside the fold has been received by his colleagues with a somewhat placid tolerance. But now, he has to face up to the cold fact that every non-member will be a definite handicap on the Association during the efforts to obtain better remuneration of the Waterguard. This is too obvious to need argument. The truth of it will soon be realised, and the gentleman who still persists in non-membership will, if he has any feelings at all, find it decidedly uncomfortable to look his colleagues in the face. Also, the loyal supporters of the Association will probably depart from their tolerant attitude towards those individuals who would place their personal whims above the common interest when so important a matter as a salary claim is at stake.

Let it be well understood that funds are the sinews of war, and that lack of these sinews has, on past occasions, rendered us powerless to reach out and grasp the things that should have been ours. It is well known that in connection with our previous salary claim, when an urgent meeting of the Council was necessary to discuss certain proposals, it would have been impossible for the meeting to have taken place had not the then President of the Waterguard Federation personally advanced the money to cover expenses.

The financial state of the P.S.A. is, of course, very far removed from that very lamentable condition, and our methods of organisation to-day make it impossible for such a situation to recur. Nevertheless, success now depends on a maximum of effort from the Association machine, and, unless a steady and adequate income is maintained, the value of that effort will be very seriously impaired.

\* \* \* \*

The Headquarters staff have lost no time in getting to work on the Executive's instructions. A meeting with the Chief Preventive Officers' Association has already been arranged for the 29th November at Beer Lane. The Waterguard Superintendents' Association has also been notified, and it is hoped that a general plan of action will soon be ready. It is, of course, essential that all the grades concerned shall act in concert. Apart from the main claim for increased salary, several relative issues are bound to arise, such as Leave, Overtime, and Promotion. This is an additional reason for co-ordination.

\* \* \* \*

The Staff Side of the Waterguard Sectional Committee, at their meeting on the 13th November, had before them a letter from Mr. M. P. O'Flynn tendering his resignation from the Secretaryship of the

Committee. Mr. O'Flynn explained in the letter that he was taking this step because he considered it in the interests of the Staff Side that someone better able than he now was to give the close attention needed for this important Committee should hold the post of Secretary.

The resignation was accepted with regret, and all the representatives of the various grades on the Staff Side made appreciative reference to the good work put in by Mr. O'Flynn during the seven years he has held the post of Secretary.

Mr. W. H. Powell was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy thus created, and there is no doubt that his appointment to this position will meet with satisfaction throughout the Waterguard.

\* \* \* \*

The 100th meeting of the Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council took place on the 21st November, and in celebration of this interesting event the whole of the Council members were photographed in a group on the steps of the Custom House. It is expected to be able to publish this photograph in the "Customs Journal" as soon as it is available.

The C. & E. Council has just cause to indulge in this little bit of vanity. The record of its 100 meetings is one of consistent progress. The relations between the two Sides have always been excellent, and it can safely be said that the spirit in which all matters for discussion are approached ensures a maximum of benefit to be derived from the Whitley system.

The record of the twelve months' work recently completed is typical. During this period 200 decisions were reached on the Council, and of these only 18 were disagreements.

\* \* \* \*

The result of the September examination for entrants to the Waterguard has now been communicated to the candidates. This is, of course, only the first portion of the examination. Later on the successful candidates will appear before a Selection Board. It is understood that the interviews will commence early in December. The number successful at the written test is 163.

\* \* \* \*

At the half-yearly meeting of the Civil Service Confederation on Saturday, the 17th November, there was some interesting discussion in connection with the operations of the Cost-of-Living Committee recently appointed by the National Council. The information given was very reassuring, and indicated that the job is in capable hands. There is every reason to believe that staff interests will be well safeguarded.

It is expected that the Committee's work will be carried out expeditiously, and it is interesting to note that agreement has been reached with the Official Side for the publication of full and informative reports regarding progress made.

A new edition of the Civil Service Compendium, published by the Civil Service Clerical Association, has just made its appearance. Those of our members who supplied themselves with copies of the 1925 issue of this useful little book will be interested to hear that the recent issue is much improved and is more comprehensive. It contains, amongst other additions, full details of the Waterguard Service.

The book is recommended to all members who desire a ready means of reference on all matters affecting Civil Service staffs. There is information on Whitley procedure, Cost-of-Living Bonus, Pensions, Subsistence, Travelling Allowances, Salary Scales in various grades, etc.

