

The Customs Journal

No. 630

December 15th, 1928

Fortnightly

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	241	Earnest Victor Hayman	246
Current Comments	242	Presentation to Mr. James Borrett	247
Preventive Staff Association	244	C. & E. Departmental Council	248
Changes in the Staff	244	Vocational Education Scheme	249
Correspondence	245	Sports and Social	252

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.

A PHRASE in our last Editorial may be taken to be rather misleading. We do not wish to give the impression that there have only been 200 decisions reached during a hundred meetings of the Departmental Council. Those who study the work of the Council will quite understand that the number of decisions is far more than this. At the last meeting, for instance, the number was in the region of 40. At the same time we were decidedly vague, and should have said that out of 200 decisions there had been only 18 disagreements.

Regarding the photograph inserted in the last issue, we would advise readers to study it in conjunction with the diagram printed elsewhere in this issue. As stated, it is a difficult group to describe, owing to the fact that the figures are not arranged in straight lines. The diagram makes a good explanation of the composition, and shows that the arrangement of the names was the only possible method in the absence of a key.

* * * *

There are very many members of the Preventive Staff who have a soft corner in their hearts for Jim Borrett, for a long time the Medical Officer's Assistant in London. His recent retirement has robbed the London Custom House of a cheery personality

that one was always glad to meet. With the knowledge that a large number of his friends and well-wishers are to be found among our ranks, we are glad to publish a full account of his presentation, and we heartily subscribe to all the good things that were said about him. The sentiments expressed on that occasion were in no wise exaggerated. We wish him and Mrs. Borrett all happiness and good health.

* * * *

NOTE.

Our next issue completes the 1928 volume of the "Customs Journal." The Christmas holidays occur during the week preceding publication, and it will be necessary to make special arrangements in preparation. ALL MATTER FOR INCLUSION SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EDITOR BY THE FIRST POST ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21st. We feel sure that contributors will gladly co-operate with us on this occasion, and will help us to keep up to standard, despite the temporary speeding-up.

* * * *

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF WISHING ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS.

CURRENT COMMENTS

THIS is the Christmas number of the "Customs Journal," and the opportunity is taken to wish all our members a very happy Christmas, whether they happen to be on duty or not. The officers who will be torn away from the Christmas festivities at about 9 p.m. on the 25th, in answer to the stern call of duty, are deserving of our sympathy. They are the most unfortunate of all the officers who have to appear for duty on Christmas Day. It is generally agreed that those who have to attend for the day watch are the lucky dogs, for this affords some opportunity of partaking in the family circle festivities during the evening. Those who appear for the evening watch are not to be envied, but they have some consolation in being able to reach home in time to enjoy at least a part of the evening's gaiety. The Waterguard officer who gets a clear day off duty at Christmas time is sure to make full use of an opportunity that so rarely comes his way.

* * * *

It is a pity that the special feature that was attempted in the Christmas issue of the "Customs Journal" had to be abandoned. There was, it is true, much room for improvement, but in spite of this there was plenty of evidence to show that it was well appreciated. Unfortunately it was found that the cost, even without the necessary improvements, was more than would justify the experiment being continued. Members are apt to forget that the expense of publishing the Journal is met from the ordinary funds of the Association, and therefore it is perhaps not altogether remarkable that some of them fail to realise the meanness of non-paying members who borrow their copy of the Journal. If all non-members joined with their colleagues in giving support to the Association, it would be possible to present a really good Christmas number of the "Customs Journal."

* * * *

The announcement of the Executive's decision to get on with the salary claim has resulted in numerous letters of appreciation being sent to the Association Office. If any further evidence were needed as to the discontent of Waterguard officers regarding the present salary scales, these letters would supply the deficiency. It must be admitted that the average Preventive Officer or Assistant Preventive Officer has a weakness for comparing his circumstances with those of officials who are much better off in other departments. This weakness is, however, forgivable because the comparisons are so tempting. The instances of more pay with obviously less responsibility are so glaring. Only the old-fashioned prejudiced notions regarding the nature of Waterguard work can stand in the way of these comparisons being fully appreciated.

* * * *

The meeting between the Executive of the Chief Preventive Officers' Association and the Officers of the P.S.A., which took place at Beer Lane recently,

was entirely successful. There was a lengthy discussion on the salary question, and also on the question of closer co-ordination between the two Associations. There was unanimous agreement that the lack of unity in the past has worked to the detriment of both organisations, and particularly so in the case of the Chief Preventive Officers. Members of the latter Association are invited to use the columns of the Journal to express their views on the present state of affairs. It is really necessary that they should take a more active interest in general Waterguard matters if progress is to be made in advancing the interests of the department.

* * * *

Preparation of the case for increase of salary has caused a good deal of pressure in the work at Association headquarters, and as this is likely to continue for some time, it is necessary to inform members that some delay is likely to occur in dealing with correspondence which is not urgent. It does not appear to be generally understood that each of the Association officials at headquarters has to perform a full day of official duties, and is free for Association duties only for a few hours each day. These spare hours are further reduced by the necessity to attend several meetings each week.

* * * *

It was alleged in Current Comments of last issue that the President of the Waterguard Federation personally advanced money to cover the expenses of an important Council meeting, which could not otherwise have been held owing to lack of funds in the Federation. Mr. J. Hall, who was the President referred to, now writes to say that this statement is not accurate. The fact is that Mr. Hall did not actually pay any money, but he offered to do so in the event of an appeal to the members not proving successful. Fortunately the money was eventually forthcoming from the members, but it was an anxious time for the Association officials. Mr. Hall writes to make this correction because he is unwilling to accept honour to which, he says, he is not entitled. The fact remains that the meeting would not have taken place had he not made his offer, and that is really the main point.

All Waterguard officers will be pleased to hear that Mr. Hall is well and hearty, and that though now retired from the Service, he still takes a keen interest in all that happens to his old department.

* * * *

The photograph of the members of the Departmental Council seems to have caused quite a few arguments as to who is who. In order to help those who find some difficulty in attaching the right names to the right people, a "key" is published in this issue, and it is hoped that this will be sufficient to decide all the bets in this connection.

