

The Customs Journal

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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.

District Meetings.

FROM remarks heard of late there are many who are too ready to judge the success of District meetings by the number of members present. In the majority of instances this tendency is, in our opinion, not altogether wise, for the most important factor to a successful meeting is the quality of those present—not the numbers. We do not refer, of course, to the occasional exception where a whole District goes stale and, if it does not actually die, at least falls into an abnormally deep slumber.

A great deal depends upon the District Secretary. On this official's shoulders falls the responsibility of preparing the agenda. He has to make sure that what the District desires to discuss is placed upon that document. He must fix his meeting at a time and place that will suit the convenience of the majority of his members. If necessary, he must arrange for speakers on various subjects, especially if there are important points to be explained. The ordinary member has an equally important duty to perform. If he has a special subject that he wishes to have discussed, he must communicate with his District Secretary and ensure that his subject is placed upon the agenda. The most convenient method of doing this is to send him a notice of motion, and a wise mover of a resolution will see that he is accompanied by one who is prepared to second his motion.

District meetings such as ours are generally made up of a few members who hardly ever miss a meeting, together with others who have difficulty in attending and are present as often as they can find possible. These form the nucleus of meetings, and the number vary but little. So far as fluctuation in size is concerned, the agenda is largely responsible. Thus we see, on rare occasions, a normal meeting quadrupled. The members who casually attend, however, do but little at meetings, save ask questions. They have usually made their speeches in the office. It is really surprising how the silent member at a meeting becomes fluent elsewhere, but we will say this for quite a considerable number,

and that is that they are by no means short of ideas. Many a good suggestion has been born in an office argument, only it has needed a foster parent to bring it to maturity.

Thus it is that a District meeting is often virtually a Committee acting for the whole of the District, working for the whole, and in agreement with the whole; and it is only when the subject is particularly controversial that one finds the District meeting in large numbers.

The P.S.A. is not alone in this—it occurs in all walks of life, religious, political, commercial. Small attendance does not necessarily mean lack of interest (except, as before mentioned, in isolated cases). We have no doubt that if members of the Council absented themselves from the Conference, among the forefront of the critics would be found not a small number of those who seldom attend a District meeting.

Howbeit, let this not be taken as an apology for the slack member. It isn't.

WATERGUARD SECTIONAL COMMITTEE.

Sir,—According to "Current Comments" in a recent issue, it is observed that a meeting of the Waterguard Sectional Committee was held on the 26th April last.

It is further observed that as yet no agreed report of the proceedings has been published in the "Customs Journal." Having in mind the importance of this Committee to the members of the Waterguard Associations and the vital subjects to be discussed, i.e., claim for increased leave, etc., it is rather a pity that such an interesting report has not yet been published.

The attention of the persons concerned might be drawn to the rapid publication invariably given to the agreed report of the Departmental Council.

Yours, etc.,

"YNOT."

[The report will be published as soon as it has been issued.—Ed.]

CURRENT COMMENTS

AN ancient philosopher has said that "A reflecting mind is the spring and source of every good thing." Obviously, therefore, "Vulcan's" article in the last issue is worthy of attention, and the more so because he has been kind enough to say that the perusal of "Current Comments" for the previous issue is "a most simple method of ascertaining whether the Cinderella of Departments" is going ahead or astern—a pleasant compliment which the writer of the columns must, however, gently decline.

As the title of the article "Slow Ahead or Slow Astern" has a nautical touch about it, perhaps it would be a suitable method of dealing with it to adopt the appropriate phraseology.

It might be pointed out, for instance, that Current Comments is not the "log" of our ship, but acts as the "look-out," upon whose alertness depends the safety of the ship's company, and whose announcements are never ignored by true sailors. Only landsmen would go "forrard" to inquire about the speed.

If "Vulcan" in his reflections had confined his attention to the log, he would undoubtedly have reached a definite conclusion. But, having merely questioned the "look-out," he gleans information not relative to his enquiry, and is therefore compelled to conclude his article unsatisfactorily by still asking "Is it slow ahead or slow astern?"

In any Association it is the official records, reports, and minutes of meetings, which constitute the log, and the reading of it, though not intricate, cannot be successfully undertaken by persons who do not trouble to become practised in the art.