All Councillors and District officials should certainly arm themselves with a copy of the Compendium. It will save them a deal of trouble, and will enable them to confidently answer those awkward questions they are always liable to get from their constituents.

The price is 2s. 3d. post free. Members so desiring may send their orders through the Association Office.

## Preventive Staff Association Executive Committee.

### REPORT OF MEETING.

The eighteenth meeting of this Committee was held in the Association Offices, London, on the 13th and 14th November, 1928.

Members present were:—Messrs. W. G. Thomson (Chairman), J. Merron, J. T. Sutton, W. A. Colwill, S. E. D. Ball, A. E. Farmer, and W. H. Powell (Secretary).

The Minutes of the seventeenth meeting were adopted.

Under "Business arising," a full discussion took place on the question of the transfer of Landing and Shipping duties to the Waterguard. The Board's reply to the P.S.A. memorandum was considered, and instructions given to the Secretaries in the light of the fresh developments.

On the subject of the Shipment of Bonded Stores (London) it was reported that a Joint Meeting was expected to be held shortly.

Three cases of misapplication of the "Work and Wait" Rule were reported and considered—Harwich, Gravesend and London. The Secretaries were instructed to seek references to the W.S. Committee immediately.

It was decided to nominate Mr. W. H. Powell for the position of Staff Side Secretary of the Waterguard Sectional Committee.

The Financial Statement of the P.S.A. Accounts for two quarters ended 30th September, 1928, were considered in detail and finally adopted. The Organising Secretary's Report, embracing Finance and Membership, gave a very comprehensive survey of a favourable situation. Much good work is evidently being performed by the District and Local Officers. It was pointed out that in a period of 13 issues of the "Customs Journal" under the new contract, an

economical saving of £44 had been realised. It was reported that the new District of Swansea, Harwich and Belfast were developing rapidly.

The Organising Secretary stated that the "Mackney Fund" Trustees had now transferred the cash to the Association. Authority was given to open a new account to be designated "Distress Fund."

The Sub-Committee authorised by the Council to explore and report on the duties of A.P.O.s was set up, and comprises the three Secretaries and two London Councillors. The General Secretary to act as Chairman.

In accordance with Conference instructions, the following subjects were dealt with and remitted to the W.S.C. Staff Side (see report of meeting elsewhere in this issue):—

- Promotion by Merit—A.P.O. to P.O. Grade.
- Promotion by Merit—P.O. to C.P.O. Grade.
- P.O. Pocket Journals.
- Revised Instructions.
- Training of A.P.O.s.
- Medical Examinations.
- Monthly Salaries.
- Electric Torches—Spare Bulbs.
- Seizure Rewards.
- Official Circulars.
- Applications for Transfer.
- Leave Claim.

The outstanding item on the agenda, and the one which is of paramount importance to all members—Waterguard Salary Claim—was discussed at considerable length. It will interest members to hear that it was decided to proceed to have the claims placed before the appropriate Whitley body at the earliest available opportunity. The Secretaries will commence immediately to draft the statement supporting the claims.

W. H. POWELL.

## Waterguard Sectional Committee— Staff Side.

### REPORT OF MEETING.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. Merron, a meeting of the above Committee was held at the P.S.A. Offices, London, on 13th November, 1928.

The following representatives were present:—Messrs. C. F. Stuart (Inspectors & W. Superintendents' Association), A. Woffenden (C.P.O. Association), J. T. Sutton, S. E. D. Ball, A. W. P. Densley, W. H. Powell (P.S. Association), and R. G. Jones (Launch Service Association).

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman drew attention to the absence of the Secretary, and in this connection read a letter received from Mr. M. P. O'Flynn tendering his resignation from that office. The letter was couched in such terms that acceptance was inevitable. The following motion in some way conveys the feelings of the meeting on this occasion:—"That this Committee accepts with extreme regret the enforced retirement of Mr. M. P. O'Flynn from the office of Secretary, and directs that a letter, conveying the sincere thanks of the Committee for long and valuable services rendered, be sent to him."

On a nomination from the P.S.A., Mr. W. H. Powell was unanimously elected Staff Side Secretary. In declaring the election, the Chairman said "that whilst appreciating the fact that Mr. Powell already held innumerable offices in other directions, he felt that the importance of the Secretaryship of this Committee warranted this further demand."

