

# The Customs Journal

No. 628

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Fortnightly

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

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

## THE MEMBER.

TAKEING the Council as the head and the District Officers as the limbs, we have, forming the trunk, the great body of more or less active members. Without this combination the complete body ceases to exist. It is therefore perfectly plain that the ordinary member is of vital importance. That being so, it stands to reason that the ordinary member has some important functions to perform, a fact that is perfectly realised in some of the Districts; for it is also a fact that some Districts are more active and useful than others. Nor is special usefulness the monopoly of the larger parts. The usefulness of a member does not stop at finance, and it is generally accepted that the payment of subscriptions does not of itself fulfil his obligations. He starts off by realising that if he considers that he owes his first duty to himself, it is only to himself as one of the body. At last, that is how he should view it. It is as part of the body only that he should think. Idealistic, certainly, but none the less true, and it stands to our credit that the majority of the members do think that way. Having started thus, our member is well on the way to study Service questions affecting the body with an intelligent interest, and is able to consider Association matters from an unbiased standpoint. Whether a particularly large percentage go so far as to contemplate taking an active interest may be a question open to debate, but it must be said quite truthfully that there is always somebody to be found who is willing to take office when the time for elections comes round. It is not often that there is any indication of keen competition for a particular post, especially when local officers are being elected, or a local committee being formed. The ordinary member often seems to flinch shy of local committee

work. How often it is that we find local Whitley committees hampered for want of that elusive something which would bring out their points before the Official Side. It is often just the want of one man, well versed in his subject, keen in debate. And it is safe to say that that one man exists in every District, but for some unknown reason he remains in the background. More often than not he is so full of off-duty activities that he can ill spare the time that would be demanded of him, and we think this is the commonest reason, for a keen man is never afraid of argument, although there are some who take defeat rather badly. Still, we do think that those who are gifted with a special ability of concentration should stretch a point in giving part of their time to Service matters instead of, as so often happens, allowing one man to hold a number of separate offices. It is better for one man to do one job well than to do several jobs indifferently.

Now as to District meetings. These are not the least of the members' duties. A District meeting is not called for the fun of the thing. There is very definite work to be done here. There is the member who attends regularly and has something to say. There is also the member who has something to say and never turns up to say it. The latter has much to say, however, in the wrong place. We have mentioned him before, and prefer to feel that he is in the minority. Casting our eyes about us, we come to the conclusion that the P.S.A. membership is a very useful one. Interest may vary, it may sometimes appear to flag, but always there is that unobtrusive willingness to do one's bit—a willingness that is becoming increasingly evident as the years roll on.

## CURRENT COMMENTS

**B**Y the time this issue appears the Executive Committee meeting will have been held, and the Headquarters Staff will probably be enjoying a comparatively easy spell after a week's strenuous activity. The Executive Committee meeting will last at least two days, and in addition there will be a meeting of the Staff Side of the Waterguard Sectional Committee. It is usual to endeavour to arrange a meeting of the latter body at the time the Executive members are in London, so that time and expense may be saved. On the Saturday of the same week the half-yearly meeting of the Civil Service Confederation takes place. The P.S.A. sends four representatives to this meeting.

\* \* \* \*

The first Executive Meeting after the Annual Conference is always sure of plenty of business, and, on this occasion, there will be much additional matter for attention in connection with important happenings since the Conference.

The responsibility of choosing the appropriate moment for launching our salary claim is left with the Executive, and this subject is always one for anxious discussion at each meeting. It is unfortunate that so many Association members do not realise when the Executive Committee discusses this matter they would be acting against the best interests of the members if they did not guide themselves by a reasonable summing-up of all the evidence and hard facts bearing on the situation at the moment. Too often do we hear the impatient cry: "The Executive should get on with the job," coming from people who can have but little knowledge of the kind of arguments that are really necessary when putting a salary claim across the Whitley table. Even if the Official Side were biased in favour of a grade making a salary claim, they would be helpless in the matter if the claimants failed to put forward telling arguments in support. It is not a bit of good to argue—even with great feeling—that we are obviously underpaid, because that applies to almost any Civil Servant. To make comparisons with other grades is frequently an unwise course, because opinion enters so much into it that only rarely is it possible to get on solid ground when making such comparisons; and if this kind of argument is not accepted by the Official Side, it is one point against the claimants.

Yet the rebels against the Executive Committee's judgment seem to have placed their faith in arguments of this nature.

Surely it is reasonable to accept the guidance from our officials who are experienced in the kind of argument that succeeds in Whitley discussion; and surely it is unreasonable to blame them because conditions creating sound argument have been slow in coming along. The firm cool-headed attitude of the Executive, in face of adverse criticism, has been much more difficult for them than would have been the case had they weakly succumbed to the clamour

of the impatient sections of the membership. It must be obvious to anyone who has really investigated the question that, had we rushed in with a salary claim two years ago, we would at this moment be bitterly regretting our folly. An intelligent survey of Waterguard events during the past twelve months is sufficient to indicate this. Fortunately, the normal, well ordered conduct of business in the P.S.A. has not given way to attempts at "mob" government; and this speaks well for the common sense of the bulk of our members.

\* \* \* \*

Members who have taken opportunity to hear the Councillors' reports of this year's Conference will not be surprised if the Executive decide to proceed immediately with the salary claim. It is, of course, impossible to say beforehand what will be done, but there is no doubt that the conditions which would give a reasonable chance of success have almost arrived. Everything depends upon whether the one factor which influenced the Council against giving the "full ahead" order is still worth consideration.