Fortunately, the Preventive Staff Association, in common with other constituent bodies of the C. & E. Departmental Council Staff Side, is equipped with a patent indicator, known as the Whitley Index. This Index is supplied to every Association official, and enables him to read at a glance the progress made since we set sail on the Whitley ocean. It is worth consulting.

We started our voyage in the "Waterguard Federation," a cranky ship, ill fitted to carry its heavy general cargo of troubles. It was not a bit of wonder that the bottom fell out of her when she struck the Reorganisation gale. To begin with, rivets were missing, her plates were gaping, and the owners could not be prevailed upon to part with cash for repairs. The navigators tell many a tale of their harrowing adventures in trying to make port.

Following the wreck of the "Federation" came the building of the "P.S.A."—a sound craft, well found and capable of ploughing through any weather. Her owners have learned the unwisdom of tight-fistedness, but occasionally, with pardonable pride perhaps, they are apt to imagine she is a hydroplane with the carrying capacity of a Mauretania. The crew, however, are happy in the fact that she has a "turn for speed" in case of emergency, though normally she forges steadily and surely ahead.

Returning to "Vulcan" and his reflections, it must be acknowledged that he writes with a view to stimulating interest in P.S.A. affairs. His inten-

tion is undoubtedly to be constructive, but, in case the references he makes to certain items of Association activity should prove misleading to the average member, perhaps a little elucidation regarding these matters will not be out of place.

Regarding the Oil Duty question, the relative G.O. could not possibly be expected to announce that the Waterguard would be entrusted with this work. Such an announcement would mean the handing over of *all* Landing and Shipping. It requires little thought to realise how revolutionary would be that change so far as Customs staffing is concerned. If such a thing ever comes to pass it will not be by a stroke of the pen. Waterguard Officers, if they wish to indicate an intelligent knowledge of Landing and Shipping duties, must not flink at obvious facts, the most important of which is that some hundreds of Landing Officers would have to be disposed of somehow. It is inevitable that Landing and Shipping work will eventually be performed by a purely Customs grade, but it must be obvious to anyone who has studied the question that the process of change will be gradual.

The campaign for Waterguard interests in this connection has many scenes of action, and it is absurd to suggest that the absence of a spectacular decisive action means that no progress is being made.

The question of promotion from P.O. to C.P.O. needs to be stated very clearly. It should be realised that if there is anything unfair about this promotion it is most certainly in the *method*. And the method came into existence at the will of the Waterguard rank and file, and has continued in force for the same reason. It was, perhaps, a very good Whitley agreement at the time it was effected, but times have changed, and so has the type of Waterguard officer, and therefore the method has become unsuitable. Because attempt is made in these columns to warn the membership by pointing out the "obviously inequitable" there is no reason for assuming that the matter is allowed to drift. Warnings must precede all reforms, and it is wiser to take note of them with a view to putting things right, than to regard them as signals for gloomy despair.

As a matter of fact the Association is pursuing this subject with great thoroughness. Proposals for revision will be placed before the Official Side immediately our members have made up their minds in the matter, and there is no reason to think that Staff Side views will not have a definite bearing on the terms of any new agreement on the question.

Surely the fact that remedial action is to be undertaken regarding defects which have become apparent in promotion methods is no cause for despondency. Rather the reverse should be the case.

"Vulcan" gives faint praise to our success in obtaining ma-kintoshes and electric lamps. It is not generally appreciated that as much energy and work was necessary to secure these concessions as would have been necessary to conduct a salary claim. Unfortunately, only hard cash seems capable of touching the springs of gratitude in the hearts of Association memberships, and small credit goes to the negotiators in any concession not involving an increase in salary.

The satisfactory results to the Association efforts to obtain mackintoshes and torches for the Staff must appeal to any man (who does not regard Treasury economy as mythical) as an achievement made possible only by efficiency and energy. In each instance a complete and convincing case had to be built up. The essential task of transposing the vehemence of the Staff on those questions into penetrating argument, cold and logical, is not so simple an occupation as to refer in casual fashion to these concessions as "good" but "rather overdue."

Regarding the abolition of oil lamps, it might be noted by the sceptical gentlemen that the most efficient and most powerful Civil Service Association, the Union of Post Office Workers, has been trying for years to touch the heart of the Treasury with a view to obtaining a similar concession for Postmen. It is certainly not the fault of the U.P.W. that so far their efforts have not been successful, and it becomes very obvious that the P.S.A. has had to fight every inch of the way to get what we have got.

