

CURRENT COMMENTS

OUR Inspector-General has been invested with the Order, Commander of the British Empire, and as this is the first C.B.E. to be bestowed upon a Waterguard Official, who has climbed every rung of the official ladder, it is an occasion for us to feel somewhat proud. The significance of the honour will most certainly be appreciated by the whole Department.

What Mr. Thompson has achieved in earning the distinction reflects to the credit of the staff in general, from whom he is assured of the heartiest congratulations. These sentiments have, in fact, been conveyed to him on behalf of the P.S.A. membership.

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The new Sports Bulletin of the Customs and Excise Sports Club made its first appearance this month, and the surprising thing about it is that it is not a bulletin at all, but has blossomed forth with all the dignity of a very readable little magazine, and all the airs and graces of read print. Defects it has, of course. Considering the circumstances of its coming into being, anything in the nature of perfection was not to be expected. But it is hoped that the Editor will be able to overcome, in subsequent issues, the disadvantages which have arisen obviously through a superabundance of literary matter. There is not an ounce of spare space in the little publication; the pages were packed to the utmost limits, and apparently this has left no scope to give an artistic touch to the "lay-out." The mass of reports from the various sections was interesting but rather sedate, and if it could be possible to intersperse this with something in the lighter vein, the success of the new periodical is assured. The July issue is looked forward to with some interest.

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In strictness, the only occasion when anonymous letters and Current Comments should be allowed to scrape an acquaintance is when the latter are fit only for the wastepaper basket. That this should be the normal fate of the stuff appearing in these columns is gracefully admitted on this one occasion in order to permit of a conscientious surrender to the temptation to pass a few remarks regarding the gentlemen who, when communicating their grievances by letter, omit the formality of signature. The most charitable view to take of this kind of thing is that the culprits are modest enough to omit the most damaging thing against the cases they put forward. Also, the omission may be due to pure ignorance of the rules of the game.

Anyway, it is remarkable that there are still some people who do not know that anonymous letters have in all time been regarded as detestable abominations. They tend to wreck rather than reform. The fact that authorship might be credited to innocent parties is sufficient to dissuade fair-minded men from writing these letters, and it is a certainty they have no attraction for the man who hits straight from the shoulder.

The retirement of Mr. Arthur Spratt, Assistant Preventive Officer, who for so many years acted as Chief Preventive Officer's clerk at the "Harpy," is an event which all London officers will agree is worthy of some notice. Arthur was one of the most popular officers in the port, and will always be remembered for his consistent cheeriness and the quietly unobtrusive manner in which he applied himself to his job.

His worth in the last post he occupied can be estimated from the fact that, although 61 years of age when he retired, the authorities were willing that he should continue at work, and it is certain that the staff would have thought it quite fitting that he should do so.

Unfortunately, though otherwise in sound health, an old injury to his foot compelled him to give up. He carries with him the very best wishes from the staff.

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The result of the limited competition for posts in the Clerical Class has been announced, but there is no information of any successful candidates from the Waterguard. The total number who sat for the examination was 1,166, and of these 77 were successful. The competition appears to have been very keen. One of the Waterguard candidates who came 244 down the list had only 27 marks less than the last successful candidate.

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As is usual at this time of the year, pressure of work at the Association offices increases to its maximum. Members and Secretaries are asked to refrain from sending forward any but really essential business during the next two weeks.

Preparation for the Conference, expected to be held in July, is in full swing. The Conference programme must be ready for the Executive meeting on the 29th June, and that means incessant work bringing everything up to date, drafting the Annual Report, preparing financial statements for the year, and a hundred and one other items of important business.

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District Secretaries are again reminded that Headquarters should be supplied with all resolutions, on the special form provided, which are intended for Council discussion. It is essential that these are in the hands of the General Secretary as soon as possible, if they are to be included with those going out to the Districts on the Conference agenda immediately after the Executive meeting.