In a recent issue of the "New Civilian" the leading article dealt with "The Caste System" in the Civil Service. The subject is undoubtedly one of much interest to every Civil Servant, but there was one particular reference in the article which ought to make Waterguard officers think quite a lot—especially those who tell us quite happily that the P.S.A. has done nothing for its members. The writer quotes the following statement, by Sir Albert Flynn, K.C.B., which appears in a recently-published booklet entitled "The Problems of the Civil Service":—

"The different classes of the Civil Service are treated as castes determined by a man's entrance examination, and a special promotion into the upper caste is very rare."

Sir Albert Flynn is well qualified to discuss Civil Service problems, and even if his statement was not already obvious, it could safely be accepted as fact.

By a curious mental operation some of our members can resolutely set their minds against regarding the abolition of the nomination system as anything but a trifling affair, and at the same time are very resentful of any reference being made to the fact that they entered the Service under that system.

Some members of the Waterguard have already found to their cost that the nomination label is a poor pass to inter-departmental promotion. It is a significant fact that only in one or two isolated cases have members of the Waterguard been raised to a higher plane in the Service. The rarity of these promotions in the Waterguard is a source of grave concern to those who have any faith in the recommendations of National Whitley Council in this respect.

The Editorial in the last issue of the "Customs Journal" championed the cause of the "live member" of the Association. It is indeed true that the value of the really public-spirited member is not often the subject of special mention in the "Journal" columns, and this is due, no doubt, to the constant and necessary concentration on the task of bringing home the "prodigals." This leaves little time for eulogising the "live member," but if he is the genuine article, he realises that this hunting-up of non-members and the lukewarm members is definitely in his interests.

The success of any Association is due entirely to the enthusiasm of its live members. They carry on cheerfully, even when compelled to shoulder the financial burden thrown upon them by colleagues who reap the benefit of their energy without paying for it.

It is interesting to hear that practically all the new entrants to the Waterguard are joining the P.S.A. as soon as they enter. These new members are invited to fully utilise the services of the Association for the purpose of obtaining information they might require in connection with their position in the Service. As a rule, the local Association officials will be able to provide any necessary assistance, but in the case of any difficulty no member should have any hesitation about writing to Headquarters. Many of these young officers have already had practical experience of the usefulness of the Association.

\* \* \* \*

There was once a time when London was regarded as a back number in Association affairs, but the time is now passed. It can be safely said to-day that London is in its natural position as leader of the kingdom in Association matters.

There is no doubt that this happy position is the outcome of the many first-class debates that have taken place at the District meetings regarding Association policy. The Headquarters staff are always present at these meetings, and thus it has been possible for every phase of Association activity to be discussed with first-hand knowledge. It is significant that in these circumstances the membership barometer has steadily risen, and that now London membership figures are probably the highest in the kingdom, and are practically on the 100 mark.

\* \* \* \*

It is not only in purely Association affairs that the London staff leads the way. They are also making great headway in Departmental sport, and have been very successful in running social functions.

The Annual Dinner and Dance organised by the London South Side Cricket Club on October 31st, was probably the most successful social event in the history of London Waterguard. Over one hundred people sat down to dinner, and they were a very happy party. The whole proceedings were admirably conducted. Dancing commenced at 9 p.m., and at midnight, when the party broke up, there were unanimous expressions of appreciation for the excellent evening's entertainment that had been provided.

The Club runs a dance every month, and this was their second Annual Dinner. Judging from the popularity these functions are gaining, it will be necessary next year to engage a larger hall. Several people from other departments have already expressed a desire to be present at the next dinner.

A full account of the Dinner and Dance appears elsewhere in this issue.

\* \* \* \*

The open letter to A.P.O.s which appeared in the last issue strikes the right note. Many of the younger members of the grade seem to overlook the fact that they are being left behind by their more enterprising colleagues who have taken up study under the V.E.S. We are all acquainted with the young man who protests that it won't bring him any more wages if he becomes proficient in Waterguard regulations, and that an A.P.O. can get along quite well without them. Nothing could be more untrue. The Preventive Officer of to-day, with his multifarious duties, requires intelligent assistance, and if his A.P.O. does not understand Waterguard work thoroughly, he cannot give intelligent assistance. The Association will, in the interests of the Waterguard as a whole, insist that Preventive Officers shall have the services of capable assistants. In the past, the Official view has been that no great knowledge of regulations has been required from the A.P.O. grade, and the grade is paid in accordance with this estimate of their value. Obviously, the man who says that he can get along quite well without a knowledge of the regulations is doing his best to keep the wages of the grade exactly where they are.

Some day there will be a rude awakening for the young men who are foolish enough to drift idly with the stream.

\* \* \* \*

The C.P.O. section of the V.E.S. continues to increase in popularity. The demand tends to become greater than the supply. This is remarkable, in view of the several opinions expressed in opposition to the introduction of this course. It was thought that the scheme would fail through lack of support, yet to-day there are students who have gone right through the course, and are asking for more. Unfortunately, as things stand at present, the facilities are limited. Nevertheless, it is agreed on all hands that the tuition available is extremely helpful.

## South Coast Area.

### LETTER TO THE A.P.O.s.

Gentlemen,—Having been nominated for the position of Councillor for this Area, I am appealing for your support.

I have no axe to grind, and I am not prepared to make any rash promises. If elected, I can assure you I will do my best in the interests of the grade in general, and my colleagues of the South Coast in particular.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. BOUGHTON., A.P.O.

## Preventive Staff Association

*Head Office*

Thames Chambers,

18, Beer Lane,

London, E.C.3.

Telephone ROYAL 4279

President: *W. G. Thomson*

General Secretary: *J. Merron*

Organising Secretary: *J. T. Sutton*

Assistant Secretary: *W. H. Powell*

### BRISTOL.

At a meeting held at the Central Restaurant on October 25th, when Mr. Stonestreet presided over a fair attendance, the following officers were elected after matters of local interest had been disposed of:—Chairman: Mr. Logan (A.P.O.); Local Whitley Representatives: Messrs. Heywood (P.O.) and Ricks (A.P.O.).