Appreciation of the services rendered is to be conveyed to Mr. E. P. Madden, who by virtue of his promotion had to sever his connections with the Committee, on which he had played such an important part.

Minutes of the Staff Side meeting, 25th April, and the full meeting, 26th April, 1928, were adopted.

The question of the ante-dating of issues of uniform to new entrants stands adjourned.

It was decided to seek the issue of some contrivance to carry spare bulbs in connection with the electric torches.

On seizure awards, the P.S.A. representatives asked for an adjournment, in order that statistics could be obtained. It was pointed out that efforts were being made to formulate a system which would extend the Board's proposal—to relate rewards on seized Ad Valorem goods to duty and not to value—to all seized goods, and thus secure a more equitable distribution of the money.

The question of monthly salaries was adjourned.

At the request of the P.S.A. representatives, it was decided to withdraw the reference in connection with the Training of Assistant Preventive Officers.

It was agreed that the Board's proposed instructions governing applications for transfer of Waterguard Officers be adopted. The question will be asked as to whether the Launch Service could be dealt with under these instructions.

On a motion from the P.S.A., it was agreed to seek that "primarily seniority should be the deciding factor for transfer, but that domestic circumstances and hardships (such as duty at isolated or undesirable places) be given due consideration."

A disagreement having been recorded on the Staff Side claim for increased leave, a new reference is being sought on a modified claim, as follows:—

Inspectors and Waterguard Supts.—48 days.  
C.P.O.s—36 days.  
P.O.s—28 days.  
A.P.O.s—21 days.

Much has been said on this point, but undoubtedly the following facts speak volumes:—

	A.P.O. P.O. Officer.		C.P.O. Surveyor.	
1913 ...	14-18	21	24	30
1928 ...	no change	30-42	no change	48 days.

Schemes of promotion by merit—A.P.O. to P.O. and P.O. to C.P.O.—were adopted, and it was agreed that references be sought.

It was decided to press "That all circulars relative to Waterguard duties (now subject to limited circulation in roneo form) be embodied in General Orders."

The question of the abolition of P.O. Pocket Journals was given serious consideration, and it was eventually agreed to press "That P.O. Pocket Journals be abolished, or a monthly check instituted."

In connection with Revised Instructions, it was decided to ask "That Revised instructions be reprinted (as amended), and issued at stated intervals not exceeding five years."

The following motion dealing with medical examinations in connection with examinations for promotion was adopted:—

"That officers suffering from physical disabilities be not debarred from sitting at examinations for promotion; the question of their physical abilities to perform the work of a superior grade to be left to the decision of a subsequent medical examination."

References are to be sought on cases of wrongful application of the "Work and Wait" Rule at Harwich, Gravesend and London.

Mr. J. Merron was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing twelve months, and Auditors for the same period will be furnished from the C.P.O. Association and the L.S. Association.

The Accounts for the year ending March, 1928, were adopted.

Notice of Motion was given by the Launch Service Association on the question of the up-grading of Steersmen Deckhands. W. H. POWELL.

## The Free Allowance.

The following comments on this subject, an article upon which appeared in our last issue, have been received, and will prove of interest to many readers.

The above subject, dealt with by "Wenso" in the last edition of this Journal, is undoubtedly an important one. His interpretation of the regulations on the matter reveals a divergence to the long existing opinions held by probably the majority of officers, and to the general practice obtaining in the Service. As one who is in disagreement with one or two of his points, I cannot let the article pass without comment.

To obviate quoting extracts from several of the paragraphs in the article, I will put in a concise form the basis on which we disagree.

There is only one person who, on being detected in an attempt to smuggle, receives any free concessions in respect of any of the goods he has declared and produced; he is the seaman remaining by his ship and who has not landed his free allowance. All other persons detected in an attempt to smuggle must either pay duty on all the goods produced, including goods of a description not the subject of the offence, or abandon them. Therefore "Tomspa" *not* having been so honest as "Billson" in producing ALL the dutiable articles in his possession, must pay the duty on his chocolates; whether amounting to over or under one shilling matters not.

This opinion is arrived at, not by coupling or comparing the duty-free regulations with those on smuggling, but solely by reading:—in the case of passengers, paragraph II, Vol. I, Part IV; and of seamen by the addition to paragraph 16, Vol. I, Part V, made by G.O. 77/1928.