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At the Executive meeting, Mr. W. G. Thomson will act as Chairman for the first time on this Committee. He has been appointed by the Council to this post, and there is no doubt the appointment will be popular. The forthcoming Executive meeting is normally the heaviest of the year, because in addition to the ordinary agenda, there is the whole of the Conference business to be dealt with. The new Chairman looks like having a tough experience

to begin with. He has, however, a sound knowledge of Association affairs, and can be expected to make a success of things.

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The seaside silly season is again with us, and the newspapers are losing no time in getting to work with smuggling yarns. One leading Sunday paper has recently distinguished itself by publishing nearly a column of nonsense supposed to be based on information from a Customs Officer. All it proves is that newspaper men are willing to have their legs pulled when copy is short.

If they cannot improve on the tales of smuggling now being published, they will have to rake up the old sea-serpent, and it would not be a bad idea to account for its disappearance of late years by accusing it of having gone into business with the brandy smugglers.

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In Post Office Whitley a serious situation has arisen owing to the Official Side of the Whitley Council insisting on the inclusion on the Staff Side of secessionists from the Union of Post Office Workers. By a narrow majority the Staff Side of the Council accepted the Official Side views, and the result has been that U.P.W. representation has been withdrawn from the Council. In view of the size of this organisation, the action taken may have far-reaching effects.

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The prominent feature of the Civil Service Sports Meeting at Stamford Bridge on the 9th June was the monotonous regularity with which Customs and Excise people kept going up for prizes when these were being distributed by Lord Queenborough. The Customs and Excise Athletic Section was the smallest appearing at the sports, and not only did they succeed in carrying off the two principal trophies of the day.

One, the Queenborough Challenge Cup, was awarded to the C. & E. for having attained the highest number of points in this year's athletics.

The other, the Jubilee Bowl, was won by Mr. P. A. Gummer for the best individual performance.

These trophies are greatly coveted, and the C. & E. Department have much to be congratulated upon in having secured them.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO JUNE 11th, 1928.

APPOINTMENT.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—
Hadley, A. B.

TRANSFERS.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT, 2ND CLASS :—
Mathews, T. W. Unattached, Office of I.G.W. to Dover.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, UPPER SECTION :—
Ladhams, G. E. Harwich, Ipswich, to Gravesend, London.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION :—
Burkey, J. C. Unattached, Office of I.G.W. to Southampton.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—
Baumon, H. T. W. Holyhead, Chester, to Southampton.

Spencer, S. T. G. Southampton to Weymouth.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—
Haigh, E. London to King's Lynn, Norwich.
Tindor, D. E. A. Avonmouth, Bristol, to Dover.

Kofo, R. J. Liverpool to Milford Haven, Swansea.

Wright, D. "Vigilant" to Southend, London.
Wright, E. London to Fowey, Plymouth.

The following transfers, notified in the Appendices to General Orders Nos. 29 '28 and 41 '28 respectively, have been cancelled :—

Cooper, A. E. London to Fowey, Plymouth.
Ray, L. London to King's Lynn, Norwich.

PROMOTIONS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, UPPER SECTION TO ASSISTANT INSPECTOR (unattached) :—
Hurley, M. Gravesend, London, to Office of I.G.W.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION, TO UPPER SECTION :—
Moroney, P. Southampton to Harwich, Ipswich.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION :—
Norman, E. R. Weymouth to Office of I.G.W.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—
Bishop, W. W. Sharpness, Worcester, to Holyhead, Chester.

Henderson, J. Clydebank, Glasgow, to Leith.

Pucknell, A. M. Cardiff to Newcastle.

Vandy, W. Gravesend, London, to London.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS :—

Commander, "Vigilant," St. Ledger, W. H., M.B.E.

Preventive Officer, Stevens, A. R., London.

Assistant Preventive Officers :—

Bennett, E. Coleraine, Belfast.

Spratt, A. G. London.

1st Mate, "Vigilant," Wilkinson, H. J.

1st Engineer, "Vigilant," Page, W. H.

DEATHS :—

Preventive Officer, Baker, E. R., Bristol.

Assistant Preventive Officer, Luxford, J. E., Tilbury, London.