### BELFAST.

A meeting was held at the "Cabin" Cafe on October 30th. During the discussion of the Conference Report, a resolution was passed embodying a strong expression that the work-and-wait rule should not apply to officers in the port engaged in boarding trans-Atlantic liners down Belfast Lough. Approval was registered regarding the proposals for the training of A.P.O.s.

Dissatisfaction was expressed over the delay in the issue of mackintoshes to the Belfast staff, and the D.S. was instructed to make the necessary enquiries, and to request that representations be made to the proper quarter, in order to expedite the issue.

Mr. J. G. Flynn (A.P.O.) was elected Chairman, and Mr. F. Nightingale consented to combine the offices of Vice-Chairman, District Secretary, Local Whitley Representative, and "Customs Journal" correspondent. Mr. P. A. Richardson (A.P.O.) was elected District Organiser. The auditors appointed were Messrs. Kitchener (P.O.), and Kearney (A.P.O.).

### TO THE ELECTORS IN THE GRAVESEND AND HARWICH AREA.

Gentlemen,—May I take this opportunity of soliciting your vote in the forthcoming election of a Councillor in the above Area?

I have had a varied experience of Association matters, and should I be elected I can assure you that your interests will receive my best and speediest attention at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) C. A. TIMBY, A.P.O.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO NOVEMBER 5th, 1928.

### APPOINTMENTS

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Hogg, L. G., Leggett, A. G., Winter, R. W.

### TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, UPPER SECTION:—  
Creighton, H., Dover to Glasgow.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION:—  
Dobrzanski, L. J., Office of I.G.W. to Southampton.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Adams, C. E., Glasgow to Padstow, Plymouth.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Cumming, A. P., Southampton to Torquay, Plymouth.

EXCHANGE:—

McLaughlin, L. J., Granton, Leith, with  
Wooster, B. G., Leith.

The transfer of Mr. W. H. Pickett from Southampton to Torquay, Plymouth, notified in the appendix to General Order No. 97/1928, has been cancelled.

### PROMOTIONS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION TO  
UPPER SECTION:—

Burley, J. C., Southampton to Dover.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER

(UNATTACHED):—

Lundberg, F. J., Avonmouth, Bristol, to Office  
of I.G.W.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS:—

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT, 1ST CLASS:—  
Carstairs, G., Liverpool.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION:—  
Mackias, J. T., Folkestone, Dover.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Miwill, H., Liverpool.

SURGERY ATTENDANT:—

Berrett, J. F., Medical Officer's Staff.

DEATH—PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Leadbetter, J., Liverpool.

### Obituary of Superannuated Officers

Ford, J. W., Preventive Officer, Upper Section.

Holley, A., Preventive Officer.

Pool, J. A., Chief Preventive Officer.

Robinson, E., Assistant Preventive Officer.

## 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.*

### SICK BENEFIT.

Dear Sir,—With further reference to the subject of sick benefit for members of the P.S.A., references were made in Current Comments of last issue which leave no doubt that figures relating to the amount of sick leave taken by members of the Department can be obtained. These figures would be of great value to the Districts as forming the basis of discussion of the whole scheme, and should be published in the "Customs Journal."

As a starting point, I suggest that sick leave of two weeks or less be disregarded, and that last year's leave-figures of absences in excess of two weeks be shown as a total of so many weeks of absence, thus showing clearly how many weekly payments of sick benefit would have been involved, keeping in mind, of course, that the annual balance sheet shows a return of subscriptions which would only cover a paid-up membership of less than 70 per cent. of the staff, so that the total of sick absences must be taken pro rata.

As regards administration, the figures will show to what extent the present machinery would be affected.

Let me add that increased membership would not seriously increase the expenditure of the P.S.A., but would certainly increase revenue!

Yours,

L.N.C.

### 1925 ENTRANTS.

Sir,—Please allow us a space in the "Customs Journal" to vent a grievance with regard to the "1925 Entrants." This class of men were the last to join the Service through the "Ex-Servicemen's Scheme." Some of us had actually competed with the earlier entrants, but did not realize a place.

Now we have succeeded, and though our brothers before us got both wage and seniority for age, we get neither. Is this fair? Why should we, a mere handful, be penalised? Most of us are about 30 years of age and married, and did the same service during the war as the earlier entrants, who were compensated.

We are spread over the country, and we desire to urge all officers thus affected, and others who may be in sympathy, to set the wheels in motion by calling meetings locally, and having resolutions passed, ready for presentation in unity to the Whitley Council.

To leave this to one port would be useless, so will all those interested in this important matter follow this lead now?

SDLEHIS HTRON.

### SPORT.

Sir,—When shall we have ONE united Sports Club in London? This is a question we often hear, and will continue to hear until it becomes an accomplished fact. What are the drawbacks? I say quite frankly that it is possible to have one club open to all Waterguard members with one subscription to cover football and cricket. There are times when our duties militate against us, and difficulty besets us in presenting our best teams in the field of sport.

Are we ever to have a representative Waterguard side in London? If so, it's about time we moved in this direction. When unity in organisation is the order of the day, it seems surprising that the Preventive staff, so successful in its policy, should not have overcome the territorial difficulties set up by Father Thames. Patrons of both clubs are feeling a little embarrassed when asked to subscribe to the South Side Cricket Club and the North Side Football Club.

We need one Preventive Staff Association and one Preventive Staff Sports Club. A club numerically inferior to that which London can produce is able to visit Belgium. Why can't we do likewise, or, better still, visit our colleagues in Southampton, Liverpool, or Hull?

