

The Customs Journal

No. 613

April 21st, 1928

Fortnightly

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	77	Lawn Tennis at Chiswick	84
Current Comments	78	Correspondence	85
Zeal	80	Changes in the Staff	85
Preventive Staff Association	81	Prosecution at Penzance	86
Baggage	83	C. & E. Departmental Council	87
Gleanings from the Past	84	Sports and Social	88

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.

EDITORIAL

THE report of the Committee of the C. & E. Orphans', Widows' and War Memorial Fund is published in this issue, and it will be noticed that the sum of £36 19s. 11d., the balance of the Armistice Day Wreath Fund, has been received as a donation. The amount collected, including contributions from the collections of London Central, North and South, as well as from the various grades at Headquarters and London Port, was £58 14s. 11d. A sum of £21 15s. 0d. was required to provide wreaths for the War Memorial in the Custom House and one for the Cenotaph. In view of the proposals to appreciably increase the grants payable under the rules, such contributions to the resources of the Fund are very welcome. Secretaries of testimonial funds might well remember the claims of the widows and orphans when considering the disposal of any small balances that may be left in their hands.

* * * *

the National Staff Side and the Government. He gives it as his conviction that the time has now come when the present agreement should be revised, and he gives his reasons for holding this view.

The pending retirement of Mr. C. E. Egan (C.P.O., London), draws attention to a personality that has done much for the Preventive Staff in London. In official hours a strict disciplinarian, his influence on the social side after hours has been very marked. With a vigour worthy of a much younger man (although Mr. Egan certainly does not look anywhere near his age) he has thrown himself wholeheartedly into the sport of our branch of the Service, and has encouraged the Sports Clubs, the Athletics, and the highly successful dances held during the winter months. He has, in his younger days, been a keen, all-round athlete, being a successful sprinter, amateur footballer and cricketer. Thirty years ago he was one of the best amateur billiard players in England.

It is good to know that Mr. Egan will retain his presidency of the London South Side Club, at least until the end of the cricket season, but at the end of his official career we wish him the best of health to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

An article in the "New Civilian" of April 11th, by Mr. W. J. Brown, General Secretary of the C.S. Clerical Association, draws attention to the working of the Civil Service Industrial Court, and on the need for revising the Arbitration Agreement between

FILL IN THIS FORM NOW.

The Secretary (V.E.C.),
Preventive Staff Association,
13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3.

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

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

Name

Address

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

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

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

CURRENT COMMENTS

THE Executive Committee met on the 11th inst., and put in a strenuous three days' work. A report of the proceedings appears elsewhere in this issue. As the next meeting will be the last before the Annual Conference, and will be the heaviest meeting of the year, much attention was given at the recent meeting to the possibility of accelerated progress with regard to the various matters in hand from the 1927 Conference. Members are apt to become impatient over what is thought to be undue delay, and therefore it is worth noting that the Executive are fully cognisant of this fact, and are themselves just as keen as the ordinary members to secure early results to their efforts.

Once a matter has passed into the hands of the Executive for negotiation with the Official Side, it is inevitable that the inner details of activity and progress cannot be fully conveyed to the membership. The best that can be done is to give periodic reports as to how a matter stands at a given date, and these reports require to be read with some imagination in order to realise the amount of work the Association representatives have to put in during the advance made from stage to stage, until a final result is reached. Unfortunately, it is impossible for most members to know how the machinery operates, and consequently we have people who will insist that their representatives are responsible for delays, when, as a matter of fact, they are just as anxious as anyone to pull off a good thing as expeditiously as possible. If there is any chance at all of bringing a case to an early and satisfactory conclusion, the Association leaders can be relied upon to seize it. There is no point, however, in producing early decisions that are *not* satisfactory.

In these days there is so little to be gained, especially where expenditure is involved, that Whitley negotiations tend to be prolonged. This is true more particularly when a Staff Side case is obviously based on solid grounds. It should be borne in mind that even a just claim can be turned down on the grounds of economy; and before such a claim can be successful it is necessary that it should be thrashed threadbare, in order to reveal technical reasons for convincing the Treasury that the granting of the claim is justified. In these circumstances it is sound policy for the Staff Side to facilitate full discussion on any subject, even though this might entail a somewhat lengthy process. In Whitley, a case that is rapidly dealt with can be relied upon to have no substance in it, or it must be of very little importance.

It is a mistake to assume that "Whitleyism" is some wonderful method which enables the Staff to get what they ask for. Many people seem to have that view. The term merely means a system of regular negotiation—nothing more and nothing less—and the best way to ruin the spirit of Whitleyism is for one side to attempt to force a decision upon the other before adequate discussion has taken place. As to what is adequate discussion is for the negotiators to decide. If they cannot judge, it is

certain that no one else is in a position to do so without first making detailed investigation.

That Whitleyism is an unduly slow method of negotiation is something that has yet to be proved. It may appear to be a lengthy process, but so does the boiling of the watched pot. Modern Association facilities result in keeping many issues prominently before the members, and this very fact has the effect of causing impatience on the part of those whose rôle it is to watch.

In comparison with the old methods of negotiation it is very rapid and productive. In days gone by much laborious effort was necessary to coordinate members' views on even a single issue; and then after months of work preparing a case, everything depended upon a deputation securing an interview—and this might take months. Even when a deputation was received there was no discussion as we now have it. The case was merely presented, and then it was necessary to wait blindly for an indefinite period before hearing anything.