A number of enquiries which have reached the Association regarding the supposed delay in dealing with applicants for promotion to the Officer Grade, can now be answered as a result of a question asked at the last Departmental Council meeting. The matter is not being held up in any way, and the work is well in hand. The number of applications is large, and these, of course, must take time to deal with. It is expected, however, that shortly the Promotion Board will be able to make recommendations.

* * * *

The letter by "Jemmy" in the last issue deals with a point which has just recently been considered by the Sub-Committee on Office Accommodation set up by the Joint Committee of Customs and Excise Associations. The Sub-Committee has adopted the proposal for a separate locker to be provided for each Waterguard Officer.

"Jemmy" remarks that he has seen no previous reference in the Journal columns in connection with the locker shortage. Probably this is because only in a few places does the grievance exist. It would be interesting to know if the people at these places have attempted to state their case on the local Whitley Committee. The arguments in favour of a separate locker for each officer are very strong, and it is quite likely that if the matter were raised in the proper way the grievance would be removed.

* * * *

The Customs and Excise Golfing Society held their eighth Annual Dinner at the Connaught Rooms, W.C.2, on November 26th. Sir Francis Floud occupied the Chair, and the gathering over which he presided was a very happy one.

This social affair is remarkable for the fact that practically every grade of the C. & E., from the Chairman of the Board downwards, is represented; indoor and outdoor; the provinces as well as the metropolis. Golfers and non-golfers are equally welcome. There is that cordial atmosphere of sincere good-fellows-ship which always assures the success of such functions.

There were several distinguished guests, and during the evening the Society's golf prizes were distributed by Lord Ebbisham.

Amongst the members of the Waterguard Department who were present were Mr. N. Thompson, Mr. J. C. Fitzsimons, Mr. F. C. Warne, and Mr. J. McLaren.

The musical programme was most entertaining. There was an appreciative audience for topical songs, and Mr. C. M. Woodford gave them something to appreciate. One of his songs, "Much too complicated," would be popular at any Customs and Excise social gathering, and for this reason the words are published in this issue of the "Customs Journal," Mr. Woodford having kindly consented to this.

(Tune: "Vicar of Bray.")

When Julius Caesar landed here
In 55 B.C., sirs,
To learn the Britons what was what,
He formed the C. & E., sirs.
But in those distant far-off days
There were but simple taxes,
For the only goods on the Tariff then
Were spears and battle-axes.

Chorus: And this is truth, could I but choose,
I'd choose times antiquated,
For in these days a Customs life
Is much too complicated.

In 1380 Chaucer came,
His taxes here to levy,
He only dealt with hides and skins,
His units were not heavy.
For hides and skins no linings had,
The girls didn't wear silk blouses,
And he ne'er had to work the duty out
On a pair of ladies'—stockings.

Chorus: And this is truth, could I but choose,
I'd choose times antiquated,
For in these days a Customs life
Is much too complicated.

When Drake discovered the Spanish Main
Our imports grew unceasing,
So in good Queen Bess's golden reign
The staff was fast increasing.
But any branch of office rules
Could punished be most fitly;
With a day on the rack and then the sack,
They'd never heard of Whitley.

Chorus: And this is truth, could I but choose,
I'd choose times antiquated,
For in modern times the official life
Is much too complicated.

When Carolus Two came back from France
He travelled via Dover,
And they say it took a ship or two
To bring his *baggage* over.
But the Waterguard were not perturbed
At the sight of so much beauty,
For tarts and sweetstuffs in those days
Were not subject to duty.

Chorus: And this is truth, could I but choose,
I'd choose times antiquated,
For a Waterguard life in modern times
Is far too complicated.

In later years came Bobbie Burns
With love and passion raging,
He'd rather woo than have to do
His more prosaic gauging.
But if Bobbie Burns did but come back,
He'd have to be more wary,
Or he'd have the Collector on his track
For that little affair with Mary.

Chorus: And this is truth, could I but choose,
I'd choose times antiquated,
For in modern days an Excise life
Is much too complicated.

Preventive Staff Association

Head Office

Thames Chambers,

18, Beer Lane,

London, E.C.8.

Telephone ROYAL 4279

President: *W. G. Thomson*

General Secretary: *J. Merron*

Organising Secretary: *J. T. Sutton*

Assistant Secretary: *W. H. Powell*

SOUTHAMPTON.

A very successful meeting was held at the Alexandra Hotel on Thursday, November 29th. Chairman, Mr. Keeble.

The business arising out of the minutes was purely of local importance, and very keen discussions took place. Satisfaction was expressed with the progress made since the previous meeting.

Item number four of the agenda, "Abolition of the C.P.O. Grade," was the signal for forty minutes heated discussion. Good, sound reasoning and great interest developed, but Father Time forced an adjournment until the next meeting.

The District Secretary was instructed to write the General Secretary, thanking him for his untiring efforts in bringing about the supply of mackintoshes.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO DECEMBER 16th, 1928.

APPOINTMENTS.

ENGINEER-MECHANIC :—

Cherry, J. J.

TRANSFERS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Barr, J., Stranraer, Dumfries to Greenock.

Burge, B. J. A., Swansea to Heysham, Preston.

Camburn, G. E. N., Glasgow to London.

Hall, W., Charleston, Plymouth to Liverpool.

Pick, C. R., Milford Haven, Swansea to Bristol.

Pucknell, A. M., Newcastle to Cardiff.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Barker, J. W., London to Ipswich.

O'Shea, J. C., Liverpool to Point of Air, Chester

EXCHANGE :—

Anderson, E. E., Sharpness, Worcester, with Hyde, T. W., Penarth, Cardiff.

PROMOTIONS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Booth, R. W., Hull to Newcastle.

Brownlee, J. A. E., Liverpool.

Heaver, F. J. K., Dover to Milford Haven.

Prior, T. E., London.

Roper, A. S., London to Swansea.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS—PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Camburn, G. T., London.

Corbet, W. M., Greenock.

Hayman, E. V., Portmadoc, Chester.

MATE-IN-CHARGE :—

Henwood, C., London.

DEATH—PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Corbett, M., Dartmouth, Plymouth.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Macaulay, J., London.