VACANCIES.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—
Weymouth. 3.7.1928.

ENGINEER-MECHANIC :—
Plymouth. 9.7.1928.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.
Sloman, J. Boatman.

A Straight Talk on Promotion

By 'DANTE'

I BELIEVE the time has arrived when all the members of the P.O. Grade, and A.P.O. Grade should give very careful thought to promotion. We should analyse the existing systems of testing candidates, see whether they are fair and best suited to securing the ablest officers, and then, in the light of what this reveals to us, put forward suggestions for discussion at our District meetings in order that Association policy may be guided.

Now there are a few stubborn facts which will always remain, and it is as well if we keep them in mind during our deliberations. It is upon these facts that we must build a policy which most truly represents the best interests of the two grades. First of all, under the present assignment, there are nearly two A.P.O.s to every P.O., and nearly seven P.O.s for every C.P.O. or W.S. Therefore, because of these proportions we must compete for the higher posts. We must fight it out amongst ourselves with the Board as adjudicators. The question is in what manner shall we fight—by written or oral examination, or by selection? I think the best answer to this question is the all-round satisfaction expressed with regard to the examination for Preventive Officership, and the bitterness left after the test for C.P.O.s. The written examination is the only test from which a man rises with any impression as to how he has acquitted himself. On the other hand, we all have blank moments in our lives, and I believe one of them is when we shut the door after an interview with a Selection Board. Therefore, I think I can fairly say that the general desire of the staff is to have the tests for P.O. or C.P.O. as a written competitive examination on the regulations, followed by a further written test on administrative ability, etc., in the case of the C.P.O. examination.

Another obstinate fact is that of a total of about 950 Assistant Preventive Officers there are nearly 600 between the ages of 20 and 33 who are eligible to sit for the examination for Preventive Officership. Above them there are nearly 300 P.O.s between the ages of 30 and 40. Now, as there are only 86 superior appointments in the Waterguard, it is fairly obvious that of these 900 potential C.P.O.s, between 600 and 800 are destined never to see the rank of C.P.O. All the A.P.O.s, and nearly one half of the P.O.s have a very bleak prospect indeed. I think I am making a fair statement when I say that about one half of the eligible Waterguard staff will never have an opportunity of competing for the C.P.O. Grade, and that the great bulk of the A.P.O.s will have to wait many weary years before they have an opportunity to compete for even a Preventive Officership. This is the very serious prospect facing us and, as I have said before, now is the time to put forward suggestions at District meetings to mould Association policy to solve our greatest Service difficulty.

Assuming that it is more or less agreed to that we will have written competitive examinations for promotion as the only fair way of fighting this matter out between ourselves, the only question left for us to decide is, when in our careers shall we fight? Are the young men in the Service going to remain content with the prospect of never having an opportunity, or of walking along a road which has no turning for a matter of twenty years? The plain hard fact is that nearly all the A.P.O.s will remain in that grade for over twenty years, and that nearly one half of the P.O.s will remain as such for a similar period without a chance of promotion. With this hopeless outlook before us it behoves every one of us concerned to quietly think the matter out, and then, having made up our minds, attend the next District meeting to register our desire for the guidance of the Council of the Preventive Staff Association. One thing is clear: we will have to compete among ourselves at some time, so why not do so after, say, ten years in a grade? It is true that by doing so the competition would be keener and the odds greater, but then, on the other hand, the reward is greater. The hopeless prospect is turned into something definite. We will all know that, after serving, say, ten years in a grade, we shall have the opportunity of competing and can prepare ourselves accordingly. I firmly believe that it is the general desire to have something more definite, and it is left to us concerned to decide the number of years in a grade which will qualify us for a change in life.