Nowadays we have continuous negotiation on numerous issues at the same time. Each is a live question during the whole of its discussion, because either side is at liberty to bring additional facts and evidence to bear as the negotiations develop, and though this facility causes some delay, it is frequently valuable delay to the Staff Side. Undoubtedly, under modern conditions results are infinitely better in every way.

The Executive gave considerable time to the framing of the proposals which are to be submitted to the membership regarding promotion to the C.P.O. Grade. Promotion is always a thorny subject, and this case appears to be no exception. The chief aim is, of course, to ensure that the right men get into the C.P.O. Grade. Though there are many opinions as to how this object might be achieved, there is only one opinion regarding the existing method. The fact that the promotion machinery now in operation has not effected what the Staff Side anticipated has caused the Executive to give very careful consideration to the subject, in order to avoid repetition of past errors. It is an important truth that the whole future of the Water-guard depends upon the introduction of a wise promotion scheme for Chief Preventive Officer.

The circular containing the E.C. proposals has now been drafted, and will be in the hands of the District Officers within a few days. It is well worth the calling of special meetings to discuss the proposals.

The Executive recommendation as to reorganisation of Areas and Districts will no doubt be received with interest by officers stationed at places where no direct representation is possible. The new proposals, if adopted by the Council, will add some mild excitement to the annual elections, and this in itself will not be a bad thing. The chief advantage offered, however, is that large ports would in future

not control the Council so completely as at present. The grievance of officers in the lesser ports would to a great extent be removed.

* * * *

A very full discussion took place on the report of the deputation which placed before the Board the Waterguard claim for promotion to the Officer Grade. A detailed description of the action taken, and of all the matters which led up to the claim being put forward, was given. The Executive approved the report, and decided unanimously that the deputation had acted strictly in accordance with Association policy.

* * * *

A very disturbing letter from a number of Preventive Officers at a certain port was discussed by the E.C. The letter contained a strongly-worded complaint that the staff at this port were being subjected to intense supervision, of a kind causing much humiliation to the Preventive Officers, and discontent amongst the Assistant Preventive Officers. It seems hardly credible that this detestable form of persecution still survives, but the signatories of the letter are so well known as capable and conscientious officers that the Executive were compelled to believe there was substance in the complaint.

When practically the whole of the staff of a port are moved to seek Association assistance on a matter such as this, one cannot but think that there is something seriously wrong. No matter what are the rights or wrongs of the case, efficiency in preventive work must be impaired as a consequence.

These are nasty cases to deal with, and the Association does not like them. Nevertheless, members must be protected, and therefore the Executive have decided, though reluctantly, to take action.

* * * *

Candidates for promotion to Chief Preventive Officer attended the Custom House, London, on April 16th and 17th, to appear before the Promotion Board.

A new departure on this occasion was introduced. After attending before the Promotion Board, each candidate had a further interview with the Deputy-Chairman of the Board.

Most of the candidates appeared to like the idea of this innovation. On the whole, the questions put to the candidates at both interviews were regarded as reasonable, and, in many respects, interesting.

* * * *

The following from the London "Evening Standard" indicates that newspapers can occasionally get somewhere near the truth when talking about the Customs:—

"Smuggling, apart from its dishonesty, is extraordinarily stupid. If people must bring in dutiable goods they should declare them openly. The Customs Officials will be found courteous, reasonable, and in most cases helpful. And they have by long usage become experts in facial scrutiny, and seem to know by intuition if statements are false, true, or only half true."

* * * *

Elsewhere in this issue appears an extract from an old publication, dealing with baggage examination. Some people, even in the Customs and Excise, appear to be still using this ancient document as

their "vade mecum" regarding baggage questions. It is true that parts of it are yet applicable, but it would be interesting to hear the comments of the up-to-date baggage officer on the parts that are very much out of date.

Smuggling by passengers in those days must have been of a most general order, and it is most obvious that the modern bare-faced smuggler was never visualised.

The receipt of duty was also regarded as not too important, and no doubt it was never even dreamed of that the weekly revenue of a place such as Victoria Station would ever reach £1,600.

Obviously there has been an enormous change in the responsibility of baggage work, which even in the old days was evidently regarded as work requiring good sound qualifications in those employed upon it.

Some day full credit will be given to the Preventive Staff for the skill they have shown in the handling of intricate and difficult situations during baggage examination. Nothing has been too big for them to tackle, and there is nothing in Customs work that ever will be too big for them.

* * * *

A meeting of the Waterguard Sectional Committee has been fixed for the 26th April. The Staff Side meeting is arranged for the evening of the 25th inst.

Amongst the items on the agenda are Waterguard Leave, Electric Lamps, Mackintoshes, Seizure Awards, Monthly Pay for A.P.O.s, Training of A.P.O.s, and Regulations for Recruitment to A.P.O. Grade.

Mr. Densley, A.P.O. Executive Member, has been elected to fill the vacancy on this Committee caused by the resignation of Mr. Milne.

* * * *

The first Annual Conference of the reconstituted Chief Preventive Officers' Association was held on the 3rd April.

Under the new rules the governing body will be composed of Chief Preventive Officers stationed at Gravesend and London, together with four other members from outside areas who are to be elected annually by members in the areas. This body is to be known as the "Executive Committee," and the Committee shall each year elect its President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The elections to take place in April.

For the current year the following have been elected:—Mr. Fleet, President; Mr. Woffenden, Secretary; and Mr. Cox, Treasurer. The Executive members for outside areas are:—Messrs. Cox, Dowland, Hennings, and Gallant, for Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively.