VACANCIES.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Hull. 24.1.1929.

*Stranraer, Dumfries.

* An allowance of £35 per annum for performing Long Room work, etc., is assigned.

MATE-IN-CHARGE :—

London. 1.12.1928.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS

Lawson, J. C., Chief Preventive Officer, Lower Section.

The Free Allowance.

I must admit, as stated by "Reasonable," that the opinions to which I recently gave expression are contrary to the general practice obtaining in the Service. Nevertheless, they are my conclusions after weighing up the evidence for a considerable period.

"Reasonable" bases his opinions, not on a reading of duty-free regulations and smuggling regulations together, but by keeping to the latter. I have thought it more appropriate, more in keeping with a desire to see into the official mind, were it possible, to read the two sets.

"Reasonable" says: "'Articles' being in the plural, it would therefore 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.'"

It is precisely the omission of these words which leads me to believe that particular descriptions of goods do not overlap one another, *i.e.*, if a person has produced a quantity of tobacco, and is detected in an attempt to smuggle spirits and lace, that these latter articles cannot grammatically, or any other way, be said to be a "further" quantity, because they are not the same as the goods produced.

In the example which I gave, and which Mr. Sheehan clouds behind his smoke-screen of "chocolate honesty," we have a man producing a $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. cigars, and detected with another $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. cigars. This is a further quantity, and so far as any similar individual case is concerned, it makes no difference whether the second $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. is produced or not produced, the owner loses all title to a free allowance.

There is no need at the moment to proceed further with the subject, but possibly at a later date we may come across something more real than an expression of opinion.

"WENSO."

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.

THE FREE ALLOWANCE.

Sir,—Perhaps I am too young to understand, but it passes my comprehension why the present-day seafaring community and the oversea travellers are granted "A Free Allowance of Dutiable Goods."

The regulations now in force were compiled in the good old days of sailing ships, when the duty on goods was trifling, more than a generation ago. A return voyage to Australia was a year's work, and a trip to the Continent was of uncertain duration. The modern steamer can keep to a time-table, and is never many days away from a port. I consider the time has arrived to overhaul duty-free allowances to passengers, and List 142, by cancelling paragraph 9, C.C., Vol. I, Part IV, and paragraphs 4-7 inclusive on List 142.

Passengers.—To pay duty on all dutiable goods in their possession, or abandon them.

Crews.—All dutiable goods to be produced to the Boarding Officer, an allowance of tobacco, 1 oz., to be left out for consumption. No spirits or wine.

The result would be more revenue for the Crown, and much time would be saved by the Boarding Officer *i.e.*, those whose duty it is to issue stores.

By abolishing free concessions there may be an inducement to smuggle. However, that would be up to us.

"PERSEVERE."

The Free Allowances.

On this subject, "Reasonable" and I appear to be in agreement in our replies to "Wenso" in the last issue of the "Customs Journal," except that, in my opinion, he does not seem to have fully grasped the official intention embodied in the additions to pars. 16 and 17 of Vol. I, Part V, by G.O. 77/1928. The subject is an important one, particularly to students of Customs regulations and procedure, and therefore I offer no apology for "butting in" again.

Our point of disagreement lies in the third paragraph of "Reasonable's" article. It may appear trivial, but it deviates from the principle involved, and for this reason requires correction. He says that the only person who, on being detected in an attempt to smuggle, receives any free concessions is the seaman remaining by his ship, who has not landed his free allowance. But the addition to par. 16 of Vol. I, Part V, by G.O. 77/1928 includes allowances to be landed, to which par. 16 applies.

The additions referred to make it quite clear that what has already passed out of control of the Customs, and provided it is not being illegally dealt with, should not again be brought into question. This procedure was held to be correct by many officers long before G.O. 77/1928 was issued, and is only a logical interpretation of Customs require-

ments. We might even say that such a decision has legal foundation, inasmuch as goods which have already been dealt with under the authority of an officer, and the transaction completed, if the regulations in connection therewith are fully complied with, are in the position of having been cleared.

The position, I submit, is very clear if we remember that the official spirit intended appears to be to differentiate between what happens when we are dealing with a person at first hand, and after a person has already been dealt with by another officer, or being dealt with later. Dealing with the first person, no duty-free allowances should be accorded if an attempt to smuggle is detected, but the essential point now is that what has already passed out of control in accordance with regulations, and provided it is not in itself part of an illegal transaction, should not be interfered with, if the person is subsequently found to be involved in a smuggling transaction, whether the allowance has been passed for use on board or for use on shore.

W. M. SHEEHAN.

Triple Presentation in London.

What may be described as the presentation to the three S.s was made at the St. Katherine Dock Hotel on the evening of Thursday, 22nd November. In one of the speeches during the evening the three guests were described as representing Sincerity, Style and System, three qualities that count for a great deal in life.

Mr. Merron made an excellent Chairman, whose sympathetic handling of the meeting contributed largely to the success of the evening. The guests of the evening were Mr. J. Smallwood, who came to London on promotion about twenty years ago; Mr. A. R. Stevens, whose career commenced at Gravesend in 1892, and who, on promotion in 1910, went to Penarth, and subsequently served at Queenstown before transferring to London; and Mr. Arthur Spratt, very well known to a large number of officers in different ports, and an indispensable member of the staff for many years at Shadwell Pier-head and the "Harpy."

The three presentations were separately taken, and Mr. G. E. Fooks (C.P.O.) gladly undertook the duty of handing to the retiring officers the articles that accompanied the good wishes of the staff, a duty which he carried out with many expressions of regret at the loss of colleagues who had earned the respect of all in the Service. Mr. Romans was also present during the evening.

The presentation to Mr. Smallwood took the form of a dining-room clock. Opinion was expressed that he should have retired with a higher position than he had attained. Appreciation of his Association activities was shown, and of the active influence he had given to the inception of the Chess Club. He has been a player ever since the start of the Club, and many members of the department owe their introduction to the game to Mr. Smallwood.

In his reply, Mr. Smallwood referred in glowing terms to the excellent feeling that obtained among the Preventive Staff.