In conclusion, I appeal to those whose chance for promotion is reasonably assured; to those who are fortunate enough to be favourably placed on the seniority list, to look behind them, and sympathise with the hopeless plight of their juniors. I am not asking that they should sacrifice their advantage, but only that they will make room for competition, which will be a little keener. A correspondent in the last issue bewails the fact of a six-to-one contest for C.P.O., and of the good men that have gone down. A six-to-one contest is the proportion of P.O.s to C.P.O.s, etc., and only fair to those who follow. One often hears about the good men who go down, but then that is more the fault of the system of examination than of the extent of the competition. A competition on a satisfactory system of examination will automatically select the best men. Any attempt on the part of officers with a vested interest to adopt the "dog in the manger" attitude of limiting competition to the detriment of those who follow, will be met by the sternest opposition from the juniors. The majority of the Waterguard want a reasonable chance of promotion at a reasonable age, and it is up to every one of us concerned to attend District meetings to see that this forms an instruction to our Councillors for the next Conference.

Customs & Excise Departmental Council.

The ninety-fifth meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on May 30th, 1928, the Chair being taken by A. J. Dyke, Esq., C.B., C.B.E., Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise. At the outset of the proceedings a welcome was extended to J. Ritchie, Esq., the new Chief Inspector.

OVERTIME.

It was stated that the Board would publish the arrangements referred to in Treasury Circular No. 1526 of 24th April, 1928, respecting the grant of time off in lieu of overtime, with the necessary directions for Departmental application, and that the Staff Side would see the draft before issue.

INCURIES ON DUTY.

With regard to the use on official business of public conveyances owned by persons of financial instability, the Staff Side urged that officers be given discretion in the matter of travelling in such vehicles, pending the expected passage of legislation covering insurance in these cases. The matter was adjourned for Official Side consideration.

NORTHERN IRELAND.

The Council adopted a Report of progress from the Outdoor Service Sectional Committee on adjustments made in connection with the transfer of agency services in Northern Ireland, with particular reference to the staffs rendered redundant by the transfer.

RECRUITMENT.

It was agreed to cancel Clauses 4, 5 and 7 of the existing agreement covering recruitment of the Assistant Preventive Officer Grade and to substitute the following:—

“The subjects of examination will be as follows:—

	Maximum Marks.
(1) English	200
(2) Reading Manuscript	100
(3) Arithmetic	100
(4) Geography	100
(5) General Knowledge	100
(6) <i>Viva Voce</i>	200

The *viva voce* test will be held at a later date than the examination in the remaining subjects. Of the candidates who obtain the highest aggregate marks in subjects (1) to (5) a certain number, to be determined by the Civil Service Commissioners, will be summoned to the *viva voce* test. The final list of candidates eligible for appointment will be made by uniting the results of the two parts of the examination.

Candidates must obtain such a mark for the *viva voce* test and such a total of marks in subjects (1) to (5) taken together as to satisfy the Civil Service Commissioners.”

AGREEMENT that Mackintosh Coats, to the pattern agreed upon with representatives of the Staff Side, be supplied to Chief Preventive Officers, Preventive Officers and Assistant Preventive Officers; the period of wear to be three years.

AGREEMENT that the supply of Electric Lamps be extended to all Assistant Preventive Officers employed on active Waterguard duties.

DISAGREEMENT on the Staff Side request for increased leave for members of the Waterguard Service.

RETIRING AGE.

It was agreed that the normal retiring age of established members of the Launch Service shall be 61 in the case of men established on or after June 1st, 1925, but that men established before that date shall be allowed to continue their service up to 65, subject to certificates of fitness and efficiency. The latter class, if unable to pass the tests, will be favourably considered for employment as Watchers. The approval of Deck Hands to act as Mates-in-Charge after the age of 61 will be subject to special certificates.

LEAVE.

The subject of increased leave for Watchers was re-adjourned at the Staff Side's request.

A disagreement on proposals for increased leave for members of the Waterguard, reported by the appropriate Sectional Committee, was discussed by the Council and ultimately adjourned.

SENIORITY.

It was agreed that a general seniority list of “P” Class Clerks in the Department should be compiled. The preparation of a nominal list will be undertaken accordingly by a committee of the Council.

TITLES.

At the request of the Staff Side the subject of titles for the Departmental Clerical Class was again adjourned.