The proposal to supply fountain pens to the Customs Staffs arose on the Suggestions Committee (which, by the way, is not a Whitley body), at the instance of another Association. It was, however, the evidence of the Waterguard representatives which turned the scale in favour of the proposal when it was discussed with the Official Side. It was consequently agreed in full Committee to recommend the adoption of the suggestion; but that could not be the final word. The Stationery Office must have their say in this matter, and finally the Treasury. The cause of the delay is, therefore, easy to be seen. It is a trivial matter, but is nevertheless a definite indication that the P.S.A. does not sleep.

As to Seizure Awards, there is not the slightest doubt that without an Association, properly organised, and taking its full part in Whitley negotiation, the Waterguard would have suffered a loss amounting to thousands of pounds, at least twelve months ago. It is most unjust to even suggest that the P.S.A. has not rendered valuable service to its members by stoutly resisting the efforts that are being made to reduce award payments.

Failure to secure agreement on the Waterguard Sectional Committee regarding the Leave question is not by any means a sign that we are not making progress as a whole. Before the P.S.A. took action in this matter it was well known that our most formidable enemy is the public press. We share this enemy with all other Civil Service Associations, who have had to suffer equally with us, though perhaps in different ways.

As this Leave question is still in Whitley, further comment is undesirable.

It is to be hoped that the few remarks now made here will not be regarded as even an outline of Association activity, or as a means for arguing that we are following a "willy-nilly" course. Anyone desiring to demonstrate such a thing must have the whole picture before him, and it is not possible to give that here.

There is one very important aspect of the question which rarely enters the minds of adverse critics, and that is the solid protection afforded by the Association to the rights and privileges we already

possess. To any man who reasons by his brain, and not by his emotions, it will be obvious that for this reason alone the Association is well worth while.

In London port for many years past there has been much controversy as to whether the shipment of bonded stores should be under the control of the Officer Grade or the Waterguard. The matter came to a head when the Chairman of the Local Whitley Committee ruled the question as *ultra vires*. The Staff Side representatives took the case to the Departmental Council, where it was decided that a special committee be set up representing the Associations concerned.

The Staff Side of this Committee will consist of three P.S.A. representatives and three from the Customs and Excise Federation.

It may perhaps seem curious to provincial members that London Waterguard officers should be in this position, and it is therefore explained that circumstances peculiar to London have fostered the present methods of dealing with bonded stores. The matter has been raised before by the Association, when partial success was obtained.

Members are notified that as there is no change in the Tariff this year, affecting the figures contained in the "Preventive Officers' Guide," there will be no revision of this booklet until next year. A revised booklet has been prepared by the V.E.C., and this, together with various suggestions as to publication and distribution, will be submitted to the Conference for approval.

Meanwhile there is a limited number of the original Guide still in stock, and these are available for those who need them. There will be no reprint, and as orders are beginning to again roll in it is likely the stock will soon be exhausted.

At the Annual Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation Council on May 19th, there was a most interesting and useful debate on the question of bonus consolidation. The discussion went far deeper than mere consolidation, however, and the result will be that the inquiry which the Confederation will undertake in this matter will be full and conclusive.

The cost-of-living figure for May the 1st remains unchanged, at 64.

The new President of the Confederation is Mr. G. Chase, and the Vice-Presidents are Messrs. Ross Wyld and J. W. Chapple. Mr. C. A. W. Sanders continues as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. P. H. M. Hoey was elected Hon. General Secretary (unopposed). Mr. Hoey was complimented on the very efficient manner in which he had carried out the duties of his new post since his appointment some months ago.

It is understood that of the six candidates for promotion to C.P.O. Upper Section, the following have been successful:—Messrs. P. Moroney, C. Gorn, and W. P. Shearman.

Students under the C.P.O. Examination Section of the V.E.S. need have no uneasiness if there is no immediate attention given to their correspondence, as it is quite possible that there may be a short delay owing to the tutor taking a well-earned holiday.

Preventive Staff Association

Head Office :

Thames Chambers,
18, Beer Lane,
London, E.C.3.

Telephone ROYAL 4279

President: E. P. Madden

General Secretary: J. Merron

Organising Secretary: J. T. Sutton

Assistant Secretary: W. H. Powell

GRAVESEND.