I shall be glad if readers will consider this question, and express their views in the "Customs Journal."

G. H. CLAGUE, Hon. Sec.,  
London North Side Sports Club.

## PROSECUTIONS.

At the Edinburgh Sheriff Court on the 5th inst., a Chinese fireman belonging to the steamer "Pear Branch," was charged with being in possession of 3 lb. of raw opium,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of prepared opium, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of opium dross or residue. The goods were discovered by Messrs. H. Gunn and D. C. Gafr, A.P.O.s, in the bunkers of the vessel. The offender, through an interpreter, pleaded guilty, and was fined £3.

An amusing incident occurred when the master of the "Pear Branch," when speaking on behalf of the accused, made the following remark:—"Opium with these fellows is just like a glass of whiskey to a Scotsman."

## London North Side Sports Club.

A very enjoyable dance was held at the New Harmonic Hall, East Ham, on Friday, November 2nd. Mr. F. C. Warne (W.S.), together with Mrs. and Miss Warne, was present, with a large number of friends of the Club.

Capt. Garrioch was a notable absentee. It is hoped he will soon be recovered from his indisposition.

Forthcoming Club fixtures are:—

Football.—Nov. 22. With Ilford Post Office (away).

Nov. 29. With Devons Road Loco F.C. (home).

Dance.—On December 7th a record attendance is hoped for at the next dance to be held at the New Harmonic Hall. Mrs. Fleet, Mr. Egan and Mr. Briden have very kindly made it possible to distribute a number of very useful prizes on this occasion. A number of prizes will also be given at the New Year's Carnival Dance, of which further information will be given later.

## London South Side Sports Club.

### DINNER AND DANCE.

The second Annual Dinner and Dance of the London South Side Sports Club, on October 31st, was every bit as successful as was anticipated. The scene of the gathering was the New Cross Palais de Danse, where a little over a hundred guests were served.

Mr. E. W. Jones (W.S.), who had signified his intention of being present, was unfortunately prevented by illness. Sympathetic references to his indisposition were made in the speeches which followed the dinner, with hopes for his speedy recovery. Mrs. and Miss Jones were present, and were enthusiastically welcomed. Other guests present included Mr. F. C. Warne (W.S.) and Mrs. Warne, Mr. Woodford, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Howell, Mr. H. J. Fleet (C.P.O.) and Mrs. Fleet, and members of the North Side Club, Mr. S. E. Romans (C.P.O., Vice-President of the Club), Mr. A. Briden (C.P.O.) and Mr. C. Gardner (C.P.O.).

Following the loyal toasts, the Chairman (Mr. C. E. Egan) gave the toast of "The Club," and after recounting the progress of the cricket team during the past season, paid a glowing tribute to the officers who had piloted it through the past two years. He spoke in affectionate terms of the members of the North Side Club. Mr. Pescod, the Club Secretary, replying to the toast of the Club, voiced the members' appreciation of the valuable support given by the visitors. Mr. Woodford, replying for the visitors (given by Mr. Merron), congratulated the Club on the success it had attained. Mr. Dudley proposed the health of the President in a few words expressive of deep appreciation and thanks for one whose kindly interest and untiring effort had been largely responsible for making the inception of the Club possible. Regret was audibly expressed when mention was made of Mr. Egan's probable withdrawal from his office.

In the absence of Mr. E. W. Jones, the annual prizes were presented by Mr. F. C. Warne, with a word of congratulation to the recipients and applause from the guests. The batting prizes went to Mr. R. G. Steers and Mr. W. G. Easter, for the highest averages. Mr. C. Egan and Mr. T. F. Griggs received the prizes for bowling averages. Mr. Easter was also awarded the prize for the highest individual score, while the prize for outstanding merit went to Mr. W. Dowden.

The Club is extremely fortunate in friends who have given prizes for presentation. This year's prizes were given by Mrs. Fleet and Mrs. Evans, who are so often present that an absence calls forth an enquiry. Mr. Briden (C.P.O.), Mr. Romans (C.P.O.), and the President (Mr. C. E. Egan).

Speeches were necessarily short, in order to facilitate the clearing of the floor for the dance which followed. It was a merry company that remained till midnight, and it was unanimously agreed that the second annual had proved itself the most successful function so far.

## Customs Journal

### Terms of Subscription

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one copy 6/- per annum, post free.

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**The Secretary, Mr. P. SPEAR,**  
101 Upton Park Road.

Forest Gate, London, E.7

## The Free Allowance.

The recent notes to paragraphs 16 and 17 of Code Volume I., Part v. (G.O. 77/28), and particularly the latter of these, go a long way to solving the vexed question as to whether a person loses all title to free allowances *because* he is detected in an attempt to smuggle.

It is submitted herein that the present practice, based as it is on an interpretation of paragraph 11 of Part iv., is wrong, because it is not carried out consistently. Consider, for example, the following incidents. A member of a ship's crew is detected in an attempt to run a few pairs of silk stockings. He has declared and produced eight ounces of cigarettes and a half pint of perfumed spirits, and he is charged the duty, or is permitted to abandon the goods. In another case, the seaman is caught with 7 lb. cigars. He has declared 200 cigarettes and is wearing a foreign-made watch which he has not declared, but which is not concealed in any way. No other watch is found in his possession. He is charged the duty on the cigarettes only, and they are duly noted in the report to the Board (Form 458).

Perhaps if we have these paragraphs and notes before us they will assist us in making our decision.