Area 1 comprises the whole of Scotland down to the Tyne, together with Northern Ireland. Area 2: the East Coast down to and including Sheerness, but not London and Gravesend. Area 3: South Coast from Dover to and including Bristol. Area 4: West Coast from Newport to Liverpool District. Area 5: London and Gravesend. Area 6: London Port, unattached officers.

* * * *

The promotion Board meets on the 27th of this month to consider filling a vacancy in the grade of first-class Waterguard Superintendent.

ZEAL

A WRONG INTERPRETATION

By ALBAN

IT has been a matter of great surprise to me that such letters as those appearing in these columns just recently on the subject of the London station minute have not appeared before. Their publication at this time is, however, most opportune, for they illustrate exactly what I am driving at in these articles. That such a state of affairs should exist in these days in a progressive Department, and particularly in London, is little short of a tragedy. There are those who say that it is nothing more than the staff deserves for allowing it to go on for so many years, and I must agree that there is a large element of justice in thus accusing the staff. But the staff cannot be justly blamed for what might be considered due to administrative action. As an old London officer, I know that the annual appearance of the list showing the change of stations for the port officers is the signal for considerable heart-burning and disaffection.

And what is the reason? It is nothing more or less than a distorted interpretation of the word appearing at the head of this page by those in high places. I have already endeavoured to show the idea of the word as understood by the ordinary person of the lower ranks; and as it is supposed to be used in character assessment, it is only reasonable to expect that it is used as any other honest word of the English tongue. Such is evidently not the case in the Waterguard. Let us take London as an illustration. There are several Waterguard duties in this port which are supposed to call for some special qualifications both on the part of Preventive and Assistant Preventive Officers. When, according to custom, it has been usual to choose fairly senior officers each year to perform these duties, it occasions some surprise to any officer to find that a colleague several years his junior has been selected in preference to him. There are occasions when the disgruntled one has obtained an interview from his Superintendent, being under the impression that there is something standing against him somewhere of which he is not

aware. In effect, this is what he gets:—"What special qualifications have you that I should appoint you to this duty?" "What zeal have you shown for the Service?" "How can you say that you are zealous if you have made little or no seizures?" And there you have it. Unless you make seizures you cannot be regarded as possessing that valuable attribute, zeal.

I was discussing the question with a Chief Preventive Officer recently, whose ideas were well in advance of the majority of his colleagues, and was surprised to hear that he was still imbued with the doctrine that zeal could only be applied to seizure making. "But," I argued, "only a small percentage of officers are placed on rummage duty, and the same officers are so placed every year." His reply was that I should see that I was placed on the rummage myself; in other words, ask for it. I know what my colleagues would call me if I asked for one of the special appointments. In any case, to ask for the rummage individually would not remedy the evil. What is disturbing the staff is that the view expressed by the Chief Preventive Officer is the view held by the whole of our administration, and that consequently the character assessments which find their way to the Board are not a true estimate of the value of Waterguard work. I certainly do agree that the successful rummage officer is always worthy of commendation. He studies his subject, and everything appertaining to the possibilities of illegal importations. I strongly maintain, however, that the boarding officer is equally deserving of praise for the work he performs, especially in London. There are stations in London to-day on which the work is not done in eight hours, and the time is not yet past when an officer completes his day's work at home. The multiplicity of duties performed by the Preventive Officer on boarding duty, and the scarcity of mistakes involving official queries, are proof enough that the quality of zeal is not lacking in the WHOLE of the Waterguard Service.

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

NOTICE.

District and Local Organisers are reminded of the necessity for completing the Association District accounts in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1928. As these accounts have now to be audited, I would be obliged if local officers will arrange to send all subscription books and receipt books to the District Organiser as soon as possible, in order that the District audits may be disposed of, and the District statements available for the main audit in sufficient time to enable the Association accounts being completed for the Executive Committee.

J. T. SUTTON,

Organising Secretary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Report of the Sixteenth Meeting, held at the Association Offices on the 11th, 12th and 13th April.
Chairman: Mr. E. P. Madden.

Members: Messrs. J. Merron, J. T. Sutton, W. G. Thomson, S. E. D. Ball, S. Dines, A. W. P. Densley, and W. H. Powell (Minute Secretary).

In his opening remarks the Chairman referred to the resignation of Mr. A. Milne (Scottish Area) who, owing to pressure of other activities, had been compelled to give up Association work for the present. He remarked that Mr. Milne had been a valuable asset to this Committee and his absence would be keenly felt.

The Chairman extended a welcome to Mr. Dines (Gravesend), who had been elected to the Executive Committee.

RECRUITMENT CONDITIONS.

Instructions were given to the representatives on the Waterguard Sectional Committee as to procedure in the reopened discussion on recruitment conditions. Suggested amendments were framed to change the conditions from "qualifying written test followed by competitive selection" to "wholly competitive" examination.

SUPERANNUATION.

The General Secretary reported that this matter had now passed the Sub-Committee stage and had been recommended for treatment on the Superannuation Joint Committee, N.W.C.

"CUSTOMS JOURNAL" PUBLICATION.

As only about half of the districts had replied to the circular on fortnightly or monthly publication of the "Customs Journal," it was decided to adjourn consideration of this item.

U.S. CONFEDERATION ACCOUNTS.

Mr. J. T. Sutton's appointment as auditor of these accounts was approved.