At the annual District Meeting held in the Labour Exchange Offices on May 4th (Chairman, Mr. A. Richardson), the following District Officers were elected:—

Chairman—Mr. Sharrock.
Vice-Chairman—Mr. Camburn.
District Organiser—Mr. Smith.
District Secretary—Mr. Baker.
Local Joint Whitley—Messrs. Brown, O'Connor,
Camburn and Dines.
Local Whitley—Messrs. Grey (P.O.) and Dines
and Camburn (A.P.O.S.).
Auditors—Messrs. Creese and Milward.

"Customs Journal" Correspondent—Mr. Grace.

A resolution was carried pressing for the deletion of the words "Assistant Preventive Officer" where they occur in G.O.28, 1928.

LEITH.

A meeting was held at the Liberal Club, Leith, on Wednesday, May 16th.

In the absence of Mr. Gordon, Mr. Cheyne, Vice-Chairman, presided over an attendance of 24 members, including eight from the out-ports. The Council representatives were also present.

Discussion on the problem "Promotion by Merit" took place and met with divided opinion. A motion was presented instructing the Councillors for the district to withdraw the resolution as submitted from Leith on the grounds that the vested interests of the '16 ex-Boy Messengers would be endangered if this scheme had its being. It was also proposed that both the South Coast and Leith schemes be withdrawn until such time as the Water-guard Department had obtained an extension of duties. Further debate on the subject was not continued.

The question of promotion of Preventive Officers was discussed at length, and suggestions were forwarded to Headquarters of the Association.

Votes of thanks were tendered to the visiting members and the Councillors. Successful candidates at the recent examination for Preventive Officership received the congratulations of those present, and satisfaction was expressed that no A.P.O. in the Leith Division had been unsuccessful.

Following is the result of the election of office-bearers for the year:—

President—Mr. Gordon (P.O.).
"Customs Journal" Correspondent—
Mr. J. M. Mitchell (A.P.O.).

The address of the District Secretary (Mr. H. Gunn) is Waterguard Office,
Victoria Dock,
Leith.

HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT.

The Annual Meeting was held on May 17th, when Mr. Staniland was Chairman. The attendance, unfortunately, left much to be desired.

The District Secretary and District Organiser gave reports which showed the District to be in a sound condition. The Secretary also gave the latest information received from Headquarters on various subjects.

"CUSTOMS JOURNAL."

It was agreed that publication should remain as at present (fortnightly).

PROMOTION BY MERIT.

The question of the promotion of P.O.s and A.P.O.s was thoroughly discussed, and recommendations regarding the former were forwarded to the General Secretary. The meeting was agreed that with regard to the latter, the system should remain as at present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Chairman—Mr. Roberts, P.O.
Vice-Chairman—Mr. Staniland, A.P.O.
District Sec., District Organiser and "C.J."
Correspondent—No change.

CARDIFF.

A District Meeting was held at the Old Arcade Hotel on Friday, May 18th. Mr. Warne, P.O., presided. In view of the importance of the meeting, it was to be regretted that the number present failed to reach expectations. It is only fair that Councillors should have the full opinion of the District at the forthcoming Conference.

PROMOTION OF A.P.O.S.

After a long discussion the meeting agreed that the present promotion by merit scheme should remain in existence.

PROMOTION TO C.P.O. GRADE.

It was also agreed that this appointment should also be by merit, and that candidates should be called up in order of seniority.

SALARY AND LEAVE CLAIM.

There was a careful and long discussion as to the advisability of placing these claims before an Industrial Court, separately or together, decision being ultimately reached that this should be done at the earliest moment.

LANDING AND SHIPPING DUTIES.

After discussion it was given as the opinion of the meeting that a proposal should be placed before the Board.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

Chairman—Mr. G. Warne (P.O.).
District Secretary—Mr. Watson (P.O.).
District Organiser—Mr. Goodliffe (A.P.O.).
Local Whitley Representatives—Messrs. Warne
(P.O.) and Warren (A.P.O.).

Local Organising Secretary—
Mr. S. Steadman (A.P.O.).
" Customs Journal " Correspondent—
Mr. W. Bowen (A.P.O.).
Vice-President—Mr. Milne (A.P.O.).
District Secretary—Mr. Gunn (A.P.O.).
District Organiser—Mr. Crowe (P.O.).