Code Volume I., part iv., paragraph 9. *Dutiable articles allowed free to passengers.*—Any quantity of a dutiable article is liable to duty on importation into the United Kingdom, and must be declared and produced, but as a concession passengers may be allowed to retain for their own personal use, without payment of duty, the undermentioned quantities of dutiable goods, provided that they are duly declared and produced:

Manufactured tobacco (including cigars and cigarettes) ... ..	½ lb.
Spirits (other than cordials and perfumed spirits) ... ..	½ pint
Cordials and perfumed spirits ... ..	½ pint
Other dutiable articles if the duty does not exceed 1 s.	

When the quantity of any article produced is found to be in excess of that authorised to be passed free, duty is to be charged on the whole quantity of such article. For this purpose tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes are to be treated as one article.

The duty-free concession does not apply in the case of registered baggage examined elsewhere than at the port of landing, or in the case of unaccompanied baggage (paragraph 16)—G.O. 17/1924.

Paragraph 11. *Production of a portion only of dutiable articles.*—When a passenger, who has produced a portion of the dutiable goods in his possession, is detected in an attempt to smuggle a further

quantity, he loses all title to the duty-free concessions (see paragraph 9), but he may be allowed, on payment of duty, to remove the goods produced. The facts are to be fully reported on Form 458, sent forward in connection with the goods seized.

Part v., paragraph 16, note added by G.O. 77/28.

When a member of the crew, who has produced the dutiable articles declared by him on List 142, is detected in an attempt to smuggle a further quantity, he loses all title to the duty-free concession above, but he may be allowed, on payment of the duty and fine (if any), to land the goods so declared and produced, or they may be abandoned and sent to the King's Warehouse. No action is, however, to be taken to recover duty on the duty-free allowance under this paragraph if it has already passed out of control at the time of the offence. The facts are to be fully reported on Form 458, sent forward in connection with the goods seized.

Paragraph 17, note added by G.O. 77/28.—The regulated allowance left out for use on board under this paragraph is not to be interfered with in the case of a member of the crew remaining by the ship unless an attempt is made to land such goods irregularly, and then action is to be limited to the goods improperly dealt with. The facts are to be fully reported on Form 458, sent forward in connection with the goods seized.

It will be observed that the first sentence of the note to paragraph 16, part v., is virtually identical with that of paragraph 11, part iv. The third sentences are identical. It is fair to say that the whole tenor of these instructions is identical, and the fact that the singular number is used in the Note serves to set off the concessions as *separate items*, e.g., tobacco as distinct from spirits, and so on.

The note to paragraph 17 establishes the fact that the action which may be taken in regard to goods produced is not intended to be an additional penalty.

In answer to the case already quoted, in which a watch is not charged to duty, it may be argued that such goods are subject to a vastly different set of regulations. This is perfectly true. It is none the less true that Code, Volume I., part iv., contains the Regulations for landing, examination and delivery of passengers' baggage. Part v. serves a similar purpose in regard to members of ships' crews. Only a few articles are mentioned in these regulations, but it must be noted that these were the principal articles liable to duty at the date of the instructions. In other words, they were the goods most likely to be carried by the travelling public, passengers or seamen.

Moreover, we are perfectly safe in saying that tobacco was almost exclusively in the minds of those whose duty it was to compile these instructions. Witness, for example, the wording of Part iv., paragraph 10: "A passenger may pay duty and fine (if any) on a portion of the dutiable goods in his baggage. . . ."; and again in Part v., paragraph 10 (1): ". . . duty and fine being levied on the total quantity." These are clearly references to tobacco, and, be it noted, the paragraphs do not suggest that any other goods may be contemplated.

We are, therefore, compelled to come to this conclusion: the various instructions relating to *ad valorem*, silk, lace and embroidery, and other duties, together with those concerning dangerous drugs and firearms, etc., are part of, and accretions to, Code Volume I, Part iv. (or v., as case may be). These instructions contain no regulations contrary to those in the sections named, but only complimentary thereto. Reasoning thus, it follows that the paragraphs 11 (of part iv.) and 10 (of part v.) must be read in conjunction with paragraphs 9 and 16 respectively, as if those paragraphs contained the full list of free allowances as detailed in subsequent General Orders.

Having established these facts, there remains the interpretation of the words "a further quantity." Surely it cannot be anything other than a further quantity of whatever description of goods which may be declared and produced, *i.e.*, tobacco of tobacco, silk of silk, spirits of spirits, etc., and the regulations distinctly state (see Vol. i., iv., 9): "When the quantity of any article produced is found to be in excess of that authorised to be passed free, duty is to be charged on the whole quantity of such article."

If we express this instruction in the language of paragraph 11, we get something like this: "When a passenger, who has produced a quantity of dutiable goods—say ½lb. cigars, or new silk articles, the duty on which does not exceed 10%—produces a further quantity, he loses all title to the duty-free concessions (see paragraph 9), but he may be allowed, on payment of the duty, to remove the goods produced." That is to say, the smuggler is only brought into line with the honest traveller, be he passenger or member of a ship's company, and the charge to duty is by no means an additional penalty.

The ultimate effect is that where a person commits an offence against the smuggling regulations as regards any particular *description* of goods, he becomes involved in proceedings to recover the appropriate penalty, and in addition thereto, having a greater quantity than will entitle him to the free allowance, he is required to pay the duty in the same manner as the person who *produces* the lot, but he *does* receive a concession on those goods of *another nature* which he may have produced, providing, of course, the quantity does not exceed the stipulated free allowance. The following example will clearly show this.