REMUNERATION.

A disagreement previously reported by the Outdoor Service Sectional Committee regarding the application of General Order 1126, part X, in cases of Officers officiating in vacant Pension Stations, was now confirmed by the Council.

LONDON RATES OF PAY.

The Staff Side raised the question of the rates of pay of the Established Housekeeper Messengers employed in London Dock and West India Dock, and the matter was adjourned after discussion.

FIXED OFFICIATORS.

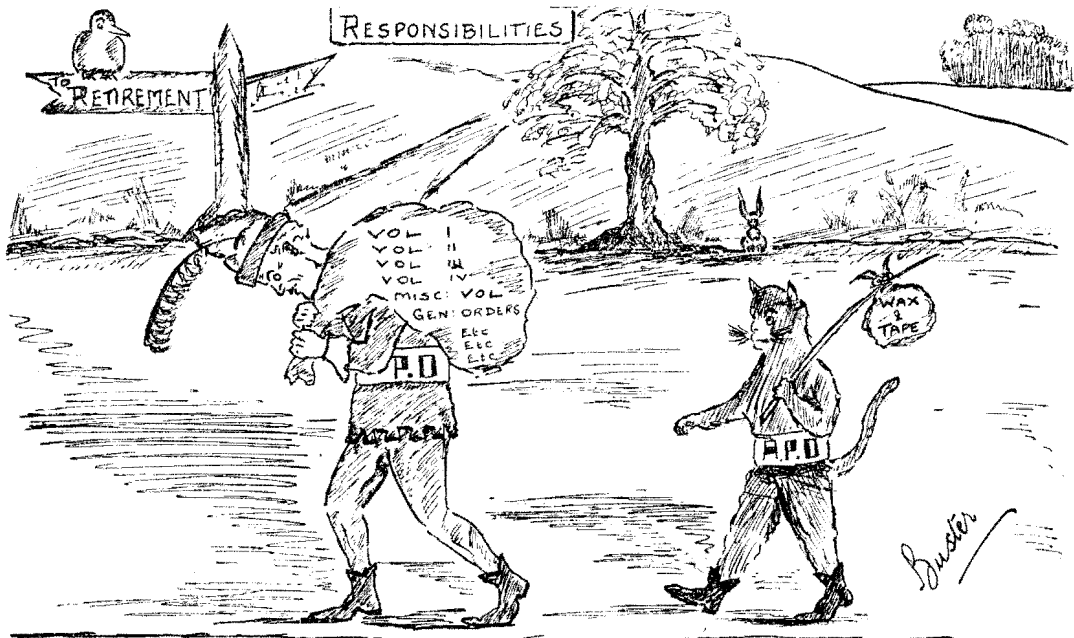
A committee disagreement on the employment of “old time” Fixed Officiators outside “the place” in which they are fixed, was confirmed by the Council.

OTHER MATTERS.

A schedule of suggestions which had been forwarded to the Board by the Suggestions Committee, with notes of action taken, was presented to the Council.

Committee decisions dealt with included those on the schemes of the London Waterguard and the Belfast Land Boundary Station. The Council considered a number of other decisions advised by Sectional, Grade, Local and Office Committees with results that have been communicated to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on June 27th, 1928.



DICK WHITTINGTON:- "GIVE ME A HAND WITH SOME OF THIS"

THE "CAT":- "MY HEART'S GOOD BUT MY HEADS WONT LET ME"

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.

SENSE AND SUPERVISION.

Dear Mr. Editor,—Much has been said in the "Customs Journal" of late on the question of promotion to the supervising grades of the Waterguard. Indignation has been expressed regarding the alleged injustice to unfortunate candidates, and the wickedness of the Board in turning down men who, forsooth, have proved themselves excellent and capable *Preventive Officers*.

I do not propose to argue that some good men are not turned down. I am in no better position to decide that important point than are your other correspondents. I certainly have my opinions, and apparently all who have so far expressed their views can boast of nothing more, for they cannot possibly have definite data. Contrary to these other writers, however, I have a faint suspicion that production of the necessary data in the Public Press, as was suggested, would be more pleasing to the journalists than to ourselves.