The non-production of dutiable articles is the subject of both these paragraphs. "Articles" being in the plural, it therefore would appear unnecessary to put the word "quantity" also in the plural. In other words, it is not necessary to insert—of any dutiable article—after the word "quantity."

Prior to the receipt of the addition to paragraph 16 by G.O. 77/28 quoted above, there was no general instruction on how to deal with a seaman's duty-free allowance when he had been detected in an attempt to smuggle. There were several local and varied instructions in existence, but we have a general and definite one now through action taken via the Suggestions Committee.

If the "chocolates" in the example had been a pair of gloves, duty n.e. 5/-, a more interesting point would have arisen, because in the note to paragraph 16, Vol. I, Part V, we have the words "duty-free concession ABOVE." None of the general orders on Ad Valorem and K.I. Goods or Silk, etc., refer us to Vol. I, Part IV, paragraph 11, or to paragraph 16, Vol. I, Part V. Nevertheless, it is contended that duty should be required on such goods when an offence, with other goods, has been detected. In the case of seamen, all dutiables must be declared on the list, and we are not expected to separate the sheep from the goats, so to speak, when the duty-free concession has been forfeited.

One point more in conclusion. The watch in the second incident in paragraph 2 of the article, if we adhere to the regulations, should have been detained, etc., as it was not declared on List 142. But if someone exercised his discretion in the case, well, that's another matter, and not a fair incident to present.

Yours, etc.,  
"REASONABLE."

## The Free Allowances.

It is difficult to see how "Wenso," in the last number of the "Customs Journal," can interpret the allowances to mean other than what the official mind has obviously intended, viz., that a person who has attempted to defraud the Revenue should not enjoy concessions allowed to honest travellers. Some parts of the Regulations may require close study, but on this subject we have surely a clarity and conciseness which should be beyond the possibility of misinterpretation. One may construe paragraphs in the Codes into his own personal meaning, or twist round words and sentences so as to distort them, and nullify to a great extent the official spirit intended. This is what produces the inconsistency in practice referred to by "Wenso," the failure to follow the reasonable and logical intention of each instruction. In connection with the treatment of free allowances, however, it is hardly possible that there could be any widespread misunderstanding.

Legally, the smallest quantity of any article in the Tariff is liable to duty when brought into the country, but certain specified allowances are fixed, as a limit, to cover what a person might reasonably have left over unconsumed from personal stores, taken on board a vessel for a voyage. If that limit is exceeded in respect of any article, then there is

always the possibility that it is not the balance of unconsumed stores, but carried to be brought into the country. Then duty must be charged on the whole of that article. This is clearly laid down, but not more clearly laid down than the fact that when a person is caught in a smuggling attempt he loses all right to duty-free concessions. It would hardly be logical to conclude that it was officially intended that a person who had attempted to defraud the Revenue in respect of any one item, should be allowed to take other items duty free. The Authorities may appear quite generous in their duty-free allowances, but to allow a silk smuggler, for instance, to have a nice little present of  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. cigars,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint liqueurs,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint perfumed spirits, and 5 lbs. chocolates duty free would be rather absurd. But it is not intended, for paragraph 11 of Vol. I, Part IV, distinctly states that when a portion of the dutiable goods only in a person's possession is produced, and he is detected in an attempt to smuggle a further quantity (of goods), **he loses all title to duty-free concessions.** All orders containing instructions as to allowances should necessarily and reasonably be read in conjunction with the Code Part, which contains the standing regulations on that subject.

In the penultimate paragraph of his article, "Wenso" quotes some examples, one of which shows a man to have attempted smuggling  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. cigars, after producing  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., and 5 lb. chocolates. Because he "has been honest with his chocolates," it is stated that they should be passed duty-free. It is quite obvious the man's honesty may be termed "chocolate honesty"—an attribute more confounding than downright dishonesty. He has placed the chocolates in the forefront to show how honest he is. It is only when his effects are searched that we may discover that his "sweet" endeavour to be straightforward was merely intended to put us off the scent. Strictly speaking, he is no more entitled to his chocolates than the silk smuggler above mentioned is entitled to his little presentation of cigars, spirits, etc., duty-free.