GLASGOW

The annual District Meeting took place at Mavisbank Depot on Wednesday, 9th May, under the Chairmanship of Mr. H. Green. The attendance was very large. Unanimous decisions were recorded on the following subjects:—

LEAVE QUESTION.

A great deal of discussion took place on this subject, and it was decided that the claim should be submitted to the Arbitration Board.

PROMOTION BY MERIT.

As several ports had not expressed their views on this subject, the matter was referred back to the members, to be discussed at the meeting prior to the Conference.

MEALS.

When the exigencies of the Service permit, officers should be allowed to take their meals off the station if they so desire.

AREA REPRESENTATION.

This matter to be left in the hands of the Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

That whilst every confidence is placed in the Committee by the Glasgow District, the members are of opinion that resolutions submitted should be promptly dealt with and taken to a final conclusion.

PROMOTION TO C.P.O. GRADE.

The entire meeting expressed disapproval at the method of advancement to the C.P.O. Grade. It was decided that the matter be held in abeyance until the staff considered the recent circular received on this subject.

REDUCTION IN SUBSCRIPTIONS.

That subscriptions be reduced and the Council left to decide the amount of reduction.

TRANSFERS.

That an applicant for transfer be given preference to senior applicants applying for same port at a later date.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

President—Mr. McGlennon, A.P.O.
Vice-President—Mr. Cridland, P.O.
District Secretary—Mr. Manson was unanimously re-elected.
District Organiser—Mr. Denley (Ardrossan).
Local Secretary—Mr. J. Watters, A.P.O.
Whitley Council Representatives—Messrs. W. Manson, P.O., G. Mowat and J. Watters, A.P.O.s.
Journal Correspondent—Mr. Tom MacGlennon, A.P.O.
Civil Service Defence Committee—
Mr. J. Watters, A.P.O.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO MAY 21st, 1928.

TRANSFERS.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENTS (2ND CLASS):—

Alhwork, J. T. Aberdeen to Plymouth.
Leith, J. London to Aberdeen.
Warne, F. C. Dover to London.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Lawler, T. F. Newport, Mon., to Liverpool.
Lyons, J. T. Barry Dock, Cardiff to Newport, Mon.
Nicol, A. S. Leith to Barry Dock, Cardiff.
Rugg, G. H. Newcastle to Cowes, Portsmouth.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Caldeleugh, F. A. Cardiff to Dartmouth, Plymouth.
Harrison, C. W. Glasgow to Stronsay, Aberdeen.
Thomson, T. Stronsay, Aberdeen to Aberdeen.

PROMOTIONS.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT, 2ND CLASS TO 1ST CLASS:—

Jones, E. W. Plymouth to London.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Fagan, W. Dover to Glasgow.
Gordge, E. E. J. Southampton to North Shields, Newcastle.
Page, R. J. London to Newport, Mon.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS:—

Waterguard Superintendent, 1st Class.
Connaway, J. W. London.
Chief Preventive Officer, Lower Section.
Kirkham, A. Swansea.
Engineer, Steen, A. R. Gravesend, London.

VACANCIES.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER (Upper Section):—

Southampton. 21.6.1928.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Leith. 27.6.1928.

OBITUARY.

Mr. J. A. BUCHANAN.

We regret to announce the sudden death of Mr. J. A. Buchanan at his residence at West Hartlepool on May 16th. He has been stationed at many ports and was C.P.O. when he transferred to the Home Office as Chief Immigration Officer. He retired in 1922.

The funeral took place on May 19th at Stanton Cemetery, and was attended by Mr. J. Maile (late P.O., ~~Errol~~ **Errol** in-law. Mr. Maile, Jr. representing the Immigration Staff at Aberdeen, Messrs. Fulton (Middlesbrough), Jones, Donovan, Swift, Warren and Roberts (P.O.s), Messrs. Bray, Oak and Burke (A.P.O.s), Messrs. Martin and Groat (late P.O.s).

Members of the local staff acted as bearers.

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.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS AND PROMOTION.

Sir,—An examination of the results of the recent test for promotion to the rank of Chief Preventive Officership makes it clear that there is "something rotten in the state of Denmark."

Either there is something wrong with the method of selection, or the general intelligence of the Preventive Officer Grade is at a very low ebb.

A very wise man has said that character is not based on what a man does on a certain special occasion, but on his everyday life and work, and one wonders if this fact is taken sufficiently into consideration by the Selection Board when one reads down the list of men who have been left behind as incapable of filling the higher post.