AREA AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATION.

In adopting the Report of the Sub-Committee set up to explore this matter, the Executive Committee has decided to recommend to the Council (i) that the Council be increased by four members (two from each grade) to be elected from nominations of officers in those districts that fail to secure direct representation as a result of the main election; and (ii) that four new P.S.A. districts be set up:—Preston, Harwich, Swansea and Belfast.

WATERGUARD SECTIONAL COMMITTEE.

It was reported that a meeting of this Committee has been convened for April 26th. The following matters will figure on the agenda:—

Leave.

Seizure Rewards.

Uniform (Mackintoshes).

Electric Torches (Agreement).

Recruitment.

Training of A.P.O.s.

Applications for Transfer (Board's proposals).

Mr. A. W. P. Densley (South Wales) was elected to succeed Mr. Milne on the Sectional Committee.

CO-ORDINATION.

An interesting discussion on the advantages of a system of closer co-ordination between analogous grades in the Preventive Service resulted in certain recommendations being passed for consideration at the next Conference.

PROMOTION BY MERIT—A.P.O. TO P.O.

The Secretaries stated that the two schemes authorised for circulation by the Council had been duly circulated. The Chairman expressed the hope that Councillors would be in a position at the next Conference to discuss this matter fully and arrive at a definite conclusion. The E.C. made no recommendation.

PROMOTION BY MERIT—P.O. TO C.P.O.

The scheme drafted by the Secretaries, in accordance with instructions, was carefully considered and amended. This scheme will now be circulated to districts for discussion prior to the Conference.

OFFICER GRADE RECRUITMENT.

The General Secretary reported that as a result of activities on the Joint Committee (C. & E. Associations), opportunity had been secured to make representations before an official body comparable to the Promotion Board. The Secretaries appeared before this body on 23rd February and presented a strong case in support of fluidity of promotion from Waterguard to Officer Grade. Many interesting points arose in the discussion with the Official Side and it is hoped, indeed it is expected, that some measure of success will be the outcome of these representations.

The Secretaries' report was adopted.

LANDING AND SHIPPING DUTIES.

A full discussion on the report by the General Secretary resulted in definite instructions being given to the Secretaries as to procedure in this important matter.

LONDON.

A general meeting of the branch was held at the St. Katharine Dock Hotel on Tuesday, March 27th. Eighty members were in attendance.

The largeness of the meeting was due to the fact that the agenda contained two important controversial local matters. At the very outset a point of information was raised as to the presence of non-members, a point which was satisfactorily settled by the announcement that the E.C. had not as yet ruled any London officer as a non-member.

Mr. Sutton, Vice-Chairman of the Local Whitley Committee, gave a lucid and detailed account of the negotiations with the Official Side on the question of the re-scheming of the port. The question is still before the Committee, and an early agreement is anticipated.

Two schemes of the London Port Committee were placed before the meeting, viz. :—(1) A scheme of Rotation of Duties, and (2) a scheme of Rotation of Reserve Duty. These two items brought forth a lengthy and, at times, heated discussion, during which the Chairman, Mr. G. Abbott, endeavoured to ensure everyone a fair hearing. He is to be congratulated on bringing the meeting successfully through a very difficult discussion, which practically occupied the whole evening.

Several resolutions were placed before the members present, and the views of the meeting were thoroughly tested. The ultimate result of the discussion was that the meeting decided that the first scheme be adjourned until the next meeting, and circulated to all members in the meantime, and that the second scheme be forwarded to the Local Whitley Committee for action. Both decisions were carried by large majorities. Owing to the lateness of the hour, the remaining items on the agenda were adjourned until the next meeting, a final resolution being that all notices of motion be placed on the next agenda.

The meeting terminated at 10.30 with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

HULL.

The Annual Meeting was held on the 29th March, 1928, at "The Metropole," Hull. Mr. A. Cameron, Chairman, presided over an average attendance of members.

Arising from the minutes, the question of supplying electric bulbs and batteries was discussed, and to the compromise arrived at with the Waterguard Superintendent. A motion that the action of the L.W.C. representatives be approved was carried.

The election of District Officers resulted in Mr. A. Cameron being re-elected Chairman; Mr. J. S. Chapman was elected Vice-Chairman; Mr. R. A. Crooks re-elected District Secretary; Mr. J. S. Chapman elected District Organising Secretary, in lieu of Mr. Hyde (transferred). The L.W.C. were re-elected *en bloc*. Mr. Matheson was appointed Journal Secretary. The meeting expressed deep appreciation of Mr. Hyde's ability as District Organising Secretary, and the District Secretary was instructed to convey their esteem and regard to him.

Resolutions forwarded for discussion were read. The South Coast Area and Leith resolutions met with adverse criticism and were unanimously rejected.

The subject of salary claims and overtime, also Leave, were fully discussed, and it was moved "that the claims laid down in Appendix G. of the 1927

Annual Report be adhered to." The leave question was similarly disposed of, both resolutions being carried. Monthly Pay for A.P.O.s was discussed and it was decided that, in view of the unsatisfactory ballot of A.P.O.s on the question, "That monthly pay for A.P.O.s be opposed." Carried unanimously.

Regarding the recent "filling" of vacancies, which left much to be desired, it was agreed "that in future existing vacancies be filled by the senior applicant."

The position of the V.E.C. was discussed, reference specially being made as to the Committee eliciting information on doubtful points in the regulations. It was moved "that doubtful points in the regulations be submitted by the V.E.C. to Headquarters, and the result communicated to all officers concerned." Carried.