The notes added to paragraphs 16 and 17 of Vol. I, Part V, by G.O. 77/28, were evidently intended to regularise the method of dealing with allowances ex-List 142, or issued, for use on board. Hitherto there was a diversity of opinion here. Some there were who demanded duty on the allowances already passed by an officer, perhaps a day or more prior to the discovery of the offence. It is laid down now quite clearly that once a duty-free allowance has passed out of control before the offence, and providing such allowance is not itself being improperly dealt with, it is not to be interfered with. In other words, the allowance is already in the position of having been dealt with under the authority of an officer, and all the necessary formalities in connection therewith, and records, completed. But when an officer is dealing with a person in the first place, the duty-free allowances have not passed out of control until that officer has satisfied himself as far as he is able, that the person has no more. It is only logical and reasonable to assume, then, that what an officer has already authorised in accordance with standing regulations, should not be brought into question subsequently, not to please the seaman, but to maintain official regularity in practice.

W. M. SHEEHAN.

## Preventive Staff Association

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President: *W. G. Thomson*

General Secretary: *J. Merron*

Organising Secretary: *J. T. Sutton*

Assistant Secretary: *W. H. Powell*

### GRANGEMOUTH.

A meeting was held in the Waterguard Office, Grange Dock, on 6th November, with Mr. Bell in the Chair.

Dissatisfaction was expressed at the delay in the issuing of raincoats, and a resolution was passed that the General Secretary be asked to do his best to expedite the issue.

The Local Secretary was instructed to draw the attention of Headquarters to the inferior battery now being issued for use in round lamps.

It was agreed that in future the staff in Bo'ness and Alloa be notified of date and time of local meetings to be held in Grangemouth.

Mr. Kennedy, P.O., and Mr. Johnstone, A.P.O., were re-elected representatives on the Local Whitley Committee for the ensuing year.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF

### APPOINTMENTS.

#### ENGINEER MECHANICS:—

Jopson, A. S.

Lihou, J. P. T.

### TRANSFERS.

#### CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS (Lower Section):—

Boyle, C. A., London to Plymouth.

White, B. T., Plymouth to London.

#### PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Presents, C. E., Buckie, Aberdeen to Glasgow.

Plowman, E. McG., Bristol to Avonmouth, Bristol.

#### ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Pritchard, G., Grangemouth to Bo'ness, Edinburgh.

#### ENGINEER:—

Gowen, R. J., Portsmouth to London.

### PROMOTIONS.

#### ENGINEER TO SENIOR ENGINEER:—

Ash, P. G., Gravesend, London to North Shields, Newcastle.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

#### RETIREMENT—PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Gardner, M. H., Cardiff.

### VACANCIES.

#### PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Buckie, Aberdeen (an allowance of £30 per annum for performing Long Room work, etc., is assigned).

Portinadoc, Chester (an official residence is provided at a reduced rental, and there is an allowance of £30 per annum for performing Long Room work, etc.) 28.11.28.

## Correspondence

*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.*

### SEIZURE REWARDS.

Sir,—The question of seizure rewards has been a matter of argument in many Waterguard offices, but it is doubtful whether any serious consideration has been given to the subject.

The chief reason for the existence of rewards in the Waterguard Department is the encouragement of zeal and efficiency on the part of the officers. There is nothing to be ashamed of in this, for in every department of life rewards of one kind or another are offered for intensive and extensive work. The authorities are aware that rummaging is hard and often disappointing work, and it is necessary to recognise the vigilance of their officers by a system of rewards, particularly in the case of young A.P.O.s attached to rummage crews.

In the Waterguard department there is a difference of opinion as to the form such rewards should take. It has been suggested that marks should be awarded for seizures, and that such marks should count for promotion. It would, it is stated, be a more dignified reward than the one now in force. It is, however, questionable whether such a proposal would meet with much support inside the grade or with the authorities. There is another section who suggest that seizure rewards should be abolished. Unless a satisfactory addition to the salary be made in lieu of the seizure rewards, this suggestion would not carry much weight. Besides, it is doubtful whether the authorities would waste time considering the matter.

Personally, I should like to see the P.O.s excluded from a share in the rewards. The whole should be given to the A.P.O.

It is hoped that the question of seizure rewards will get the serious consideration of the members of the grades, and that opinions on the question will be obtained through your valuable columns, so as to enable members to see for themselves what difficulties a question of this kind presents.

This question will no doubt be tabled at the 1929 Conference, so every District has time to give the matter thorough debate.

Now is the time to place opinions for and against this very important question, so I hope to see a few articles in the next issue of the "Customs Journal" on this subject.