Billson and Toamsa each have cigars and chocolates. Billson produces two ½lb. boxes of cigars and 5lbs. of chocolates. He pays duty on one pound of cigars and is allowed the chocolates free. Toamsa produces *one* ½lb. box of cigars and 5lb. chocolates. Toamsa is found to have another ½lb. of cigars hidden away in his baggage. He has thus the same quantity of cigars as Billson, and is not, therefore, permitted any free allowance of cigars. If he is a passenger his cigars do not come within the condition of Part iv., paragraph 9, whilst, if he were a member of a crew, the quantity is greater than that allowed under paragraph 16, and he must pay duty on the total quantity. But we have also to be guided by the fact that Toamsa has committed an offence in respect of his second ½lb. Therefore is this: We charge the duty (and fine if he is a seaman) on the half pound declared, and offer him the "option" in respect of the half pound we seize. He has been as honest as Billson with his chocolates. We do not find any "further quantity," and in consequence he does not lose title to *that* duty-free concession of dutiable articles, the duty not exceeding one shilling.

These additions to paragraphs 16-17 of Part v. have been in existence for possibly more than seven years. The original instruction stated that the seaman was to be "treated as a passenger" (see paragraph 9). This was by some responsible officers held to mean that the seaman was to be relieved from *fine*. The new Note, however, makes this point very clear.

"WENSO."

## Immature Spirits!

An American friend was describing to me the other day some of the testing methods they have "over there."

He said that when a cask is brought from a boot-legger we drop a sledgehammer into it. If the hammer sinks the whiskey is of poor quality, but is good if the hammer floats. If the hammer dissolves the whiskey is perfect.

B.J.B.

## OBITUARY.

### Mr. J. MACAULEY.

We regret to record the death, on November 9th, of Mr. J. Macauley (A.P.O., London). The sad news comes as a tremendous shock to those who had bade him goodbye on the Thursday. His vivacious and genial character will be sadly missed.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Mrs. Macauley and her two children.

## DOPE.

By "JOHNCAR."

"Yes, sir! I tell you, we're all suspicious that she's smuggling dope but it's one thing having suspicions and another thing proving them. However, she's due in to-day."

\* \* \* \*

With a rattle of winches, the SS. "Treena" sailed into her berth. She was just an ordinary little tramp, ill found, neglected and dirty, but a gold mine to her owners. Rotterdam, Antwerp and home, and never a trip but she was down to her plimsoll.

No sooner had the gangway been put ashore than the P.O. went aboard.

"Morning, skipper! All well?" queried the P.O. to a rubicund, flabby individual standing at the foot of the gangway. "Aye! a clean bill," said he, wheezing as he led the way to his cabin. A very mountain of flesh this skipper; great rolls of pin's flesh spilled over his collar, whilst his waistcoat wrapped across his stomach in one great sweeping curve. His bulk gave one the impression that he had been designed by nature to withstand the bumps and buffetings of a cockle-shell tramp in a North Sea gale.

Nevertheless, he was not entirely a figure of mirth. His reputation of being a cool and resourceful skipper was truly founded, but whispers that he was a "fily boy," or a "downy bird," and "a lady killer," were not without some stratum of truth.

The P.O. followed him into his sanctum, and let his eye rove professionally round the habitat of this corpulent sea-dog. Though he had been there on many occasions, he could never reconcile this boudoir of a cabin and all its feminine fripperies with the rightful owner. Photographs of girls, of cinema heroines and popular actresses, gazed with vacuous and toothsome smiles from every wall. Little pink curtains, tastefully looped back, allowed the merrily sun to cheer the toilets of two love-birds in a fancy cage, but failed to dispel the mingled odour of Eau de Cologne, scented soap and Havana cigars that permeated the atmosphere.

At this moment Chorlton, in charge of the rummage crew, came in and began his search. Leaving him to it, the boarding P.O. retired. A thorough search revealed nothing suspicious until suddenly, tucked behind a photo frame, Chorlton espied a bottle. Holding it up for a better inspection, he counted ten little tablets, but could see no label to help him to solve the mystery of its contents.

Turning round to question the captain, he found that he had disappeared. From a seaman who was passing the door he elicited the information that the skipper had gone ashore to telephone to the owners.

Presently the A.P.O.s came along to report a fruitless search. "Never mind," said Chorlton, "better luck next time," keeping the knowledge of the mysterious bottle to himself.

Next time duly came, and yet two more trips, but not a trace of dope was found. The thing was becoming very evident. The skipper was not the man he once was. All his stout wheezing joviality was slipping from him. His great bulk was shrunken, his bursting waistcoat now hung in Empresses over a deflated stomach.

Discussing the matter amongst themselves, the A.P.O.s were convinced of their theories. They began to get the impression that the skipper was getting nervous of their careful searches. "He's worried all right; he knows we suspect him," said Chorlton. "No doubt about it, his conscience is pricking him," said little Mac, who was responsible for bringing rumours from time to time of the money the skipper was spending up the town, and the pretty ladies he was entertaining to dinner. "That money couldn't be made honestly," Chorlton hastened to add, but he had never disclosed his own suspicions regarding the little unlabelled bottle of tablets. When the opportunity occurred he would act, and the credit would be his, and his alone.

Ten days later the "Treena" was in port. Scarcely had the gangway been put ashore than Chorlton and his rummagers were aboard.

The moment the boarding P.O. had left the skipper's cabin, Chorlton was inside. Scarcely had the search commenced when his eye lighted on the bottle with a fresh supply of mysterious tablets standing on a shelf above the wash-basin. At the same moment as he spotted the bottle, his eye caught the skipper, who was looking very guiltily in the same direction. The skipper took some steps towards the shelf. Just as he had seized the bottle, Chorlton sprang. Though much the smaller man, the impetus of his spring shook the skipper, who had taken out the cork and was endeavouring to shake out some tablets. "No you don't, no you don't," shouted Chorlton, struggling to seize the skipper's arm. Grabbing the arm holding the bottle, he tried to ward off the rain of blows from the disengaged arm of the skipper. All the old tricks of self-defence and ju-jitsu that he thought would be of use to him in a tight corner had gone from him. Primeval instincts surged up in him. Tooth and claw they fought now. Kicking and struggling they barged around the cabin. Chorlton, younger man though he was, was no match for the skipper, who, fighting now like only a man would who saw dread fate waiting for him, kept raining blows on Chorlton. Suddenly the skipper, catching his head

against the cabin table, went down stunned like a poleaxed ox, dragging the exhausted Chorlton with him.