In presenting a hall clock to Mr. Stevens, Mr. Fooks recognised in him an old colleague of Gravesend days. He was referred to in one of the speeches as one of the old contemptibles of the Waterguard, and a number of references were made to the old London days when things were not quite the same as they are now. Mr. Stevens said that he left the Service with many happy thoughts of past associations with his colleagues, and took the opportunity of recalling pleasant memories of the time he spent at Queenstown.

Mr. Spratt, by virtue of a long period of time he has spent in the office at Shadwell and on the "Harpy" station, was spoken of in very sympathetic terms. Mr. Fooks said that he was another of the old contemptibles. He expressed the gratitude of all ranks for the valuable assistance that Arthur Spratt had rendered them, often under stress of much physical pain. Behind his smiling face he had suffered a lot, though he seldom mentioned it. Several speakers were quite convinced that he would have gone ahead in the Service had it not been for the misfortune he had suffered with his foot, and hoped that now the opportunity for rest had arrived, a permanent cure might be effected. Another speaker said that it was a generally accepted fact that you can't please everybody, but Arthur Spratt had given the lie to that. Another said that a man that could smile under the circumstances that Mr. Spratt had had to contend with, had lived his official life well. He was presented with two easy chairs, coupled with a handbag and umbrella for Mrs. Spratt.

During the evening a very interesting musical programme was provided, and was contributed to by Messrs. Steel, Metcalfe, Sullivan, Booker, Becher and Stendring.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Chair, and sincere appreciation was given of the valuable services of Mr. Bert Rogers, who is recognised as indispensable at the piano in London.

Ernest Victor Hayman.

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

Grey in these lines, was surely thinking of that large proportion of our race content to work, to help, and to aid, and then possibly to pass on unrewarded and unknown.

Such a man was Ernest Victor Hayman, Preventive Officer-in-Charge, Portmadoc. Not, however, that he wasted any sweetness. He disseminated it, and Portmadoc feels the richer for it.

Mr. Hayman retired from a Service where he was almost unknown and where, possibly through the affliction of some degrees of deafness, his talents were restricted, on Tuesday, November 27th. At 5 o'clock on the following afternoon a representative gathering met in the Town Hall to wish Mr. and Mrs. Hayman long life and happiness in their retirement.

The Chairman, Mr. Adrian Stokes, addressing Mr. Hayman, said he was a credit to the uniform he wore, and went on to speak of the esteem in which Mr. Hayman was held by everybody in Portmadoc. As a church worker and an adherent of every good cause which was promoted in Portmadoc, Mr. Hayman was second to none, and his removal from among them (Mr. Hayman is going to Norfolk) would leave in the hearts of all of them an emptiness it would be hard to fill. Captain J. J. Jones followed, and with much emotion spoke of the great friendliness manifested by Mr. Hayman in eighteen years of acquaintance. Speaker after speaker got up, and in a variety of language testified to Mr. Hayman's wonderful character, from the capable and most conscientious performance of his official duties to his great and loyal usefulness to the community. As one speaker very nicely put it, "he held the white flower of a blameless life."

A representative of the Preventive Staff was present and apologised for intruding himself into the meeting, but felt that it was incumbent upon him to add a word to the encomiums already uttered.

Miss Lockwood, who also seems to be the friend of everybody in Portmadoc, made the presentation. The lady made a happy little speech in handing him the gift, "just something to remember us by."

Mr. Hayman, in reply, said he would indeed be a hard-hearted individual if he had been able to listen to all that had been said without being very much moved—as indeed he was. He was an Englishman amongst a Welsh community, and had had a sympathetic reception when he came among them. Now he thanked Capt. Roberts for bringing him there. He then related the "how" of his coming. Continuing, Mr. Hayman said it was nice to feel that he was leaving only friends. He had not realised that the friendship was so great until this last week or so. He had almost come to dislike going out. He had met so many people who had said such friendly things that he could hardly understand that such friendship was possible. He thought that out of sheer goodness of heart people had said of him more than he deserved. Now it was a great wrench for him to leave them. Had he thought it would be such a wrench he would not have decided to leave Portmadoc, but his wife's indifferent health was his reason. The meeting, he said, had "taken the wind out of his sails." He was not saying what he would really have liked to have said, but in his mind he would always visualise that meeting, and he thanked everybody very sincerely. He would buy something that would constantly remind him of many happy years in Portmadoc, and concluded with best wishes to everybody for the prosperity of the town.

It is a source of considerable satisfaction to the Preventive Staff to know that Mr. Hayman should be so highly esteemed by the people amongst whom he so long laboured.

Teacher: Now, Willie, who was the boy who "stood on the burning deck, whence all but he had fled?"

Willie: CAPABLANCA. — ("Chess Pie," 1922.)

Presentation—Mr. James Borrett.

Room 120 in the Custom House, London was crowded with friends of Mr. James Borrett, Surgery Attendant, on the occasion of a presentation on his retirement from the Department.

Surgeon Commander Hopkins, R.N., was in the Chair, and said that they had met that evening with mixed feelings. They were sad to have to say farewell to their old friend James Borrett, but were glad to be able to tell him what they thought of him, and to speak as friends might speak of a friend on such an occasion. Borrett had been long in the Service, and was known practically to all C. & E. officials in London, and to many of them very intimately. His services had been of a character that had absolutely endeared him to many. He was essentially a very friendly man with always a bright and cheery word. It had always been his (Commander Hopkins) luck to serve with good fellows, and when he came to the Custom House he found that his good fortune had bounded higher than ever: when he found in the attendant such a capable and a good fellow as Borrett. All of those present, and many hundreds of others throughout the country, who had come into touch with their friend, had a full appreciation of his fine qualities. He was also known beyond the confines of the Department and in the City of London in particular, where he daily might be found hard at work in the very early morning hours. He was the subject of an appreciative article recently printed, and the Service Poet, in singing Borrett's praises and referring to his retirement, had warned him (Commander Hopkins) against any departure from the methods and treatment approved by Borrett. (Laughter.) He parted with Borrett with much regret, and with much gratitude for all his assistance and for the kindness he had brought to his work and to him during the past nine years. (Applause.)