The last item to exercise the minds of the meeting was the question of the Pocket Journal and other Checking, which resulted in the following resolution—"That this meeting is of the opinion that the time is now opportune to again raise the subject of the abolition of the Pocket Journal, or in lieu, a monthly check, such monthly check be the rule for Duty Slip Books instead of the usual weekly check." Carried.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

MANCHESTER.

An enthusiastic and well-attended meeting took place on the 16th March, and the following officers were elected :—

Chairman	Mr. E. Hicks, P.O.
Vice-Chairman	Mr. J. Oliver, A.P.O.
District Organiser	Mr. A. Jarvis, A.P.O.
District Secretary and			

Whitley Representative Mr. G. Coady, P.O.

Business was purely local, but in the hope that some items may interest other ports, the subjects discussed are mentioned as follows :—

In regard to a special Circular, which imposes upon local officers the duty of drawing oil samples at an out-station, it was passed that the Circular be withdrawn, and, further, that local Waterguard Officers be authorised to draw and examine samples of bulk oil at the time of boarding the oil vessels.

That P.S.A. subscriptions be collected weekly by the District Organiser—a shilling a week being collected in cases of arrears.

That Ships' Reports, or copies, be accessible in cases where general and bulk items appear on the one Report.

That instructions be given as to the circumstances which render certain deck cargoes liable to measurement for local Canal Dues.

That a check be placed on goods of a dutiable description when carried by dock vendors and others for sale on vessels in the port.

That the owners of a certain wharf be approached with a view to obtaining an improvement in the lighting system of the wharf and also the provision of a permanent shore gangway.

That detailed instructions be given to Watchers employed on office-cleaning duties to ensure better attention being given to Waterguard rooms.

That attention be given to suggestions for improving office furniture, equipment, etc.

All the subjects were agreed upon and the District Secretary was instructed to deal with them in the appropriate manner.

GLASGOW CUSTOM HOUSE.

When is Glasgow to have its new Custom House? Many budgets have been framed and discussed since attention was drawn to the modest and somewhat gloomy-looking building in Great Clyde Street that represents the department of the Imperial Service in the Second City, and yet the public still look in vain for any sign of improvement. The subject has been raised in the Town Council more than once within the last decade, but gradually it has been allowed to drop. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer cannot afford the necessary means for a brand new house, more in keeping with the dignity and pre-eminence of Glasgow, he may be persuaded to grant a sufficient sum to brighten the exterior—if not indeed the interior—of the present building.

BRISTOL.

A meeting was held at the Central Restaurant, Bristol, on the 29th ult., Mr. Baker presiding over a good attendance.

The first business dealt with was the election of District Officers, Mr. Griffin being unanimously re-elected District Organiser. Mr. Atkins (absent on relief duty) sent word to say that he wished to relinquish the secretaryship. The meeting reluctantly accepted his resignation, Mr. Griffin placing on record an appreciation of his splendid services to the Association during his term of office. The filling of the vacancy was held over.

Matters of local interest were discussed, amongst them being a suggested claim for tramcar expenses incurred whilst on duty.

The E.C. "Promotion by Merit" proposals also came under discussion and were rejected *in toto*, a resolution being passed urging the withdrawal of both schemes.

It was also decided to request the attendance of a Councillor at the next quarterly meeting.

Written Test Taken by Preventive Officers for Promotion to Rank of Chief Preventive Officer.

9th MARCH, 1928.

Write a report to the Board on one of the following:—

(Time allowed, 1½ hours.)

- (1) State what you consider to be the effect of the present law and regulations as to fines or forfeitures in the case of ships concerned in smuggling transactions, and whether you consider that the present regulations should be modified, and (if so) in what respects.
- (2) State whether you consider the present allowances of dutiable stores to be (a) adequate, (b) excessive, or (c) insufficient, and if you consider any alterations to be desirable in the interests either of the Revenue or of the ships' crews, state what alterations you would suggest.
- (3) State what you consider should be the governing factors in deciding as to the number of Coast Preventive Men and their arrangement in any given area. You should discuss this question with reference to the area of any Chief Preventive Officer's district with the extent and nature of which you are acquainted.

NOTE.—Only one subject to be attempted.

BAGGAGE.

The following is an extract from a compendium of Customs law and practice, known as "Wildman's General Orders," and issued in 1854:—

"The officers by whom this particular duty is discharged, being selected for their efficiency and knowledge of the law and practice, must be left to exercise a liberal discretion, governing themselves by circumstances as they arise, and the conduct and position of the parties with whom they deal; bearing in mind also that although duties, however small the amount, may be legally due upon foreign goods, the examination of baggage is less resorted to with a view to the rigorous collection of those duties from *bona-fide* passengers than the discouragement of fraud on the part of others, especially some of those passing to and fro between this country and the continent.

Moreover, specific instructions for a general mode of procedure could not be given, because the practice at the various ports to which passenger vessels usually resort is regulated by local orders, necessarily adapted to the peculiar circumstances of each place. In the Thames, the Mersey, the Humber and the Clyde, baggage may, under certain conditions, be examined on board the ship; whilst at other places such a system, obviously, could not be pursued; the effects of emigrants, also arriving at Hull and the neighbouring ports in transit to the United States via Liverpool, are allowed to be forwarded to the latter port, without examination, in locked railway vans appropriated to that purpose; and in London these effects are transhipped in a partial examination only. Again at Dover, in addition to the ordinary facilities, baggage registered at Paris, arriving by the early morning packet, is permitted to be immediately forwarded to London, accompanied by the owners, for examination at the railway termini by officers specially appointed to that service.