Just at this moment the door opened with a rush, and in crowded the rummage crew who, hearing the noise of the conflict, had guessed what was happening. A perspiring and bleeding Chorlton dragged himself erect. "My word! that was a near thing; that dirty dope smuggler knew I'd caught him. I suppose he thought he'd swallow the evidence, but he was too late. Bring me that bottle lying in the corner, Mac. That's the dope, boys. I've had my eye on this cabin for a long time. The bottle is labelled this time, so now we'll get the agents who are supplying him."

Picking up the bottle, little Mac's eyes suddenly sparkled with an unholy joy. "That's not dope. It's not worry that's made him thin, boys, it's ANTIPON."

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## The Department Remembers.

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### ARMISTICE DAY, 1928.

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There is hardly a family to which the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Armistice does not bring back poignant memories, and the wish to remember was this year every bit as strong as it was on the first occasion, in 1919, when the first anniversary was observed. In fact, there are many who avow that they were this year more touched by the observance than ever before. True it is that the two minutes' silence conveys a solemnity and grandeur that are almost indefinable, not by reason of the sudden great hush, not by any artificial engineering to produce complete silence. The thoughts conjured up are thoughts full to overflowing with a wonderful reality, memories of wonderful devotion and sacrifice, culminated by a determination that never again shall it be necessary to send men into carnage such as was witnessed in those horrible years of war.

The London staff of the Customs and Excise Department were represented by all sections this year in the visit to the Cenotaph at Whitehall. Arrangements were somewhat different to those of previous years, in consequence of the 11th falling on a Sunday. A wreath was placed at the Memorial in the Long Room on Saturday, the 10th, and on Monday, the 12th, a deputation, organised by Mr. W. H. Powell, proceeded from the Custom House to Westminster Pier in three launches attached to the "Harpy" station, bearing with them a large wreath made to resemble the flag of the Department. With Messrs. Drury, Easter and Goodman, of the Preventive Staff, carrying the wreath, the party landed

and made their way across New Scotland Yard to the Cenotaph, and there, in silence, placed the Department's tribute at the foot of the Memorial in memory of our colleagues and all others who went forth and gave all. R.L.P.

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## Liverpool Dual Presentation.

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A very pleasant function took place on October 11th at the Angel Hotel, Dale Street, when a smoking concert was held to mark the retirements of Mr. G. Carstairs, Supt., and Mr. H. Atwill, P.O., in conjunction with presentations to each. There was a large and very representative gathering present, the Collector, Mr. E. E. Stonham, C.B.E., occupying the chair for the occasions, whilst others present included Messrs. E. W. Mills and Jones, Assistant Collectors, Mr. J. Moss, Supt., Mr. Plesents, C.P.O., representatives from the Aliens' Dept., and from various parts of the District. The Chairman's remarks as to the sterling qualities of both Mr. Carstairs and Mr. Atwill were ably supported by many other speakers, Mr. Moss then making the presentation to Mr. Carstairs, and Mr. Plesents to Mr. Atwill.

A happy feature of the event was that each recipient also received a token of remembrance for his wife, a brooch for Mrs. Carstairs and a wrist watch for Mrs. Atwill.

In replying, our late Superintendent spoke in glowing terms of the Collector and the staff in general, and assured us that the gold watch which he had received would remind him always of his all-too-short sojourn in Liverpool, whilst Mr. Atwill, in a witty speech of thanks for a barometer, recalled old memories and many humorous incidents of his service.

A splendid programme of entertainment had been arranged by the Social Club, under whose auspices the affair was held, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Thanks are due to our able Chairman, and the many Waterguard members and friends, Messrs. Cameron, Turner, Wright, Grosart, Failes, Hughes, Roberts, and McDevitt, who assisted in making the evening such an unqualified success.

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## Election of Councillors.

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District Officers are requested to note that the closing date for the receipt of ballot papers for the election of Councillors is DECEMBER 10th, and not November 30th as was stated in the last issue.

## SCOTLAND CALLING.

When colleagues are transferred, etc., they often keep up correspondence with Officers of their former port. In such correspondence there are sometimes found humorous references to work previously performed or to persons previously met. This probably explains the reason for the following poem. The first stanza is written by one who recently left a north-easterly port of Scotland, and the remainder is the answer by one of his former colleagues.

Those English friends unable to understand the part written in Doric will be made wise if they apply to the nearest "doric-speaking" Scotsman.

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The characters referred to in this poem are entirely mythical.

### "TO-DAY'S FABLE."

When the morn is cold, and the market full,  
And everyone morose and morbid,  
Pick up your lamp! Get off that stool!  
Avaunt! brave heart! and follow Florbid!\*

T. W. G.

\* \* \* \*

### "THE DREAM."

#### "LAST NIGHT'S FABLE."

Dear Tam, yer wee ode jist ti han',  
Wi' caustic humour, mon, its gran!  
An' as I'm on the twal' to aucht  
An answer till't I'll gae ye straucht.