Yours, etc.,  
"PROGRESSIVE."

## Answer to Correspondent.

"PADDY."—It is an invariable rule that all communications should bear the signature of the sender. If you will write the Editor and acknowledge authorship of your letter, he will be only too pleased to answer your question.

## Civil Service Confederation.

### HALF-YEARLY COUNCIL MEETING.

The seventeenth (half-yearly) Council Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Saturday, 17th November, 1928, at Central Hall, Westminster. Mr. George Chase (President) presided over an attendance of 75 representatives of 35 constituent organisations, in addition to the officers and other members of the Executive Committee.

Representatives of the Telephone Contract Officers' Association, recently admitted to membership of the Confederation, attended the Council for the first time, and Mr. A. V. Sendell was also present as a fraternal delegate from the Electrical Power Engineers' Association.

The Half-Yearly Secretarial Report, the Honorary Treasurer's Financial Statement for the half-year ended 30th September, 1928, and the Half-Yearly Report on Publicity Work were presented and adopted.

Arising from the Minutes of the last Annual Council meeting, a discussion took place on the question of the meeting day of future Councils, and it was finally decided that future Annual and Half-Yearly Council meetings be held on a day of the week other than Saturday.

Considerable discussion took place on the question of the relations between the National Staff Side and the Joint Consultative Committee, and the latest developments in connection with this matter were reported.

Attention was called to the Equal Pay Demonstration to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on the 29th November, and the importance of vigorous action by Civil Servants on the question of Equal Pay was emphasised.

On the subject of Cost of Living, it was reported that Joint meetings of the Cost-of-Living Bonus Review Committee were now being held. It was the intention of the Staff Side to work along lines which, if successful, would produce an agreement based on a different structure from the present Cost-of-Living Agreement, and one which would give Civil Servants better conditions and more adequate compensation for the rise in the cost of living and the decreased value of money.

On the subject of the Single Men's War Bonus cases, it was reported that out of about 1,200 claims presented to the Independent Arbitrator, 250 had been successful, representing an amount of £20,000 to £25,000 obtained for Civil Servants, in addition to the amounts obtained following the original Sutton judgment. Discussions were proceeding between the Civil Service Joint Committee and the Treasury concerning the procedure to be adopted with regard to the remaining cases which did not come within the terms of reference laid down in the agreement of the 30th July, 1927, between the Civil Service Joint Committee and the Treasury.

Reference was made to the report shortly to be presented by the Committee set up to explore the possibility of standardising and improving the conditions of service of the staffs of the Civil Service Refreshment Clubs, and the opinion was expressed that, by taking in hand the question of improving the conditions of their own employees, Civil Servants would be in a stronger position when presenting claims to the Treasury and the Arbitration Court.

Arising out of a paragraph in the Report on Publicity Work presented to the Council, referring to the work done by the Publicity Officer of the Confederation in bringing pressure to bear upon Members of the House of Commons on the question of the promotion of 'P' Class men, attention was called to the vital importance of this issue to the men particularly affected, and the Council agreed that pressure on this matter should be vigorously maintained.

## Imperial Service Medal.

At the Custom House, Silloth, on Wednesday, 21st November, Mr. A. F. Phillips, P.O., lately retired from the Service, was presented, at the hands of Mr. J. Brames (W.S.), with the Imperial Service Medal. In making the presentation, Mr. Brames said the medal was awarded for a recognition of Mr. Phillips' untiring energy, zeal and faithful service during many years in the Customs and Excise Service. He congratulated Mr. Phillips on being the recipient of the honour, and expressed the hope that he would live many happy years in his retirement. A letter was received from Mr. Richardson (Collector, Preston) expressing regret for his absence and extolling Mr. Phillips' character and worth.

Mr. Phillips thanked his colleagues for their congratulations and expressions of esteem, and said that while he would always be proud of the award, he had a feeling of sadness that the time had come when he had to leave a service which he loved so well.