Mr. John Beard said that 35 years ago Mr. Borrett introduced him to the then Medical Inspector for examination on entrance to the Service. He was then struck by his genial and obliging manner. Knowing that the examination would be very stringent, he was in a state of nervous trepidation, but was greatly comforted by his friend's assurance that there was nothing to fear, and that everything would be all right. It must have been, for he was still here. Since then, at various times, the same courtesy had been extended to him by their friends; for instance, when being examined for insurance in the Customs Fund. He was sure they would all miss meeting Jim Borrett in the Custom House corridors, and would miss his genial salutations. Knowing as he did his general courtesy and helpfulness to all members of the Service, no matter what their rank, he had no hesitation in saying that they were losing a man whom it would be difficult to replace. He therefore, on behalf of the Outdoor Department, had the greatest pleasure, not only in testifying to his popularity, but also in wishing him every happiness and good luck in the future.

Mr. O Flynn said he conveyed the good wishes of the Waterguard staff, so many members of which had come under the kindly notice of "Jimmy," as he was popularly known amongst them. Official duties brought him to the Waterguard Office, Room 11, three or four times every day, and they were always glad to see him. He was ever bright and cheerful, and set about his job as a man who enjoyed his work. Jimmy might be sure that he would always be nicely remembered by the many hundreds of Waterguard people who had served in London, and on their, and on his own, behalf he wished him and Mrs. Borrett a long and happy retirement.

Mr. C. M. Woodford said that although his acquaintance with Borrett did not extend over so long a period as those of previous speakers, he could heartily endorse all that had been said of his kindness. His father had known Jim Borrett much longer and had told him several stories of the methods of treating persistent callers. After relating one of the old-time stories, Mr. Woodford expressed the hope that Mr. Borrett and his wife would enjoy long life and happiness.

Mr. Softly said that his acquaintance with Mr. Borrett had not always been of the best. They did not always wear their hearts on their sleeves. Referring to Borrett's presence at the medical examinations, he said it was rather embarrassing on first acquaintance with anyone, however charming he might be, to have to be so intimate as was generally necessary on so short an acquaintance. (Laughter.) But Jimmy always considered their wounded feelings. They had perforce laid themselves bare before him, and sometimes carried revelation even farther. (Laughter.) From Mr. Borrett's youthful and well-preserved appearance he felt sure that he would find work in some other sphere, and he hoped occasionally their paths would cross. He knew of no rhyme for Hopkins, and poetic inspiration for the occasion failed to materialise Jim Borrett. He wished him God-speed in his retirement.

Mr. Horan said he was very pleased to say a few words on behalf of the Watcher Grade to their retiring friend. The many Watchers who had occasion to go to the surgery knew how well they were always received and treated there. There was general appreciation of him in the grade, and he was looked upon as a friend to all. He was glad to be able to get over for a few minutes to testify to their regard for him. He was glad to learn that the post of Surgery Attendant had been made a pensionable one, and as one of those still deprived of such a benefit, he congratulated Borrett from the bottom of his heart, and hoped that he may have good health and live long to enjoy his retirement.

Mr. Halland, who made the presentation, said that he was sure no one could feel other than gratified by being asked to represent the subscribers on that occasion, and he felt a very considerable pleasure in doing so. The many kind things that had been said about their friend Jim Borrett had made his task an easy one. He had a genial disposition, a gift of friendliness, and a smile that won everyone. He possessed a sturdy manliness that accounted for the general and very deserving popularity that he had won in the Service, and in his hands the office of Surgery Attendant had become

something of an institution by virtue of an unusual personality. He related how upon medical examination for entry to the Service, Borrett and Dr. Dickson the elder had given him the benefit of the doubt in chest measurement, and added that, whatever others might think, the Directors of the fund had shown their appreciation of the incident by heading the subscription list in a very handsome manner. He said that, turning formally to the business of evening, he would say that Jim Borrett was a man of a simple but extremely likeable nature. He showed those simple qualities that Hamlet found in his friend Horatio, "A man whom fortune's buffets and rewards had ta'en with equal thanks." Fortune had been kind to him. She had given him that good nature, that gift of friendship, and that quiet charm of manner, of all of which he has made most. If fortune has buffeted him, Borrett has not got the worst of it because he wore no scars; he had come through the same Borrett that they all saw in his younger days. (Applause.) In that representative gathering there was evidence of the very high appreciation which he had won by his quiet and unassuming way. Describing the gifts he said that the Silver Tea Service was from the Outdoor and Clerical Service and the Customs Fund, the subscription list for which contained names from every grade and branch from the highest to the lowest in the Service. He could not resist saying that the Board were represented on the list. (Applause.) The Silver Cigarette Case was from the Waterguard Department, the Clock from the Office Keeper's Staff, and there was a cheque made up by contributions from everyone. He hoped that he would use them all daily, and that they would keep in remembrance the friends he had made. Taking Borrett by the hand, he said: "In shaking hands with me, Jim, you are shaking hands with all those friends who are not able to be present this evening, and who join in wishing you and Mrs. Borrett the best of good luck in the new life upon which you are about to enter. (Applause.)"

Mr. Borrett, who was received with much applause, said:—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I have never made a speech in my life, but I should like to talk to you for a little while in my own way. For nearly forty years I have received kindness, consideration and affection from the gentlemen under whom I have had the honour to serve. Dr. Walter Dickson, known to but a few here, from the first day that I entered the Medical Department, treated me as a son; he did everything in his power to improve my position, and he succeeded. Shortly before he retired, I was deputed to send a telegram to his son, Dr. Hugh, at the County Hospital, Lincoln, informing him that the Honourable Board had decided that he was to follow in his father's footsteps as the Medical Inspector of the Honourable Board of Customs. He commenced duty on the 1st April, 1892, and, till within a few days of 27 years, he claimed me as a friend and brother. I was with him when his father passed away, and with the remark, "Father would wish it," he asked me to render him a last service, so I prepared him for crossing the bar. I was at breakfast at Norwood on the day of the funeral, when a maid entered with a message from Dr. Hugh that "Mr. Borrett was not the Doctor's servant but his friend," and he

meant it. I attended his wedding, and for the remainder of the years that we were together work was a continual pleasure. On the 17th March, 1919, he left us, and I said goodbye to him at the graveside at Kingston. Then for six long months I was a very lonely man. In the middle of October, 1919, the surgery door opened, and Mr. Dyke, with Mr. Trotter and a stranger, entered, Surgeon Commander Hopkins, who, with a hearty hand-grip, greeted me with: "Well, Borrett, I believe that you are my Lieutenant." Then commenced a commission which has lasted for nine years. Twenty-nine years would not have been too long for me, as I found another friend and the work became a pleasure again; but all things have to end, and I have to go. I will now conclude by offering my humble and heartfelt thanks to you for the honour shown me by your presence, and for the handsome gifts you have given to me. My mother will be proud of her son when she sees them to-morrow. Gentlemen, I thank you all. (Applause.)