Nevertheless, there are some leading and long established rules which may be usefully stated, as well for the guidance of the officers in the instances therein referred to as indicating the spirit in which analogous cases should be treated. But whilst on the one hand the greatest liberality consistent with propriety is to be shown, attempts at fraud and deception will, on the other, be met as the law directs, viz., by the forfeiture of all articles illegally unshipped or landed, or found concealed or made up in any manner to deceive officers, together with the goods packed with them, and the prosecution, if necessary, of the offending parties. It is scarcely requisite to observe on the necessity for the exercise, under all circumstances, of temper and forbearance on the part of the officers, and the scrupulous observance of that respect towards others which will best entitle them to, and secure it for themselves; and as it is most desirable that needless expense should not be inadvertently incurred by passengers in landing and passing their baggage (no charge for which is ever made by the Customs, nor is any fee or gratuity of any kind allowed to be received by officers on pain of dismissal), it is expected that the officers will afford all necessary advice and information to enable, if it should be their wish, to dispense with the employment of an agent, whose services for any official purpose are wholly unnecessary."

GLEANINGS FROM THE PAST.

By **DIGGER.**

(Reprinted from the "Customs Journal" of the 7th September, 1907.)

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE WATERGUARD CASE.

By "PONSON."

... But experience teaches that when it comes to a real battle in which large interests are involved, parochial jealousies are speedily forgotten, and in the fight for the Court of Appeal, Civil Servants have a splendid ground for common action.

On the broad general question of the necessity for co-operative action as an essential to success, we believe that all Government officials are agreed. It is, therefore, a matter for surprise and regret, that in particular cases, as in the Waterguard for instance, no serious effort has so far been made to bring the two Associations into a common line. Apart from the common-sense view of the question, the Waterguard officers have had a large experience of the futility of each Association working independently of the other. If we take the terms of G.O. 74 1905, we have a glaring case of inequitable treatment in the fact that while the P.M.'s increment was increased to £3 18s. 6d. per annum, that of the Preventive Officer's remained at £5, or only £1 12s. 6d. more than a probationer P.M.'s. We do not believe that this anomaly could have been possible if both grades had been represented together and presented one case. Many other points could be urged showing the futility of the plans hitherto pursued by the Waterguard Associations; but if there are any Waterguard Officers left who retain any faith in independent action, we leave them to the contemplation of its most recent result, viz., G.O. 51 of the present year. Is it possible to conceive a more beggarly harvest from human endeavour?

C. & E. Orphans', Widows' and War Memorial Fund.

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the London Custom House on April 2nd. T. Morton, Esq., Vice-President, presided.

A financial statement was submitted, showing that the receipts for the quarter amounted to £700. This included £500 from subscriptions and £107 from donations. The latter item included £66 16s. 10d. from collection boxes and £36 19s. 11d. the balance of the Armistice Day Wreath Fund. During the quarter £290 has been disbursed in grants under the various rules.

A list of forty-one applications from members of all grades in the Department was submitted, and the Committee declared all duly elected.

LAWN TENNIS AT CHISWICK.

The Committee responsible for Lawn Tennis on the Civil Service Sports Ground at Chiswick has experienced considerable difficulty in meeting the requirements of Departmental Clubs, both large and small. In fact, since the ground first opened for Tennis there has been an ever-increasing difficulty in allocating courts to the various Departments, and last summer the position was so acute that a small committee was formed with instructions to evolve if possible a scheme which would surmount this trouble. As a result "official sanction" has been given to the Federation of the tennis clubs at present using, or wanting to use the ground, and the draft constitution of this Federation would appear to show that the major problems in welding the units into a whole have been effectively tackled.

The constitution encourages the existing Departmental spirit and makes provision for the inclusion of Departmental Clubs, as well as of individual members. Departmental Clubs who have not so far enjoyed the delights of the Chiswick ground should get into touch with Mr. A. B. Ramsay, 3, Kensington House, Turnham Green, W.4, and individuals who prefer to come in on their own should communicate with Mr A. C. Baker, Room 49, East Wing, Somerset House, Strand, W.C.2. Either of these two will be only too happy to discuss any is that early applications should be the rule and not the exception.

Rates of subscription, to include a good supply problem with prospective members. All they ask of tennis balls, have been fixed at a moderate figure, and are:—

Full Members, Summer and Winter	£3 3 0
Membership for the Summer only	£2 0 0
Membership for the Winter only	£2 2 0
Honorary (Non-Playing) Members	0 5 0

A scheme of play has been evolved so that all members may choose their own courts and play with whom they like. There need be no fear, however, that unless players travel to the ground with a "four in their pocket" they will not get a game. The scheme also includes provisions for bringing members together, so that none need hesitate to join for fear that they may be left in the cold.

The first meeting of the Federation will be held at an early date, and success will be ensured provided those from whom support is expected roll up, pay their money, and pray for fine weather.

PRESENTATION AT AVONMOUTH.

A very pleasant function was held at the Custom House, Avonmouth, on the 29th ult., when Mr. George Collier, recently retired Waterguard Watcher, was the recipient of a striking clock, suitably inscribed, and a Bank of England note.