## ELECTION OF A.P.O. GRADE COUNCILLOR.

Members in the **Scotland Area** (which includes the Leith, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Belfast Districts) are hereby informed that the candidates nominated for the above position in their Area are:—

**Mr. J. Johnstone and Mr. P. A. Richardson.**

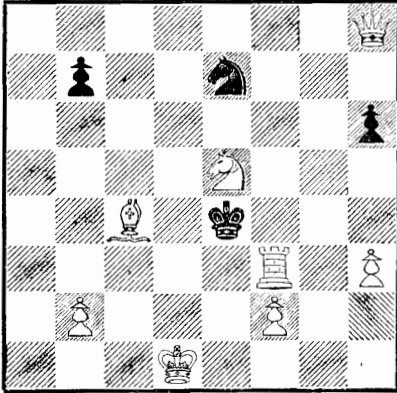
The notice that was given in the Journal of the 3rd instant to the effect that Mr. Johnstone had been elected unopposed should accordingly be disregarded.

J. T. SUTTON, Organising Secretary.

## SPORT AND SOCIAL.

## Customs Waterguard Chess Club

## PROBLEM No. 28.



By A. MARYANEK.  
White to mate in three moves.

## Solution to No. 27.

Key moves:—

1. R—B4, if K×R. 2. K—B6  
if P—R5. 2. R (R6)—KB6.

and mates accordingly—5 points.

## EARLY CHESS—Conclusion.

One day during the French Revolution, a delicately built young man sauntered into a cafe and challenged the dreaded Robespierre to a game of chess, the agreed stakes (stipulated by the stranger) being the life of a citizen sentenced to death. The youth won, Robespierre signed the pardon, and shortly after discovered to his profound surprise he had been playing the condemned man's fiancee, dressed in male attire.

## THE TRANSITION TO MODERN CHESS.

At an early date, European players began to make changes in the powers of move of the chessmen, and in the rules of the game. The game took too long in coming to a point. The policy of alterations of moves had the object of getting more rapidly through the first stage of the game. It is plain that the increased powers given to the Q and B completely altered the game. Compared with these, castling and the increased power of the P were of little importance. The new game, sometimes called "The Queen's Game," had come in by the beginning of the 16th Century. It gradually spread, with variations of practice in different countries, till it became in time settled in all respects as we have it among ourselves.

**Chess.**—Definition by E. Cobham Brewer, LL.D. Called by the Hindus **chaturanga** (the four angas), i.e., the four members of the army, viz., elephants, horses, chariots, and foot-soldiers; called by the

ancient Persians, **chetrang**. The Arabs, who have neither e or g, called it **shetranj**, which modern Persians corrupted into **sacchi**; whence the Italian **scacchi**, German **schach**, French **echec**, our Chess.

**Chess Club Address.**—Belfast: Central Hall, Rosemary Street.

## A Question of Space.

By JEMMY.

It has been said that the discontented man is the hope of the world, and if this is so, there is plenty of hope for the world in our Port, for although my colleagues so far have shown no disposition to emulate the example of certain persons by proclaiming to each other that they have nothing to lose but their chains, there is certainly a feeling of discontent prevalent here. Discontent is, on second thoughts, perhaps too strong a term, but the feeling is certainly stronger than dissatisfaction. And all because of a very simple thing—inadequate locker accommodation. I do not remember seeing this matter referred to previously in the "Customs Journal," but no doubt this is due more to apathy than to the non-existence of a grievance.

Of course, not every officer in the Service will have a grievance in this respect, for in some parts each officer has a locker to himself, but in ports where one locker is shared by two or more officers there certainly is some ground for complaint.

I have not ascertained the exact dimensions of the lockers, but it is not necessary to examine them closely to see that, when shared by two or more officers, they offer quite inadequate accommodation for, among other things, rummage gear, overcoat, raincoat, jacket, vest, trousers, hat, boots, towel, Revised Instructions, perhaps twenty years' G.O.s, and in many cases Establishment, etc., Codes. But it is not simply the lack of accommodation in itself which is the real ground for complaint. The real ground for complaint lies in the consequences arising from the insufficient accommodation. For instance, in this part of the country where two successive rainless days would be looked on as a phenomenon, our clothes are always more or less wet, or at least damp. The officer going off duty takes off his wet clothes and hangs them in the locker. This inevitably means that the clothes of the officer with whom he shares the locker are also made damp through contact, and the prospect of starting on an eight hours' spell of duty with clothes that are already damp is certainly not one to rejoice over.

There is only one solution to this question, and that is summed up in the words: one man, one locker; and it is to be hoped that this locker question is settled before we are successful in obtaining an issue of fountain pens, for if, in addition to the articles already mentioned, we have also to find room for a fountain pen, well—