Though I am not in a position to judge the possible supervising capabilities of the non-successful candidates, it is quite easy for me to estimate the calibre of those who have been promoted during the past few years of "meteoricity" in Waterguard supervision. It is a point entirely overlooked in the heartbroken wailings of your correspondents

that during this period far too many of the promoters seem to have an inexplicable antipathy for their subordinates. They bristle all over with crude and new-found ideas for forcing what they grandly describe as discipline, failing utterly to understand that the fundamental trait in any wise disciplinarian is a kindly regard for those whom he controls, and a pride in the work they perform.

It is only the man possessing this trait who can be really firm in his control. He moulds where the mount-bank disciplinarian would try to bend and break. He *handles* men when the other would "boot" them. He is successful—always.

Unfortunately, there are too few of him in the upper Branches of the Waterguard, and the reason is the ease with which Tom, Dick and Harry have got into those grades.

Numerous are the incidents of supervision that could be selected for satirical treatment here, but the situation is so sad, so tragically unfortunate, that satire would seem like cracking jokes at a funeral. A funeral, indeed—and the corpse might well be the hopes of Waterguard advancement.

And yet how pathetically forgiving are the rank and file of the Waterguard to those who mishandle them. Witness your correspondents, Mr. Editor, demanding better facilities for the promotion of incompetents. Heaven alone knows why they do it. Can it be that there are men in the Waterguard who do not realise that the higher posts they fought for so valiantly are now but a mill-stone round their necks? Can they fail to realise that the P.O. and A.P.O. Grades have not only sacrificed hard cash for problematic promotion benefits, but have also caused their official lives to be unpleasant through

advocating a low-standard test for promotion to C.P.O.?

The only result of this policy has been the finest crop of ingratitude that ever was seen. Many of those who have advanced by it reflect no credit upon us, and though perhaps they cannot be held culpable in that respect, they certainly can be indicted for that unfortunate attitude of the ever-raised hand against those who, in the corporate spirit of good comradeship, enabled them to climb to very dizzy altitudes.

I am all for sound, healthy discipline in the Waterguard, and I have a longing for the kind of supervision that one could proudly boast of anywhere. Some day perhaps we shall have it, and with it will come prosperity and contentment. But I am sure it will never come from the method (or lack of method) advocated by your other correspondents on this subject. It would appear that the only process of promotion they can visualise is something akin to a flock of sheep hopping one by one over a stile.

I would not have it thought that I include all Waterguard supervisors in my condemnation. There are some who are jolly fine human beings, both wise and good. They make life worth living, and in return they get loyalty and appreciation from their staffs. Of these I say, God bless 'em. Of the others. . . !—Yours, etc.,

“ REFORM.”

SLOW AHEAD OR SLOW ASTERN?

Sir,—In “ Current Comments ” in the last issue of the “ Journal,” a previous article “ Slow Ahead or Slow Astern? ” was dealt with in a precise, and in spite of the writer’s distaste of compliments, a very fair manner. If a personal note may be pardoned, I would admit that in the original article the success in obtaining mackintoshes and lamps was dismissed in too curt a fashion, due more to desire to curtail space than any idea of attempting to belittle the efforts of the officials concerned. It could be observed that with regard to electric lamps, the efforts of the Postal Union were not supported by such legitimate reasons as ours were; they could not, for instance, plead change of conditions such as we were able to do with the large increase in the number of oil-burning vessels. The protection afforded by the Association was not mentioned, as that protection is too well realised to call for any reminder.