While I am personally acquainted with two of the successful candidates, and would, in each case, heartily endorse the Selection Committee's choice, I am utterly at a loss, in common with others, to account for the wholesale slaughter of men whom I feel sure would have filled the higher position with dignity and credit to themselves and to the Honourable Board.

One cannot believe that the intelligence, initiative, and zeal of the Grade are at fault at a time when we have been complimented again and again on the manner in which the various new and responsible duties added to the Department have been dealt with.

What, then, is the trouble? Is it a new method of dealing with the threatened slump in promotion by hewing away down to the younger men in the Service, and preparing a way for the suggested open competition for these posts?

If so, and I do not for a moment believe that the Honourable Board, or the heads of our own Department, would countenance such a procedure, then I think it about time that the Association was up and doing.

When judging a man's zeal surely other factors should be taken into account besides seizures? Zeal for seizures may be actuated by other motives than purely official ones, while a general intelligent interest in the work of the service by an Officer could easily be assessed by reference to his Codes and the various books and records for which he is responsible; yet I don't think that these are ever called for.

Let the Association see to it that men with twenty to thirty years' service, who may, for health or other reasons, be unable to come up to scratch at the moment required, but who are known by all to be efficient Officers and well qualified to carry out the duties of Chief Preventive Officer, get a fair crack of the whip.—Yours, etc.,

"QUERIO."

The Editor,
The "Customs Journal."

POST-WAR ENTRANTS AND PROMOTION.

Sir,—From time to time we have read in the "Customs Journal" of the various decisions arrived at during the debates on the vital question, "Promotion by Merit," more especially concerning the Group 3 post-war entrants to the A.P.O. Grade.

It is hoped that our representatives at the forthcoming Conference will be able to adopt one or other of the two schemes so freely discussed of late, or, if necessary, obtain the vote of each member of the above-mentioned Group, and eventually provide the early entrant with some measure of better prospects in the Service, other than the penalty he will be compelled to carry throughout his career, should the age system stand fast.

The elder post-war entrant in Group 3 has secured all the plums so far, his pay is far above that of the younger man, who is much senior in years of service and experience, but surely length of service is of some value; therefore, I trust the interests of the early entrants will not be lost sight of during the discussion at the Conference.

19' HOPEFUL.

To Correspondents.

CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THE ASSOCIATION HEAD-QUARTERS OFFICE IS IN A BUILDING CONTAINING A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF OTHER OFFICES, EACH, OF COURSE, HAVING A LARGE OR SMALL STAFF. ALL LETTERS, THEREFORE, WHETHER FOR THE ASSOCIATION, V.E.S., OR CONFIDENTIAL, SHOULD BEAR ON THE ENVELOPE, IN ADDITION TO THE PERSON'S NAME, THE TITLE OF THE OFFICE, PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION; OTHERWISE THE HOUSEKEEPER MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY IN LOCATING THE DESTINATION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

London Prosecution.

At the Thames Police Court on May 9th, an A.B. of the steamer "Nieucappelle" from Ghent, lying at Poplar Dock, was charged with illegally importing and concealing 1.49 gall. Brandy, .20 gall. Rum, .43 gall. Geneva, .82 gall. Liqueurs, .08 gall. Perfumed Spirits, and 9½lb. O.S. Tobacco.

The goods were found concealed in the water ballast tank in the fore-castle by Messrs. E. L. Galvin and J. C. Myers, A.P.O.s, under the supervision of Mr. W. P. Manley, P.O.

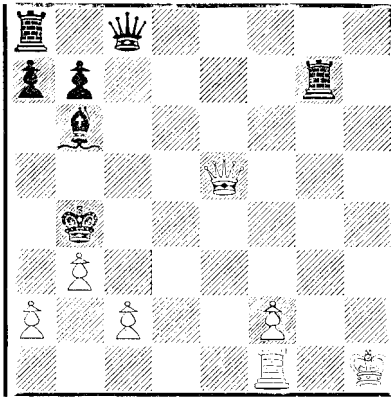
The magistrate fined the offender treble value and duty, amounting to £53 11s. 3d., or one month, and remarked that it was a carefully thought-out plan to defraud the Revenue.

Mr. A. Woffenden, C.P.O., prosecuted.