A vote of thanks to Commander Hopkins closed the proceedings.

Customs and Excise Departmental Council.

THE HUNDRETH MEETING.

The one hundredth meeting of the Council was held in London on November 21st, 1928, the Chair being taken by Sir Francis Flood, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

It was agreed that the senior member of the Board present should take the Chair during the ensuing year. Mr. Thomas Morton was appointed Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. S. Marshall Official Side Secretary, and Mr. C. A. W. Sanders Staff Side Secretary. All the standing committees were re-appointed.

VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS.

It was stated that the work of selecting from the large number of candidates from the Waterguard and Departmental Clerical Class for promotion to the Officer Grade was well in hand, and that it would be possible shortly for the Promotion Board to make representations.

The Staff Side were also informed that there were 14 vacancies for Executive Officers in the Department, and that it was proposed to fill them from the open competition. They pressed for the early release of Unattached Officers from the Chief Office, in which they were being employed owing to the shortage of Executive Officers, and it was stated that this would be effected as soon as possible.

RETIRING AGE.

The following rules were agreed to in respect of the Departmental Clerical Class:—

- (1) Established members of the Departmental Clerical Class will normally be retired on attaining the age of 61.
- (2) Senior Chief Clerks, Chief Clerks and Departmental Higher Clerical Officers, who on reaching the age of 61 have not completed 40 years' service, may be allowed to complete an uncompleted year of service.

- (3) A Departmental Clerical Officer who has not completed 40 years' pensionable service when he attains the age of 61 may be allowed to remain in the Service provided that his health and efficiency continue to be such as to enable him to perform all the duties of his grade, until either he completes 40 years' pensionable service or he attains the age of 65, whichever is the earlier.
- (4) Unestablished members of the Departmental Clerical Class will normally be allowed to remain in the Service, provided that their health and efficiency continue to be such as to enable them to perform all the duties of their grade, until they attain the age of 65.
- (5) These arrangements do not affect—
1. The general powers of the Board
 - (a) to call upon any official to retire at any time after reaching the age of 60, or
 - (b) to retain any official, with his consent, beyond the prescribed age of retirement, or
 2. The existing rights of officials to apply for retirement on reaching the age of 60.

TRAVELLING, REMOVALS, etc.

It was agreed that Departmental Clerical Officers should be allowed a day for travelling when sent on relief duties outside the town in which they are employed in those cases in which a change of residence is involved.

It was also agreed in regard to Fixed Officiators and Travelling Expenses—interpretation of paragraph 3 of General Order No. 83/1925 (Part XVIII)—that in cases in which daily travelling expenses by public conveyance had been paid, but in which claims had been controlled on the basis of season ticket rates and a surcharge had been made, such surcharge would be waived.

The question of the rates payable for removal expenses in the case of "P" Class Clerks transferred on promotion was again adjourned.

DISTURBANCE ALLOWANCE.

Various adjustments of the major agreement on this subject were agreed to, and will be communicated to the staff by General Order at an early date.

OVERTIME.

The subject of payment of overtime to Departmental Clerical Officers for weeks in which a public or privilege holiday occurs was discussed by the Council, and adjourned for further consideration by the Official Side.

STARTING PAY

The Council had under consideration a number of typical cases of entrants to the Departmental Clerical Class through the Southborough examination. Decisions were adjourned pending the supply of further information by the Staff Side.

LEAVE.

The Staff Side moved that Clerical Officers, Departmental Clerical Officers, and Writing Assistants transferred from other Departments on promotion to these grades should be entitled to take arrears of private leave accruing from service in their previous Departments. The subject was adjourned after full discussion.

RELATIVE SENIORITY.

The Council agreed to a seniority list of all "P" Class Clerks serving in the Department.

INSTRUCTIONS.

It was agreed that Departmental Clerical Officers should receive personal copies of all future General Orders, and of such Instructions as are necessary for the proper performance of their duties, on the understanding that copies of existing Instructions should only be supplied so far as present stocks permit.

OUTFIT.

It was agreed that mackintosh coats be issued to Coast Preventive Men and Land Preventive Men, and that mackintosh leggings be issued to Coast Preventive Men, the garments to be to the patterns agreed upon with the Staff Side representatives, and that the periods of wear be three years in the case of the coats and two years in the case of the leggings.

UNITS OF WORK.

The item "Hydrocarbon Oils—Exporters—Packings" was added, by agreement, to Schedule II of the main agreement on units.

It was also agreed, subject to each case being considered on its merits, that extra weight in proportion to the excess units of an abnormal Station be given to the units for "Correspondence and Reports," "Sundry Office Work," "Miscellaneous Outdoor Work," "Office Attendance," and "Attendance on the Public outside Office hours" in those abnormal Stations where the existing units have been fixed on the basis of a normal Station.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

On Staff Side enquiry it was stated that the ordinary routine was being followed in respect of accommodation at oil wharves and warehouses. Approvals of the latter would include the usual conditions as to accommodation.

OTHER MATTERS.

A number of decisions advised by Local, Office, Sectional and Grade Committees were dealt with, with results that have been communicated to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on 19th December, 1928.

Presentation at Milford Haven.

A very pleasant ceremony took place in the Custom House, Milford Haven, on Saturday, November 24th, on the occasion of the transfer of Mr. C. R. Pick, P.O., to Bristol.

Mr. Lloyd, Landing Staff, in a few well-chosen sentences, spoke very highly of the sterling qualities of Mr. Pick during the last 6½ years, during which time Mr. Lloyd had been connected with Mr. Pick in an official capacity.