Mr. E. J. Rich, C.P.O., presided over a splendid gathering of all ranks, including officers (Landing) and Extra men.

Mr. F. E. Counsell, Watcher, made the presentation, and Mr. Collier suitably responded.

Correspondence

The name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication) should be given in all letters to the Editor, who accepts no responsibility for the views expressed.

THE TOADY.

Sir,— When men are struggling for a right,
 And seek to reach some higher plane,
 Who stands by and will not fight,
 For he in wrong finds nought to blame,
 But who with sidelong glance and sly,
 Is well content to play the spy . . . ?
 The Toady.

When battles must be fought and won,
 And ills removed from out the way,
 Who is he who'd rather run,
 Afar in safety from the fray,
 With catlike tread and senile smile,
 Whose only stock-in-trade is guile . . . ?
 The Toady.

When some strong voices out do cry,
 Against a grievance loud and clear,
 Who quiet, safe and snug does lie,
 Struck to the craven heart with fear,
 Till danger's o'er, then dares to speak,
 In some tale-bearing ratty squeak . . . ?
 The Toady.
 Yours, etc.,
 "DEAN SWIFT."

Answer to Correspondent.

"DODO."—Yes, we understand that the V.E.S. Central Committee will compile a new duty table if there is any material alteration in this year's Customs Duties, as a result of the Budget.

GRAVESEND SPORTS CLUB.

The Club's rivalry with the C.I.D. was renewed at Gravesend on March 28th, after a lapse of two years. The weather was ideal for football, both from the players' and the spectators' points of view.

The visitors opened the score after a quarter of an hour, the home right back putting through his own goal in an attempt to clear. Gravesend got to it with energy and soon drew level through Hammond, and secured a lead before half-time, Thomas heading through from a well-placed corner kick. Hammond added another just before lemon time. The second half was evenly contested, and no more goals were scored until nearly time, when O'Connor scored twice within a minute for Gravesend. Brown, the home captain, had to retire before the finish with a twisted ankle.

The match was followed by a tea and smoker, at which everybody enjoyed themselves, two monologues by Mr. Heath, "Smuggler Bill" and "Look at the Clock," being greatly appreciated.

The return match with the C.I.D. will be the last fixture of the season, and will be played at Thames Ditton on April 25th.

LONDON C.P.O. RETIRING.

Mr. C. E. Egan (C.P.O., London), who is retiring from the Service, is well known in many ports. Since he joined the Service in 1889 he has served successively at Grimsby, West Hartlepool, Londonderry, Buckie, Liverpool and London. He has been Chief Preventive Officer since 1909, and has earned a high degree of respect from the staff in London. While he has exacted a high standard of efficiency from his colleagues, he has also fostered the sporting spirit among the officers under his charge, being President of the successful South Side Sports Club. His departure will cause a vacancy difficult to fill.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO APRIL 10th, 1928.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—
 Brown, W. H., Butterfield, E. J., Greenan, W. R. D., Kiely, D. P. K., Lannin, S. McGrath, G. E., Pigg, G. R., Rogers, H., Simpson, F., Sweet, A. H.

TRANSFERS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—
 Failes, J. J. Liverpool to Eastham, Manchester.
 Fisher, R. H. W. Liverpool to Runcorn, Manchester.
 Harvey, G. O. Harwich, Ipswich to Portsmouth.
 Hope, R. Grimsby to Barrow, Preston.
 Lang, J. F. G. Penzance to Brixham, Plymouth.
 Rundle, H. J. Plymouth to Penzance, Plymouth.

PROMOTIONS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION TO UPPER SECTION:—
 Ranson, A. C. Greenock to Glasgow.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.
 Byrne, W. H., Preventive Officer.
 Cooper, G., Chief Preventive Officer, Lower Section.
 Huggett, R., Preventive Officer.
 Stonestreet, N. J., Preventive Man.

SEIZURE OF OPIUM.

The need for a revision of the Regulations governing the responsibility for prohibited goods found concealed upon vessels was emphasised at Avonmouth recently, when all efforts to trace the owner of nearly 5 lbs. of raw Indian opium proved fruitless.

The goods were discovered by Mr. De Cothi, A.P.O., acting under the supervision of Mr. Jenkins, P.O., concealed in the middle of one of a number of empty bags in the forepeak of the Strick liner "Bardistan" from Basra.

CUSTOMS FUND.

15 Room,
Custom House,
London, E.C.3.
11th April, 1928.

To Members of the Customs Fund.
Gentlemen,

Many subscribers have urged me to stand for Director, Customs Fund, at the coming election.

I venture to appeal for members' support, assuring them that, if elected, their interests and the prosperity of the Fund will be my first consideration.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. MAY, *Surveyor.*

Prosecution at Penzance.

At the Penzance Borough Police Court on April 7th, the cook of the German tug "Seefalke" from Bremerhaven was charged with concealing 7½ lb. of tobacco (other sorts), 1½ lb. of cigars (o.s.), and 39 proof gallons of spirits (imitation rum). He pleaded guilty through his solicitor, and was fined £12 and 4/- costs. The goods were discovered in the storeroom on top of a store locker between the bulkhead and a beam of the vessel, and in the galley underneath firewood and rubbish, by Mr. J. Harris, A.P.O., acting under the supervision of Mr. J. E. Laity, P.O. Mr. L. Gilmartin, C.P.O., prosecuted.

AWKWARD.