To hark back to the “ Oil Duty ” question, we are told that the entrusting of this work to our Department would entail the handing over of all Landing and Shipping. But is that quite correct? I would direct your attention to page 115, where the controversy is as to whether the Officer Grade or the Waterguard shall in London ship stores, be mentioned. Should the Officer Grade continue in control, will that involve the handing over of all Waterguard work to the Landing Department? Certainly not! Then why cannot a similar arrangement be made to work in this Oil Duty work? As “ Current Comments ” truly says, the Waterguard will not get Landing and Shipping by a stroke of the pen, but why not try now to start with a part, and eventually work to the sole control? The supply of fountain pens is after all a trivial matter, which we can afford to drop, accepting it as evidence that the Association officials were, and are, fully alive to any chance offering, a statement that is not disputed by many.

The failure to secure agreement on the subject of lease is a horse of another colour, however. The fact that this matter is still in Whitley precludes much discussion, but the treatment so far has not been very encouraging, and that is putting it mildly.

In conclusion, I would again draw attention to the fact that this is not to be considered as a weirdly-constructed vote of no confidence, but an attempt to point out that there is no primrose path for us in the future; so far from obtaining great advantages, it is very questionable if the Department will receive as generous treatment as other Departments have already received.

“ VULCAN.”

PROMOTION TO C.P.O., etc.

Sir,—One is glad to see that the question of promotion is being taken up by the P.S.A., and apparently one or two individual officers dare to express their views via the medium of the “ Customs Journal.”

One is rather amused, though, over “ Queerio’s ” suggestion that the Powers-that-be do not countenance unfairness.

There are two potent facts, in my judgment, that reveal to any fair, unbiased mind that unfairness has existed and will still be practised if the present system continues:—

(1) The sterling qualities and efficiency of some of the men who have been turned down and are still carrying out their duties not grudgingly but wholeheartedly under the stigma of being passed over, and who to-day are willing to give in many instances advice, suggestion, etc., to those above them who have successfully come out as supervising officers;

(2) And here I do not want to appear unkind when I say the splendid failures some of the favoured ones are. I have personally had the experience of such an one. I always thought that the meaning of superior carried with it advising officer as well. These two qualities are synonymous, but to my utter surprise I have been bluntly and explicitly informed that it was no part of my superior’s business to advise, but only to see that the duties allotted to me were carried out in a proper manner and as directed by him. And herein lies my contention that the Promotion Board, in this instance at least, has given to the Department a splendid failure.

And here, Mr. Editor, I am having a grouse. There is something damnable deficient in a system that produces a man who is not able to advise his subordinates, but whose sole aim is apparently to pin-prick, threaten and insult—in fact, bully—devoid of manners and gentlemanly conduct, but who has the misnomer of being styled superior. I am well aware that the Powers-that-be are not able to promote all officers in the Department, but I am still of the opinion that the present system must be scrapped. One is not prepared to say that the word favouritism has been expunged from the Waterguard. I have been reminded very forcibly of recent date by treatment received that the methods of the bad old days are still existent. There is zeal in plenty, bluff in abundance, but the things that matter non-existent.

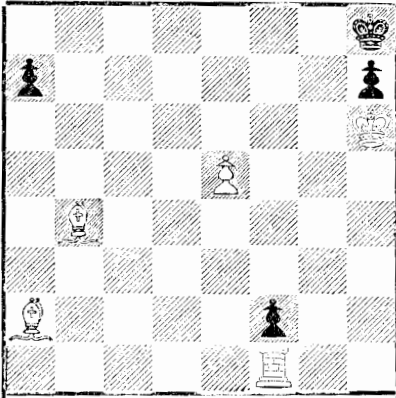
More anon, Mr. Editor, and thanking you,
I am, Yours, etc.,

“ OBSERVER.”

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

Waterguard Chess Club.

PROBLEM No. 17 (F. HOLLINGS).



White mate in Two

Solution to Problem No. 16.

1. P — R 3 ch. K × P.
2. R — R 1 ch. K — Kt 5.
- R — R 4 mate (3 points).

1928/9 Club Tournament. Composition of Sections.