Mr. Evans (Port Sanitary Authority) and Mr. Keefe, A.P.O. (on behalf of the A.P.O.s of the Port) also spoke very highly of Mr. Pick, and expressed their regret at losing so popular an officer.

Mr. Lloyd then made a presentation to Mr. Pick of a set of gold cuff links, and in a well-words reply, Mr. Pick acknowledged the gift and expressed regret at leaving the port and his colleagues.

The proceedings were completed in a manner most satisfactory to all concerned.

OBITUARY.

It is with profound regret that we announce the death of two well-known and highly esteemed Waterguard officers, both of whom had been connected with the port of Bristol during their official careers.

Mr. J. C. LAWSON (late C.P.O.).

An old friend and a trusted colleague, he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. He passed away suddenly at his home at Pill, Somerset, on November 20th, at the age of 68 years.

Mr. Lawson joined the service in 1881 at the now obsolete boarding station, Pill, Bristol, and subsequently served at the ports of Southampton, Cardiff and London.

Following the death of his youngest son in a military hospital, he retired in November, 1918, and settled at Pill.

He was interred at St. George's Churchyard, Easton-in-Gordano, on Friday, November 23rd, borne to his last resting place by officers of the Department in uniform.

The many floral tributes included one from Customs and Excise Officers (all ranks) of Bristol and Avonmouth. R.I.P.

Mr. TOM O'DWYER (late P.O.).

His splendid character and his long association with this port made him a very popular figure around the docks. After a short illness he passed away on November 27th. With the exception of a short period served at Glasgow, he spent the whole of his official life at Bristol and Avonmouth, and has only recently retired. He was a real and true friend to mankind, and a most loyal and devoted servant to the Crown.

The scene of the interment on Saturday, December 1st, was Arno's Vale, Bristol, when officers of the Department acted as bearers.

A floral tribute in the shape of an anchor was sent by all ranks of the C. & E. of Bristol and Avonmouth. R.I.P.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SCHEME VERY EASY STUDIES

Once again I feel it is necessary to bring before the notice of readers of the "Customs Journal" the fact that there is such a scheme as the V.E.S.

Despite the fact that the enterprise has undoubtedly proved a success up to the present, it cannot continue to be so successful unless it has the very essential support from the interested members of the staff—that is to say, practically all those officers who anticipate being called within the next two or three years. Obviously, there will always be those

people who are continually postponing their studies until the exam. is announced, when they endeavour to condense about eighteen months' study into as many weeks, shewing a great amount of surprise if they do not prove successful.

I appeal to prospective candidates for their own sakes, and for the sake of the scheme and the Waterguard Department as a whole, do not be included in those few. If you are not already V.E.S. students, make your minds up now and join without delay. You may commence your studies at any time.
(Signed) S. C. STEEL.

FILL IN THIS FORM NOW.

The Secretary (V.E.C.),

Preventive Staff Association,

13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3.

Preliminary Course

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

Advanced Course

Departmental Regulations. Postal Order payable to P.S.A., London, value.....(insert amount), enclosed.

Name

Address

Tutors:—Messrs. Angus, Finley, Gardiner, Jeffreys, Lake, Sheehan, and Thomson.

Please indicate Tutor desired, and choice of Tutors will be given as far as possible.

Fees: 10/0, 15/0, and 20/0 per term respectively.

Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

This first year of activity was naturally devoted to placing the Club on a sound working basis, by no means an easy task in view of the fact that all committee business was conducted by correspondence, as the personnel of the committee was scattered about the country and therefore unable to meet.

We were fortunate in securing the interest of Mr. C. E. Egan, C.P.O., as our first Chairman, and under his guiding influence the Club has made steady progress.

The Committee have drawn up a set of rules governing membership and play, a copy of which is in every membership card. A system of league play with promotion and relegation over 4 sections has been devised and is now in operation.

It was also decided that we should purchase a Silver Cup out of the Club funds, to be competed for annually, and in the event of the cup being won by the same member on three consecutive occasions, it shall become the property of such member and a new Cup purchased from the Funds.

It is with pleasure we report in this connection that the Club has been saved the expense of buying its first Cup through the very generous action of the Chairman, Mr. Egan, in presenting us with the Cup we now possess, an action very much appreciated by all members.

This year's winner and first holder is Mr. J. M. Mitchell, A.P.O., Leith, who beat all comers, winning the whole of his nine games. We also decided to affiliate with some recognised Chess body in order to secure for the Club some measure of status and with a view to gaining assistance and knowledge in furthering the Club's progress.

After various enquiries by the Secretary the Committee agreed to affiliate with the Kent County Chess Association, the cost of which to the Club is 2/6 plus one shilling for each affiliated member. As a result of this affiliation some of our London members have played over-board games for Kent at which we can safely say they have gained valuable experience.

In order to obviate, as far as possible, any disputes in play, and to assist any new members who were also beginners in the game, it was decided to supply every member with a copy of the British Chess Federation's "Law on Chess" (free).

During the year the Secretary was instructed to obtain a ruling from the Postmaster-General in London as to the admissibility of chess moves through the post for ½d. A reply was received definitely stating that such moves were not allowed at this rate, therefore our cheapest rate is by the penny postcard.

The most important achievement during the period of this report, and one which was most pleasing to every member, is the fact that we secured the interest of the Inspector-General, Mr. N. Thompson, O.B.E., who by graciously accepting office became our first President. It is confidently expected that, with the continued interest of superiors and support of the members, the Club will continue to progress.

The membership at present stands at about 36 members, and the first Balance Sheet is attached herewith.

On behalf of the Committee,

W. W. BISHOP,

Hon. Secretary.

[The Balance Sheet submitted shows the Club to be in a very sound condition, and we congratulate the officers on the splendid results of their first year's work.—Ed.]

Departmental Council.

HUNDRETH MEETING.