\* \* \* \*

Last nicht I wis rale drear an' morbid,  
An', mon, I gaed an' follow't Florbid.\*  
Noo that's a richt, bit here's the rub,  
I follow't him intae a pub!  
An' fat I couldna unnerstan'  
He wid insist tae stan' his han'.  
An' pints galore he bade me sup,  
Till losh, man, I wis richt blawn up,  
Ma trouser buttons gie neer striven,  
I'd haen mair "pints" nor cost o' livin'.  
Then John, he startit gettin' frisky,  
An' gie's a gill o' speeshul whusky,  
Till we wis like the loons o' Harrow,  
Cairtit hame i' the scaffie's barrow.  
Noo, Tam, ye'll think I'm tellin' lees,  
Or else I've gaen dementit,

Bit surely ye'll hae guessed ere noo  
That I haed only dreamt it.  
The morn is cold, the market full,  
And I *am* drear and morbid,  
And *must* have had a heart of hope  
To follow Mister "Florbid."

"

G. H. W.

Dreams usually happen the opposite. Vide  
"Old Moore's Almanack 1928."

\*Here the reader may insert the name of a character suited to the description!

## PROSECUTION.

### SUNDERLAND.

At the Sunderland Police Court on November 6th, two firemen and a sailor belonging to the Swedish steamer "Marianne," from Antwerp, were charged with concealing on board their vessel certain uncustomed goods.

Evidence was given by Mr. G. Miller, A.P.O., that he found concealed behind the boss of a spare propeller a hermetically-sealed tin containing 1.66 proof gallons of spirits. The tin had been painted brown, similar to the surrounding ironwork. The sailor admitted ownership.

He found later, concealed in the bilges under the donkey boiler, a similar tin of spirits and two bottles of Geneva. These were owned by one of the firemen.

Subsequently, hidden away in the port bunker under several feet of coal, he discovered two tins, each containing 1.66 proof gallons of spirits, 10 bottles of Geneva, 5 bottles of brandy, 1½ lb. of tobacco and 100 cigarettes, the other fireman admitting the goods to be his.

The offenders were convicted and fined, the second fireman £15, and the other fireman and the sailor £10 each.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. A. C. Booth, C.P.O.

Mr. H. Kerr, P.O., was in charge of the rummage crew.

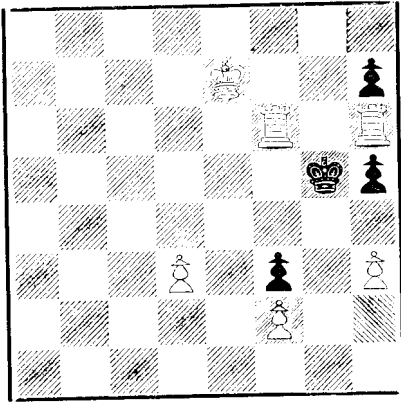
## London Announcement

On Thursday next November 22nd, St. Katherine's Dock Hotel, will be the scene of a Dual Presentation to two retired colleagues, Mr. A. R. Stevens and Mr. A. Spratt. There will be musical items and the evening will commence at 7 o'clock.

## SPORT AND SOCIAL.

## Customs Waterguard Chess Club

## PROBLEM No. 27.



By E. PRADIGNAT.

White to mate in three moves.

## Solution to No. 26.

Key moves:—

- |                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. Kt—Kt5, if P×Kt (Kt4) | 2. Kt—Kt4. |
| if P×Kt (Q4).            | 2. R—R7.   |
| if K×Kt                  | 2. Kt—B7+. |

the 3rd mating move is made accordingly—7 points.

## EARLY CHESS (Continued).

Solution (known as the Waterwheel):—1. Q—Kt7 (each move checks); 2. R—R8; 3. R—B8; 4. R—B6; 5. R—K6; 6. R—K4; 7. R—B4; 8. R—B2; 9. B—QB1; 10. R—B4; 11. R—K4; 12. R—K6; 13. R—B6 (K—Kt1); 14. R—B8; 15. R—R8 mate. White with move would mate in two by 1. Kt—B3 ch., etc.

## THE GAME IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

The game was brought to Europe by the Arabs; the first traces of it are found, as is natural, in Spanish history. A bequest of chess-men, made by a Spanish Count Ermengand in 1010, is mentioned by Mr. Murray. In the Middle Ages chess became the

chief indoor game at courts, skill in playing being accounted almost an essential accomplishment of a knight. Various collections have come down to us of problems of this time. These problems are not quite of the same merit as the older ones. They often introduce arbitrary conditions, as that the mate is to be given in "n" moves **exactly**, that such a man is not to be captured, or such a man is allowed abnormal moves. The Q was allowed to play, at her first move, to a third square that might be reached in two ordinary moves (e.g., from white's Q7 to Q3 or KB3), and a man stood in the way. **A Story of the French Revolution** (To be continued).

**Inter-Port Contest.**—The Committee are considering the advisability of running, in addition to the Club Tournament and Cup Contest, an Inter-Port (or District) Competition for a challenge shield; whether this materialises or not this season depends upon number of teams entering. Teams **must** consist of five players (who must be C.W.C.C. members), arranged in order of playing strength. These players may be drawn from one port, or from a district under the supervision of one Waterguard Superintendent. Names of teams entering should be sent to the Hon. Sec. as early as possible.

**Closed Period.**—It is agreed that there be a closed period during the summer months, *i.e.*, from 31st May until 1st September, each year. "No games or contests to commence after 3rd March nor before 1st September, and only contests unfinished on 31st May to be allowed to continue after that date."

## Pleasant Evening at Cardiff.

The Social Committee of the port started the winter season in good style by arranging a dinner and smoking concert at the Old Arcade Hotel on Friday, October 26th, the Chairman for the evening being Mr. Marr, Superintendent.

After a good dinner, a very pleasant concert was provided by the following:—Messrs. Wilson, Warner, John, Densley, Hills, Hadley and Harding (Newport). Mr. Harding again introduced community singing, which was heartily participated in by all present.

The concert concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and thanks to the Social Committee for their arrangements.