SPORT AND SOCIAL

Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

PROBLEM No. 16.



White to mate in three.

Solution to No. 15:—

1. B — K 4 if 1 Kt × Kt dis. ch. 2. B — Q 3.
 if 1 Kt × R dis. ch. 2. Kt — Kt 5.
 Other variations are obvious. (7 points.)

Club Tournament.—Round 1, Sections III and IV, commenced 1st June, 1928.

End Game No. 3.—Evidently White's Pawns must win, unless Black has some unexpected escape.

1. 1. R — R 2 +.
 2. K — Kt 2 (best). 2. B — B 3 +.

Now if 3 P × B, Black's K is in a stalemate position, and Black can draw by constantly offering R in checking K, e.g., 3. R — R 7 + ; 4 K — B 1, R × B, etc. Therefore 3 K — B 1 (not to Kt 1, else 3. R — R 8 mate).

3. 3. R — R 8 +.
 4. B — Kt 1. 4. B × P.
 5. K — Kt 2. 5. R × B ch., and draws, as

the K and B easily control the P's after exchange of R's.

Hon. Treasurer.—We regret to announce that Mr. Dudley is unable to continue this office owing to pressure of his P.S.A. duties. Mr. A. R. Deans, 31, Pilgrims Way, Dover, has undertaken the duties of Hon. Treasurer, and he would be pleased to receive the annual subscriptions from those members who have not paid, as early as possible.

Presentation of the Chess Cup.

The Silver Cup given to the Chess Club by Mr. C. E. Egan, was presented to the winner, Mr. J. M. Mitchell (A.P.O., Leith), last week. In consequence of Mr. Mitchell's very recent bereavement there was nothing in the nature of a ceremony except the reading of letters from the Inspector-General and the Chess Club Committee,

While heartily congratulating Mr. Mitchell on his achievement, we wish to offer him our sincere sympathy in his sorrow.

Civil Service Confederation.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The Sixteenth (Annual) Council Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Saturday, 19th May, 1928, in Central Hall, Westminster. Mr. W. H. James presided over an attendance of 75 representatives of 40 constituent organisations, in addition to the officers and other members of the Executive Committee.

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee, the Honorary Treasurer's Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 1928, and the Report on Parliamentary and Publicity Work, were presented and adopted.

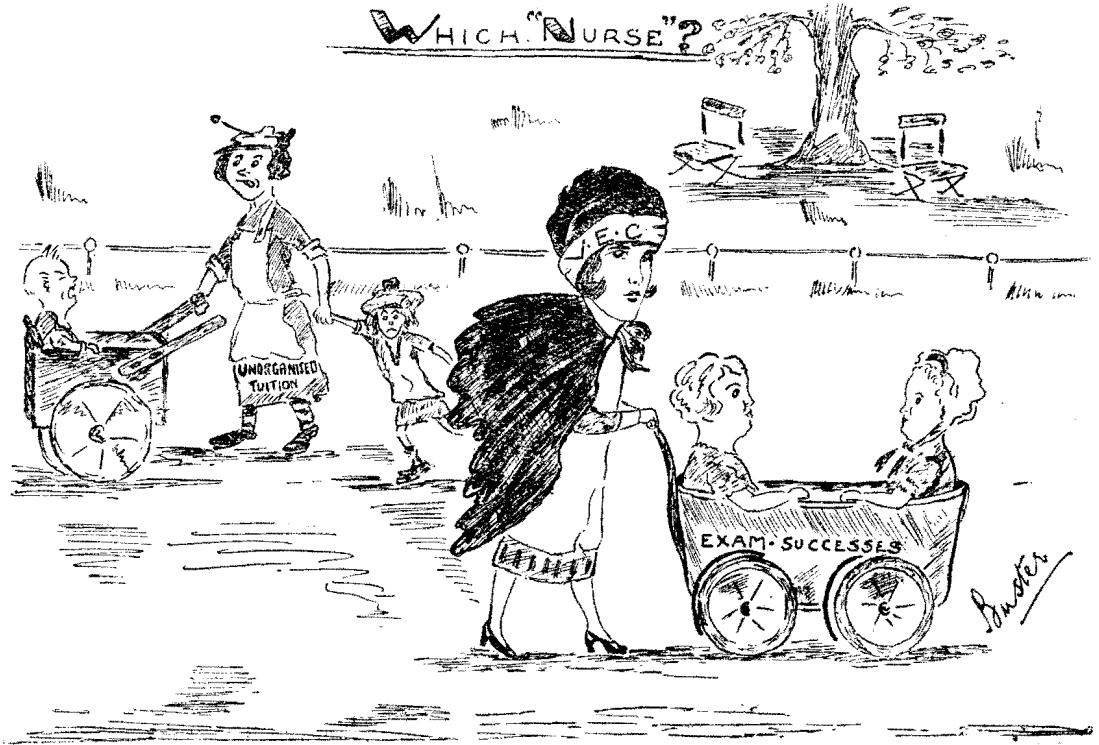
At the morning session a discussion took place on the question of the various rulings given by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies arising out of the Civil Service (Approved Associations) Regulations, 1927, and a resolution was adopted recommending Associations to send in the rulings they had received to the National Staff Side for examination.