An officer who recently won £100 in a newspaper competition celebrated the event too generously, and was accommodated for the night by the police. First thing next morning he asked to be allowed to telephone to his office. As he could get no reply, he rang through to his C.P.O.'s private address, and explained, more thickly than clearly, that he was not feeling well enough to go to the office that day.

"All right, I shouldn't," said the C.P.O. "You're off duty—this is Sunday."

A QUERY.

We, the rummage crew, were on the pier-head, awaiting the arrival of a vessel, on which we had hopes of something doing, and while waiting we agreed that we should engage in general knowledge questions, and the one who asked a question that he could not himself answer was to carry the tuck stick and brew the tea for the week and wash up.

"Well," said Bob, "you've noticed a rabbit-hole is smooth and has no trace of earth crumpled around it; can you tell me how it is that Brer rabbit gets the entrance to his home so clear and smooth at the entrance?"

We all thought awhile, and Fred said at last: "No, we cannot; guess this is where you pay the penalty."

"Oh! no," said Bob. "You see, he starts at the other end."

Now this seemed queer to me, that a rabbit should commence from the inside of the earth, and I said: "Well, how does he get there in the first place?"

I paid the penalty, for Bob's reply was: "That's the question you've got to answer."

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CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL.

The ninety-third meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on March 21st, 1928, the Chair being taken by Sir F. L. C. Floud, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

LEAVE.

The Council agreed to a scheme for the leave arrangements of the Departmental Clerical Class, including officers with reserved rights. It was arranged that the issue of the relative General Order should be expedited, and that a copy be supplied to every member of the Class, as well as of the "P" Class and Temporary Class.

A Committee disagreement on a proposal to increase the annual leave of Watchers was re-adjourned after a close discussion.

PROMOTION.

The Official Side stated, in response to enquiries, that the current promotions from the "P" Class to the Departmental Clerical Class were to be made to fill certain of the existing vacancies, and that these promotions did not preclude further promotions in future.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

After a further discussion upon the Staff Side proposal previously reported, and the Official Side's counter-proposal, it was agreed that paragraph 2 of General Order 56/1922, which gives effect to a general agreement on standards of accommodation, should be cancelled and the following new paragraph substituted:—

"These standards are intended as a general guide only as to the nature of the accommodation and equipment to be aimed at in providing new or altering existing offices, etc., for the use of the staff. They do not preclude the acceptance of accommodation superior in some respects to the standards laid down or pressure being exercised to secure extra accommodation or equipment, such as extra floor space, with a counter, where an office is visited by members of the public; it must be realised, however, that in any given case it may, owing to entirely exceptional circumstances, not be practicable to provide accommodation, etc., fully in accordance with these standards."

BETTING DUTY AND ENTERTAINMENTS DUTY BRANCHES.

The question of the retention of these Branches within the London Port unit being already under discussion in the Outdoor Service Sectional Committee, the Council has adjourned consideration of the matter *sine die*.

BEEF SUGAR FACTORIES.

At the request of the Staff Side, their proposal that these factories should be regarded as time attendance stations was re-adjourned *sine die*.

REMUNERATION.

The Council fully discussed the Committee disagreement reported on the application of General Order 11/1926, Part X, in cases of Officers officiating in vacant Woman Pension Officer Stations, and the matter was re-adjourned.

OTHER MATTERS.

The agenda of the meeting contained reports of Committee decisions on (i) Duties of Clerks, (ii) Reduction of Overtime Working, (iii) Age of Retirement of Women Pension Officers, and (iv) Scheming of Pension Stations, but owing to the absence, or late arrival, of the relative Committee minutes, consideration of these subjects was adjourned until the next meeting.

Agreements from Local Committees included the establishment of seven more posts of Fixed Officer. The Council dealt with a number of other decisions advised by Section, Local and Office Committees, with results that have been advised to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on April 25th, 1928.

P.S.A. continued from page 81 FINANCE.

P.S.A. ACCOUNTS. The Organising Secretary presented the Statement of Accounts for the quarter ended 31st December, 1927, for adoption. He gave an interesting report and made favourable comparisons with the corresponding quarter for the preceding year. The disappearance of certain, usually high, items of expenditure from this quarter's account gives the impression that the expenditure on office equipment is justifying itself. The Organising Secretary sought, and obtained, rulings on several items affecting Districts and private individuals. The Report and Statement of Accounts were adopted.

"CUSTOMS JOURNAL" ACCOUNTS. Two statements of accounts, September and December quarters, were presented for adoption. It was reported by the Organising Secretary that the operation of the new Contract was effecting a saving over and above the amount prophesied. A full year's working will produce figures worthy of consideration. The accounts were adopted.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SECTION.

In adopting the Report of the Central Committee the Executive noted with approval the progress made in connection with tuition of Preventive Officers for the examination for Chief Preventive Officerships. Only as yet in its infancy, this Section is proving to be a most valuable adjunct to the Preventive Service system of Departmental education. The benefits will have a far-reaching effect.

Extreme regret was expressed at the enforced retirement of Mr. C. R. Purser from secretaryship of the Central Committee. Although unable to carry the full responsibility of secretary, it is hoped that the services of Mr. Purser will not be entirely lost to the Section. His assistance in other directions will be extremely appreciated.

A sincere vote of thanks to Mr. Purser was passed.

Authority was given to Mr. S. C. Steel to officiate as secretary pending the confirmation at the Annual Conference.

An additional Report, embodying those subjects not dealt with in this article, is being forwarded to District Officers and Councillors.

W. H. POWELL.