1. Messrs. A. Hardie (Ayr), F. G. Boodle (Dover), W. W. Bishop (Holyhead), R. E. Dudley (London), E. T. Sandford and S. H. Matthews (Newport). Prize for highest score, value 12/-.
2. Messrs. A. Vigeon (Ridham), B. R. Clark (Weymouth), S. W. H. Hargrove (Eastham), A. R. Deans (Dover), E. W. Kidman and G. Douglas (Liverpool). Prize value 8/6.
3. Messrs. O. M. Williams (Ayr), J. Hoare (Weymouth), W. B. Clayson (Liverpool), B. C. Reilly, W. Tuck, H. H. Gray, and W. E. Morrison (Dover). Prize value 5/-.
4. Messrs. J. A. E. Brownlow (Liverpool), S. C. Steet and T. F. Prior (London), A. Stevens (Folkestone), T. Croxford, A. Walter, F. G. Wood, and A. H. Rolls (Dover). Prize value 4/6.
5. Messrs. T. B. Elliott (Dover), J. Pescod (London), A. F. Mathers (Swansea), R. J. Mayne and W. Hughes (Holyhead).

Change of Address.—Members please note that the Hon. Secretary's address is now Milford House, Edmund Street, Holyhead.

Our Short Story.

Extract from Leading Article in big London Daily:—

"... And we, who have never yet failed to record our deep admiration for the Civil Service..."

GEN.

Civil Service A.A. Sports.

The most interesting event at the Civil Service A.A. meeting at Stamford Bridge on Saturday was the special invitation steeplechase handicap over 3,000 metres, the Olympic distance. J. E. Webster (Birchfield Harriers), the National cross-country champion, who figured at scratch, had little difficulty in running through his field to win by 15 yards in 9 min. 58 3-5 sec. P. A. G. Gummer (Customs and Excise), who had won the quarter-mile race earlier in the year, retained the 100 yards championship in 10 2-5 sec., and also won the 220 yards championship in 22 3-5 sec. B. C. V. Oddie, the South London Harrier and Bedfordshire champion, again won the mile race for the Strathcona Cup in 4 min. 34 3-5 sec.

The A.A.A. champion, A. H. G. Pope, again had matters much his own way in the two miles walking championship and won by 120 yards in 14 min. 49 4-5 sec. Customs and Excise ("A") (H. Titherley, R. C. Jarvis, P. A. G. Gummer, and W. Quimby) won the mile men's inter-departmental relay championship after a close finish with Customs and Excise "B," and the ladies' quarter-mile relay championship was secured by the Ministry of Health. Lord Queenborough distributed the prizes at the conclusion of the meeting, and the Queenborough Challenge Cup, which he presented last year as an inter-departmental points trophy, was won easily by Customs and Excise, with a score of 57 points.

The individual competition for the Jubilee Challenge Bowl was won by P. A. G. Gummer with 15 points, B. C. V. Oddie and A. H. G. Pope tying for second place each with ten points. Oddie tied for the trophy last year with F. R. Gaby, the A.A.A. hurdles champion, who was running at Cambridge on Saturday.

The Times, 11.6.28.

C. & E. Sports Club Magazine.

The Customs & Excise Sports Club has been in existence for a quarter of a century and quite properly it takes a leading part in Civil Service Sport. It is rather a pity, however, that it has apparently waited till its Silver Jubilee before informing the members of the Department and the Service generally, firstly, its standing in the athletic world, and secondly, of the facilities it provides for sport and recreation.

Still, "it is never too late to mend," and the Club is to be congratulated on its attempt to run a periodical specially devoted to its activities. The new periodical is to be published monthly, and its first number appeared this month. Many of us have discovered for the first time that we have such a first-rate Sports Club in the C. & E., and that it provides such a wide choice to the man or woman in search of outdoor (and indoor) recreation.

The "Sports Mag." is well worthy of the Club, and its advent must result in increased interest in Departmental sport, and an influx of new members. There is little doubt that it fills a void of which many of us were aware, but could not exactly "place."

Incidentally, Waterguard Officers will be interested to note that Mr. W. H. Powell is the Editor. Among his colleagues it is taken for granted that if Bill Powell undertakes any task—no matter of what kind—it will be successful. High praise that has been well earned.

J.T.S.