A lengthy discussion also took place on the question of the Cost-of-Living Bonus and the following resolution was adopted:—

“That the new Executive be asked to consider the question of the Cost-of-Living Index Figure and the Civil Service Bonus, and to make recommendations on the subject, including, *inter alia*, the desirability of consolidating bonus and basic salary.”

On the subject of Sick Pay for Unestablished Classes, it was reported that a deputation of Members of Parliament to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and a subsequent further approach made by the Confederation to the Treasury, with a view to urging the claims of those classes still excluded from sick pay privileges, had produced no favourable result, and a meeting of the Special Committee of the Confederation on Sick Pay for Unestablished Classes has been convened to consider the position now reached.

With regard to the proposals put forward by the Confederation for the increase of the retiring gratuity to Unestablished Classes, it was reported that this matter was still on the agenda of the Joint Superannuation Committee, but its consideration by the Joint Committee had been held up at the request of the Post Office representatives on the Staff Side of the Committee, who desired to examine the question further. The matter will accordingly be again under discussion at the next meeting of the Staff Side of the Superannuation Committee.



The following were elected as Honorary Officers of the Confederation:—President, Mr. G. Chase; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Ross Wyld and Mr. J. W. Chapple; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. C. A. W. Sanders; Honorary General Secretary, Mr. P. H. M. Hoey. Warm appreciation was expressed of the services rendered by the retiring President, Mr. W. H. James who, having occupied the post of President for three years, did not offer himself for re-election.

For the six seats on the Executive Committee filled by election at the Annual Council Meeting, the following were elected:—Mr. F. C. Osgood, Mr. W. J. Brown, Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, Mr. W. H. James and Mr. Reg D. Crook.

For the eleven seats held by the Confederation on the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service the following were elected:—Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, Mr. G. R. Speed, Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, Mr. C. A. W. Sanders, Mr. W. J. Brown, Mr. R. D. Crook, Mr. G. Chase, Mr. R. McC. Beamish, Mr. W. G. Boys, Mr. W. H. James and Miss Rose Smith Rose.

Ad. Val. Miscellaneous Decisions.

The Preventive Officer was busy taking duty at a West Coast port, on board a steamer fresh in from Lagos, when a coloured gentleman, one of a queue, presented for duty a lady's art silk blouse, the brilliance of which would have turned a rainbow green with envy. The following dialogue took place:—

- P.O.: "When did you buy this?"
 C.G.: "Black pan watch day in the Islands."
 P.O.: "What did you pay for it?"
 C.G.: "Two pineapples, three yams and four coconuts."
 P.O. (after mental calculation): "The duty will be three shillings."
 C.G. (diving into a long sleeve and withdrawing a small tusk): "Give me the change out of this."
 P.O.: "Sorry, can only take current coin of the realm. You will get it changed at the top end of Parky Laney Street or at Paddy's Market, Scotland Road."
 (Turning to A.P.O.): "Shove it under until to-morrow."

A few days later at an East Coast port, the following transaction came under my notice:—

Scene: Preventive Officer examining a few pieces of ladies' art silk underwear, owned by the mate of a deep-sea trawler.

- P.O.: "What did you pay for these?"
 Mate: "A basket o' witches and black jacks."
 P.O.: "Three and four. Sign here and don't break the pencil."
 Satisfied as to value.

Our Short Story.

"I'm so pleased," said the A.P.O., as he replaced the brick in its wrappings in the 'tween decks.
 GEN.