The photograph of the C. & E. Departmental Council, taken on the occasion of its hundredth meeting on November 21st, and inserted in our last issue, has called forth a few queries as to who's who. Several critics hold that the names should have been given in lines, reading from left to right. The grouping, however, makes this course impossible, for although the front line would be quite simple, it would be almost impossible to identify those behind. The course that was followed was that of moving a vertical line across the picture from left to right, and setting down the names in the order in which the line touched the figures. The accompanying diagram provides the key to the photograph, and it will be noticed that the names given below are in the same order in which they appeared at the foot of the illustration. They are arranged in groups of four for convenience.

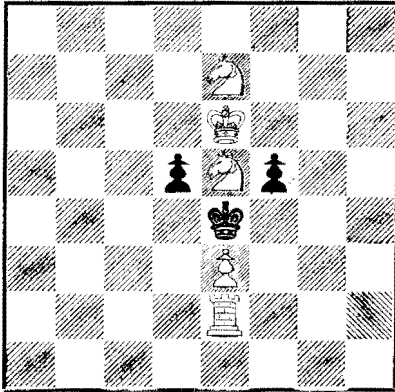


- 1st Group—Messrs. (1) C. J. T. B. Grylls, C.B., C.B.E., (2) R. B. Hunter, (3) E. Rogers, (4) W. Young, C.B.
- 2nd Group—Messrs. (5) G. B. Brown, (6) E. C. Cunningham, C.B., (7) T. Marton (Vice-Chairman), (8) A. S. Lupton.
- 3rd Group—Messrs. (9) J. Ritchie, (10) N. Thompson, C.B.E., I.S.O., (11) Sir F. L. C. Floud, K.C.B. (Chairman), Mr. W. Quimby.
- 4th Group—Messrs. (13) J. Merron, (14) J. S. Sutton, (15) A. J. Dyke, C.B., C.B.E., (16) A. Jettan.
- 5th Group—Messrs. (17) J. E. Hagger, O.B.E., (18) F. J. Perkins, (19) C. A. W. Sanders (Staff Side Secretary), (20) M. J. Horan.
- 6th Group—(21) Mr. W. H. Powell, (22) Miss E. C. Aylmer, Messrs. (23) E. C. Redhead, (24) H. S. Marshall (Official Side Secretary).

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

Customs Waterguard Chess Club

PROBLEM No. 28 (a).



"The Sign of the Cross," by F. FLYNN.

White mate in two.

Key moves to No. 28.

1. Q—Qb8 if 1. Kt×Q, 2. Kt—Q3.
 if 1. K×Kt 2. Q—B7+.
 if 1. K—Q5 2. K—B4+
 if 1. Kt—Q4 2. Q×P
 if Kt—B3 or KtP moves 2Q—B5
 (12 points.)

Greetings.—On behalf of the Council of the Club, Hearty Season's Compliments are extended through these columns to all.

An Xmas Poser of Interest by H.E.D.—At the bottom left-hand corner of the board place at R, Kt, B and Q's first squares, white Bishops, at (whites) R, Kt, B and Q's fifth ranks place black Bishops; you now have them facing each other. Problem:—White Bishops change places with black without attack. Position in Forsyth Notation:—
 8/8/8/bbbb4/8/8/8/BBBB4.

Biography.—Following my recent statement that where the official Kent Match Conductor has difficulty in deciding the result of any of our Club gam's, he will submit them through the Kent County Chess Association to M. Eugene A. Znosko-Borowski. The following short biography may interest members of the staff:—

E. Znosko-Borowski was at one time considered a possible champion. He was born at Alexandrovitch on August 16th, 1884. He competed in the St. Petersburg Tournament 1909, but finished last. He sprung into fame in 1913 by being the only winner against Capablanca in a series of two games with each of three Russian players. In the Russian National Tournament of the same year he tied for 6th out of an entry of 18. His success at Broadstairs at Easter 1921, will be well remembered by English players.

A match of 150 players between the London Commercial Chess League and the Civil Service Chess Association was played at 16, Finsbury Circus on

November 6th. The Service won by 110½ to 48½. The score of the top 20 boards was: Civil Service 13½, L.C.C.L. 6½. T. Noakes was Captain of the League and H. Pohman of the Service. The two top boards drew.

London North Side Sports Club.

FOOTBALL.

Our first visit to the Metropolitan Police Sports Ground at Embercourt on December 6th was a memorable one. The journey was made in the real sporting spirit, as many will testify on alighting at Thames Ditton.

We took the field with the team as selected, against that of the Special Branch of the C.I.D. From the moment the ball was set in motion it became evident that "The Yard" meant to put us under arrest. They chased us all over the field in a businesslike manner, but within fifteen minutes they were out-manceuvred, and failed to put that grip on us which has caused many a downfall.

Encouraged by this initial success, our intermediate line of defence assisted in "the attack on the police" to such purpose that at half-time we were charged with having scored thrice, against which the Customs preserved a clean sheet.

After the change-over, the mighty limbs of the law made several raids on our citadel, only to find the last lines of defence impregnable.

Reprisals were set up, which resulted in both sides attacking and counter-attacking, until we succeeded in getting another shot home, making our total 4—0.

Time was called, when both teams emerged bespattered with mud and tired of limb, to raise three hearty cheers alike for the winners and losers to close a very happy engagement.

CLUB FIXTURES.

Dec. 20th—Vacant (away).

Dec. 27th—Victoria Dock Police (home).

Carnival Dance, January 4th, 1929.

The Club's dance on December 7th was a great success in point of numbers and finance.

We were pleased to welcome so many of our chiefs, viz.:—Messrs. E. W. Jones, F. C. Warne, H. J. Fleet, A. E. Howell, their spouses and families, together with Messrs. B. T. White and that gallant sportsman C. E. Egan.

A large number of the stalwarts of the South Side Club rendered material help in making our venture the success it was. By their presence they have shown the happy results which may be anticipated by co-operation, and it is hoped that the time is not far distant when we shall have ONE powerful Sports Club patronised by ALL P.S.A. members.

Capt. Garriock and his party contributed their usual quota to the evening's enjoyment.

Members of this Club take this opportunity of thanking those kind friends who gave the handsome prizes, admired by all and treasured by their proud winners.

A number of nice prizes will be distributed at our Carnival Dance on January 4th, 1929, when it is hoped to eclipse all previous attendances.